

DIRECTORY

DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS AND LAWYERS
PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES TO JOURNALISTS
IN CAMBODIA

2025



Published by:

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលកម្ពុជាដើម្បីប្រព័ន្ធស្មេងៗយុវជនកម្ពុជា



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Introduction

The Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM) with support from IFEX, the global network defending and promoting free expression, produce the Directory of Organizations and Lawyers providing legal services and other support mechanisms to journalists who faced legal action or harassment for their reporting.

This directory, an updated version of CCIM's 2021 Directory Support for Journalist produced under UNESCO-funded Media Support Desk project, mapped support mechanisms available to journalists. It includes information of local and legal professionals who support journalists in areas such as legal aid, emergency response, advocacy work, capacity building, and safety.

This directory aims to provide the journalists, media professionals, journalists' associations, and civil society organizations engaged in journalism and media work in Cambodia with access to information about the availability of legal support for journalists from various legal aid groups and law firms in Cambodia. The list includes their contact details, organization philosophy, and their services. This will serve as a practical tool for journalists to identify existing support and resources available for them including legal, financial and psychosocial support as well as foster collaboration among local organizations in strengthening the protection mechanisms for media freedom and freedom of expression.

CCIM is a media-based organization established in 2007 to promote independent media, press freedom, freedom of expression and access to information and democratic governance. If journalists, media professionals, journalists' associations face judicial harassment, threats, and other incidents, especially those committed by the government, CCIM will conduct investigation in cooperation with other legal aid organizations. CCIM also provides legal advice or legal defense and to facilitate and coordinate with lawyers and legal aid organizations in providing legal assistance to journalists and media professionals.



Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC)

Background: The Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC) is one of the Cambodian human rights associations in Cambodia founded in 1991 following the signing of Paris Peace Agreement with mission to advocate human rights and democracy. ADHOC was founded by a group of former political prisoners who were detained in the late 1980s. ADHOC is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit and non-governmental human rights organization-based working to address the absence of basic rights, freedoms and liberties in Cambodia through advocacy and capacity building of people with knowledge and understanding of human rights, law and democracy to defend their rights and freedoms. ADHOC works to assist victims of abuses in their quest for justice, strengthening the capacity of ordinary citizens to claim their rights, and encouraging citizens to lobby and advocate for improvement and enhancement of laws, institutions and law enforcement.

Address

Address: #03, Street 158, Boeung Raing, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Telephone: (+855) 23 218-653 /(+855) 23 210 518

Website: <https://www.adhoccambodia.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/adhoccam>

Contact person

- Name: Mr. Yin Mengly
- Position: Deputy Head of Human Rights and Land Rights Section
- Phone number: (+855) 86 408 666
- Email: menglyyin@adhoccambodia.org
- Signal: (+855) 86 408 666

Type of legal services

- Legal defense and legal counselling to political activists and human rights defenders including journalists;
- Preparation of legal documents for litigation or trials including preparing affidavits, notarized documents, and other documentary evidence

Type of other services

- Financial support to the family of the clients who are imprisoned, and the family has no support from the relatives

- Emergency assistance includes emergency evacuation of clients and/or families to safe area or country for security reasons, relocation to a safehouse

Criteria for beneficiaries / clients (journalists)

- Legal support is targeted at Human Rights Defenders, including journalists who face legal actions or threats because of their reporting that follows the journalism code of conduct.

Guidelines for providing legal services or other support

- Journalists are encouraged to contact through the provided contact information above to receive legal support

Collaboration with other legal organizations

- ADHOC also works with local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) such as the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO), the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to promote the safety of HRDs, including journalists. ADHOC also advocates for journalists through joint statement and press release.



Cambodian Journalists Alliance Association (CamboJA)

Background: Cambodian Journalists Alliance Association (CamboJA) is a journalist membership-based association founded in December 2019 by a group of former journalists of the Cambodia Daily and The Phnom Penh Post. CamboJA was registered with the Ministry of Information on 09 September 2019 and with the Ministry of Interior on 08 December 2020. The mission is to promote access to information and press freedom, strengthen the professionalism of journalists, and support their livelihoods. To achieve this mission, CamboJA has been implementing three core programs: capacity building for journalists, research and advocacy, and CamboJA News production.

Address

Address: Room 4G, 4th Floor, SSP Office Space (Building No. 48) Street 289, Boeung Kak II Commune Tuol Kork District, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Website: camboja.net

Facebook: [CamboJA](https://www.facebook.com/CamboJA)

Contact Person

- Name: Ms. Hok Lika
- Email: communications@camboja.net
- Phone Number: (+855) 98 625 711
- WhatsApp/Signal/Telegram: (+855) 98 625 711

Type of legal services

- CamboJA provides legal counselling to environmental journalists to help them understand their rights and obligations under the law.
- CamboJA offers legal representation for environmental journalists facing legal challenges or court proceedings.
- CamboJA facilitates legal referral cases by connecting journalists with trusted lawyers and legal organizations for further support.

