

Summary of Incidents Against Journalists in Cambodia

In the first semester of 2025

legal Threats
(2 cases)

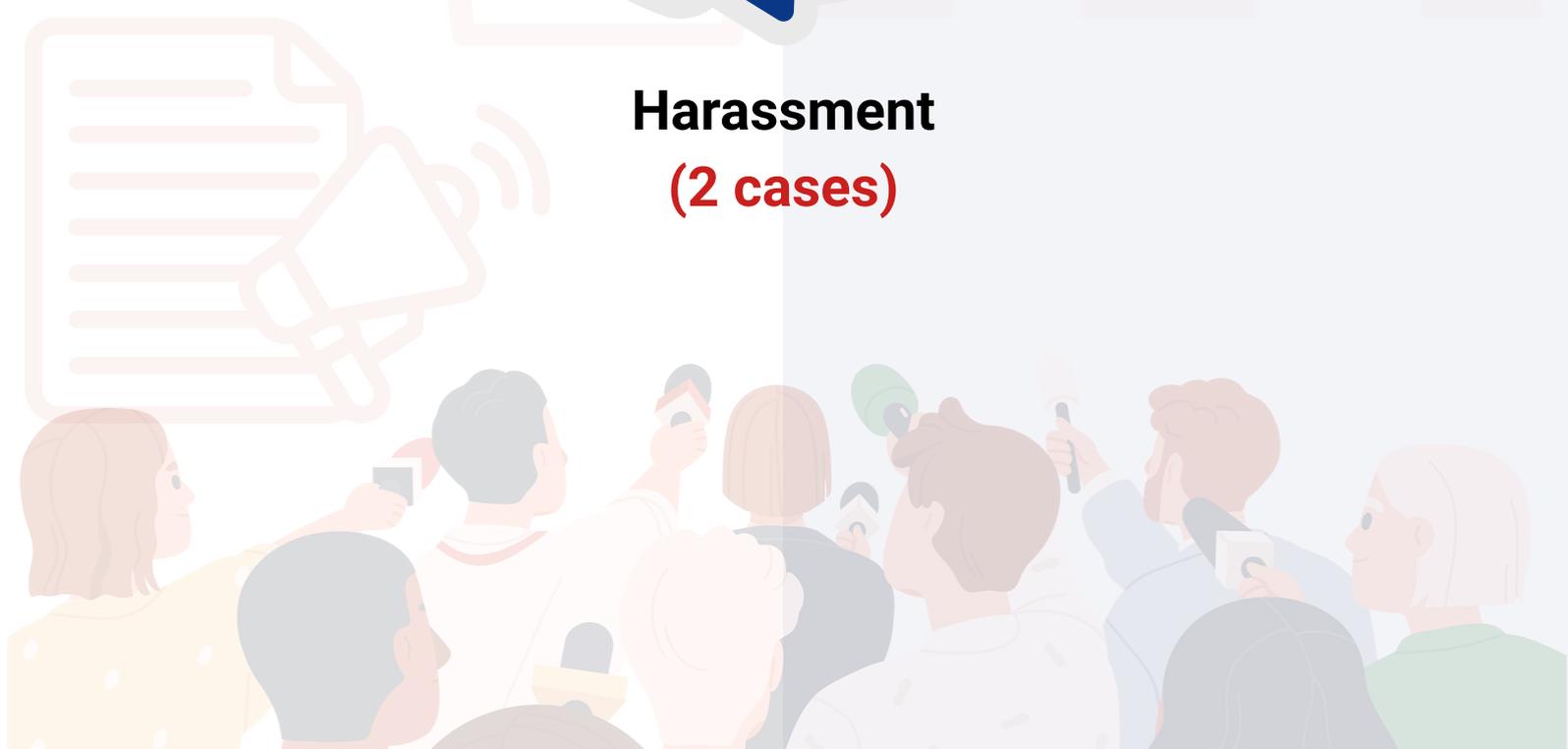
Intimidation
(9 cases)

Threatening
(1 case)

Arrests
(3 cases)



Harassment
(2 cases)



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As part of our legal support for journalists and advocacy to improve safety of journalists in Cambodia, CCIM monitors and documents incidents against journalists in the country. This legal support and monitoring are critically important as harassment against journalists continues to take place.