Type of other services

- CamboJA provides psychosocial support to journalists both members and non-members to help them cope with stress, trauma, and mental health challenges related to their work.

Criteria for beneficiaries/clients

- CamboJA provides support for both members and non-member journalists

Guidelines for providing legal services or other support

- CamboJA provides services to both members and non-member journalists of CamboJA, who are at-risk in relation of journalist professional, freedom of expression and opinion.

Advocacy activities related to legal services

- CamboJA is working on advocating national, regional and international level based on issues.
- From NGOs are working to update, share information and join advocacy works related to press freedom.

Collaboration with other legal organizations

- CamboJA cooperates with local organizations such as Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM), Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR), Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC) and international organizations in advocacy and legal protection for journalists in Cambodia.



Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM)

Background: The Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM) was established in the first quarter of 2007 and duly registered with the Ministry of Interior on June 15, 2007, as a non-governmental organization (NGO). CCIM is established with goal to promote independent media, freedom of expression, access to information (A2I) and internet freedom. CCIM runs various training programs on journalism, digital security, media and information literacy for community members, citizen journalists, students, youth, and human rights defenders. Through its advocacy efforts, CCIM also document harassment cases against journalists and provide legal protection to journalists at risk. As part of the advocacy program, CCIM has provided legal support to journalists since 2021. Since then, over 20 journalists have accessed CCIM legal support and legal counseling. Before the government revoked the media license in early 2023, CCIM had been running the Voice of Democracy (VOD's) online news and radio broadcasting program, reaching over 1 million listeners and online readers.

Address

Address: #14A, Street. 392, Sangkat Boeng Keng Kang I, Khan Boeng Keng Kang, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Telephone: (+855) 23 726 842

Website: <https://ccimcambodia.org>.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CCIMCambodia>

Contact Person

- Name: Mr. Mao Ramet
- Position: Project Officer
- Phone: (+855) 60 505 050 or (+855) 70 299 757
- Email: m.ramet@ccimcambodia.org
- Signal or Telegram: (+855) 70 299 757

Type of legal services

- Provides legal consultations for journalists, freelance journalists, aspiring journalists, and citizen journalists who face legal actions for their reporting
- Provide legal representation and defense in court cases and proceedings for journalists, freelance journalists, aspiring journalists, and citizen journalists in Cambodia.

Criteria for beneficiaries/clients (journalists)

- Professional journalists, freelancers, citizen journalists, and aspiring journalists who report on public-interest issues

Guidelines for providing legal services or other support

To access legal support, journalists, freelance journalists, aspiring journalists and citizen journalists can apply by contacting the focal point above and fill in case intake forms. CCIM will review the case and determine possible legal remedies

Advocacy activities

CCIM works with partners to conduct advocacy to intervene in cases of journalists who face legal actions, threats and harassment for their reporting through:

- Joint statement with both local and international NGOs
- Conduct campaigns
- Press release

Collaboration with other legal organizations

- CCIM works with other local organizations such as the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) and Cambodian Journalists Alliance Association (CamboJA) through a Journalist Safety Working Group (JSWG) in advocacy and legal support to journalists at risk. The JSWG also monitor and record harassment incidents against journalists in Cambodia.

Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR)

Background: The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) is a leading non-aligned, independent, non-governmental organization that works to promote and protect democracy and respect for human rights – primarily civil and political rights - in Cambodia. We empower civil society to claim its rights and drive for progress; and through detailed research and analysis we develop innovative policy, and advocate for its implementation.

Address

Address: #798, Street 99, Beoung Trabek, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Telephone: (+855) 23 726 901

Website: <http://cchrcambodia.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cchrcambodia>

Contact person

- Name: Mr. Ruos Sarat
- Position: Project Coordinator, Protecting Fundamental Freedoms Project.
- Phone : (+855)17 886 695
- Email: rossarath@cchrcambodia.org
- Signal or Telegram: (+855) 17 886 695

Type of legal services

- CCHR provides legal defense (a lawyer representing the client during investigation, trial, and other court proceedings)

Type of other services

- CCHR provides social assistance to the victims of human rights abuses and their family members.
- CCHR provides psychological support to the victims of human rights abuses.
- CCHR provides other emergency assistance to human rights defenders where necessary.

Criteria for beneficiaries/clients

- The criteria for direct beneficiaries or clients: CCHR's beneficiaries or clients could be individuals, groups, and organizations, reporting on or working to address violations of human rights whose fundamental freedoms are violated or are at serious risk. This includes, but is not limited to, human rights defenders (HRDs"), trade unionists, community activists, journalists, and other members of the media, and peaceful protestors. There must be no violent actors.
- The criteria for family or dependent of direct beneficiaries: Beneficiaries' relatives are her/his spouse or partner, children, descendant relatives, and ascendant relatives.

Guidelines for providing legal services or other support

- Assistance can be provided at the request of an alleged victim to CCHR, or at the request of a relative, friend, or coworker on behalf of the victim. After a request has been received, CCHR shall interview the alleged victims, NGO partners and individuals to collect and verify information. The decision will be made based on CCHR procedures and criteria.

Collaboration with other legal organizations

- CCHR collaborates with other NGOs providing legal services and other support to victims to make sure that the victims' human rights and fundamental freedoms are protected.



Community Legal Education Center (CLEC)

Background: Established in 1996 and registered as a local NGO in 2001, the Community Legal Education Center (CLEC) builds legal empowerment for vulnerable Cambodian communities, particularly those affected by Land and Natural Resource (LNR) violations. Its vision is a society living under the rule of law, in peace and social harmony. Historically, CLEC has been one of the key actors in legal reform, contributing to significant legislation like the 2001 Land Law. CLEC's work is driven by two closely complementing, integrated programs: the Access to Justice Program (AJP) and the Legal Empowerment Program (LEP). The AJP enhances communities' capacity to access dispute resolution mechanisms for LNR issues, utilizing strategic litigation and civic engagement. The LEP focuses on increasing the active participation of communities, activists, and youth, strengthening their understanding of legal frameworks to hold authorities accountable for LNR tenure security. A cornerstone of CLEC's methodology is the "Peace Table," a successful Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) model introduced in 2007. This multilateral dialogue has peacefully resolved over 30 LNR cases, leading to the return of land to 34 indigenous communities. The model's success has prompted the Ministry of Justice to study it for potential inclusion in national law. CLEC also utilizes an extensive network of 254 community-based paralegals across 18 provinces who provide crucial local legal support and aid strategic litigation efforts. Through these approaches, CLEC fosters informal justice processes and promotes inclusive development.

Address

Address: #237, Street Lom, Phum Thmey, Sangkat Dangkor, Khan Dangkor, Phnom Penh

Telephone: (+855) 12 811 860

Website: <https://www.clec.org.kh>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cleccambodia>

Contact Person

- Name: Mr. Roeun Sokchea
- Position: Acting Program Manager Phone
- Contact: (+855) 98 75 79 93
- Email: sokchea@cleccambodia.org
- Signal / Telegram: (+855) 98 75 79 93

Type of legal services

- Preparation of legal documents for trials or litigation, such as affidavits, notarized documents, and other forms of documentary evidence.
- Legal defense, which includes having a lawyer represent the client during the investigation, trial, and other court proceedings.

Criteria for beneficiaries/clients (journalists)

- The intended beneficiaries for this project are Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), which include journalists. However, the availability of these services is dependent on the project's budget.
- To access legal support from the project, a potential client must first submit a written request for support to CLEC before the organization intervenes in the case.

Guidelines for providing legal services or other support

- To access the legal support, the client must ask in writing for CLEC support before CLEC intervention.

Advocacy activities related to legal services

- Participating in discussions with the Ministry of Justice, UNOHCHR, and other NGO partners on drafting legal aid policies or laws.
- Holding direct discussions with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and court judges regarding specific cases.
- Joining advocacy efforts with other human rights organizations on relevant issues and cases.

Collaboration with other legal organizations

- CLEC also collaborates with other local organizations, such as the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights (CCHR), the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC), Legal Aid Cambodia (LAC), and Equitable Cambodia (EC) to co-defend cases.



Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO)

Background: The Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO), established in 1992, works closely with grassroots communities, human rights defenders and activists to monitor, document and investigate human rights abuses in Cambodia. LICADHO's primary activities of monitoring, intervention, documentation and advocacy aim to promote accountability of government officials and non-state actors, as well as amplify community voices both domestically and internationally. In addition to its human rights monitoring, LICADHO has developed an in-house team of prison project researchers; doctors and medical professionals; lawyers and paralegals; and social workers to meet the ever-changing demands of communities and provide more holistic services to clients.