In the first half of 2025, the media environment in Cambodia continued to pose challenges for independent journalists. Those reporting on sensitive topics such as land disputes, environmental issues, and local governance often face legal and administrative pressure. Laws on incitement and defamation continued to be used in ways that may discourage critical reporting.

During this period, CCIM recorded 17 incidents involving 22 individuals, including professional journalists, citizen journalists, and aspiring reporters.

These included arrests without warrants, legal threats, intimidation, and requests to remove or revise published content. Three media licenses were also revoked. In one case, a local official attended a journalist training without invitation, recorded participant information, and questioned organizers about the training content. These patterns raise ongoing concerns about press freedom and highlight the need for stronger protection and a more supportive environment for media workers across the country.



Key incidents include

- Of the 17 incidents recorded, two were cases of harassment, nine were cases of intimidation, two were legal threats, three arrests, and one threatening.
- These incidents occurred after journalists reported on issues such as the investigation on illegal logging in Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary, community-led forest protection, land concessions, land conflicts between private companies and villagers, and frequent damage to public roads.
- One of the key incidents was the arrest of environmental journalist, Ouk Mao from Stung Treng province. He was arrested on May 16 without a warrant. Ouk Mao has been actively reporting on illegal logging in the area since 2017. For his work, he has been arrested several times for incitement and currently faces 15 legal cases pending. Ouk Mao was released and placed under court supervision since May 25th after being detained at the Stung Treng provincial prison.

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CCIM also observed intimidation against citizen journalists for their reporting.

Key incidents include

Case One: A female citizen journalist in Stung Treng province faced intimidation from local authorities over her video reporting on inactiveness of local authorities to fix the damaged communal road which has affected the community's livelihood. After her reporting, local authorities warned the sources interviewed in the video and visited CJ's residence and took photos of her house and family members.

Case Two: A citizen journalist in Kampong Thom province produced a video report on the poor service of the one-window service in one of the districts. Following his video report, he was called for an unofficial meeting with an official who questioned him over the credibility of one of the sources in his video and asked him to remove the video report from the CJ News Facebook page.

Case Three: Another citizen journalist in Pursat province reported on a controversial land allocation in Kampong Chhnang in which the villagers who live near the Tonle Sap area alleged that authority has allocated their land to migrants from other provinces. After the report, the Kampong Chhnang District Information Office posted a letter, claiming that the report was untrue, biased, and lacked fact-based evidence, but did not specify which parts of the report were untrue or unsupported. The CJ also received verbal warning from unknown individuals to stop reporting on this issue in the future.

- CCIM staff also experienced **monitoring from local authorities** during the implementation of capacity building activities. A local authority official visited and monitored training which CCIM conducted for a group of journalists in Kratie province. He photographed the training activities, the participants list, recorded staff names and phone numbers, and questioned the trainers about the contents of the training.

The incidents against journalists raised serious concerns about press freedom and the safety of journalists, disrupted their work, and prevented critical information from reaching the public. In the second half of 2025, it is hoped that there will be fewer cases involving threats or pressure against journalists. More understanding from authorities toward the role of independent media would help reduce tension and improve cooperation. When journalists are able to report freely and responsibly, it strengthens access to information and public trust.

CCIM will continue to monitor the situation, offer legal support, and work to promote a safer environment for all media workers in Cambodia.



To promote journalist safety, CCIM will continue to monitor incidents against journalists, providing legal support and interventions to those at risk. Reach out to our hotline to report the incidents or to access our legal support at **060 50 50 50.**