Address

Address: House #16, Street 99, Sangkat Boeung Trabek, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Mailing address: P.O. Box 499, Phnom Penh, Cambodia)

Telephone: (+855)12 536 300/ (+855)15 553 855

Website: <https://www.licadho-cambodia.org/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/licadho>

Contact Person

- Name: Mr. Am Sam Ath
- Position: Director of Operations
- Phone No: (+855) 10 327 770
- Email: samathmail@gmail.com
- Signal/WhatsApp: (+855) 10 327 770

Type of legal services

- Identifies, investigates and documents cases of human rights violations in Cambodia.
- Provide legal counselling to victims of human rights abuses.
- Provide the legal representation for human rights abuse related criminal cases.
- Refer the victims to other LICADHO's relevant offices for necessary supports

Type of other services

- LICADHO provides the Medical, social and other technical support to victims/families depends on the cases.

Criteria for beneficiaries/clients (journalists)

- LICADHO provide the supports to the client base on LICADHO's mandates and policies

Guidelines for providing legal services or other support

- Promote and amplify the voices of human rights defenders, grassroots communities, activists, journalists and Cambodians who want to advocate for a safe and fair society.
- Publish briefing papers, reports, public campaigns, and other advocacy materials on human rights abuses in the country

Collaboration with other legal organizations

- LICADHO collaborates with CCHR, ADHOC, and other human rights organizations.



Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC)

Background: The Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC) is an independent, Khmer-run non-governmental legal aid organization that has been providing free, quality legal services to the Cambodian people since 1995. LAC envisions a just and fair Cambodian society, where everyone enjoys equal rights before the law. Its mission is to entrench the rule of law within the Cambodian legal system and ensure access to justice, respect for the law and human rights, and effective legal and judicial reforms. LAC's work revolves around four key programs, including the General Legal Aid Program, Child Justice Program, Women's Justice Program, and Land Law and Natural Resources Program, but the scope of its work expands into multiple sectors according to need. LAC has a strong commitment to support children, youth, women, human rights defenders, other marginalized groups, and civil society organizations (CSOs) on wide-ranging legal implications. One of its current projects works to ensure legal compliance for CSOs around the country based on relevant laws and regulations, including the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations, Taxation Law, Labor Law, Law on Accounting and Audit, Law on National Social Security Fund and others.

Address

Address: House # 72 street 360, Sangkat Toul Savay Prey I, Khan Boeung Keng Kang

Telephone: (+855) 12 838 341

Website: www.lac.org.kh

Contact Person

- Name: Mr. Un Chanthol
- Position: Project Lawyer
- Phone No: (+855) 61 839 696
- Telegram: (+855) 61 839696

Type of legal services

- Provide legal consultation to journalists at risks for their reporting
- Provide legal representation and defenses for client throughout court procedure

Criteria for beneficiaries/clients (journalists)

- Professional journalists who report on public interest news and who follow the journalism code of ethics

Guidelines for providing legal services or other support

- To access legal support, journalists shall contact the contact details above
- Accept referral cases from other local organizations

Collaboration with other legal organizations

- LAC has been working with other local organizations such as Licadho, CCIM, ADHOC in Cambodia in provide legal support to journalists.



R & L Law Office

Background: R&L LAW OFFICE is a legal profession Office established by Sek Sophorn, Attorney-at-Law, ID No. 817, member of Bar Association of Kingdom of Cambodia (BAKC) under the Law on Bar Association of Cambodia. It started officially and recognized by decision No. 642/kor.mor/14 dated 08 April 2014 of Council of Bar Association of Cambodia. The R & L is established under the Law on BACK as a legal person to provide legal service to clients in its expertise and priority. It is not an NGO or any part of an agency but independent and self-functioning as a private law office. It also cooperates with associates and lawyers when necessary and agreed with service. The R & L was established with strong belief in the Rule of Law and Social Justice in economic and social development as peaceful way to respect human rights, poverty reduction, peace and sustainability of environment. Economic development with full respect for fundamental freedom and human rights is core to enrich equitably the well-being of every person in any nation.

Contact person and office address

- Address: #28, Street 460, Sangkat Tuol Tumpong 2, Khan Chamkamon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- Name: Mr. Sek Sophorn
- Telegram or WhatsApp: (+855) 12 890 289/ (+855) 11 661 965
- Email: seksophorn11@gmail.com and sophornsek@hotmail.com

Code Proceeding

- High impact litigation concerning land and natural resource rights of indigenous, local community
- Cases related to human rights violations
- Service in preparing complaints or other documents concerned
- Consultation and legal advice/service (land, labour, indigenous issue, women's rights, civil and political rights)
- Preparing contracts and mediation service



Attorney. Duch Piseth

Background: DUCH Piseth is a human rights lawyer and leads the Business & Human Rights Law Group (BHRLG) in Cambodia. BHRLG was founded in 2018 thanks to a strong belief that lawyers have a civic mission to promote and protect human rights, environmental rights, and the rule of law with respect for democratic principles, as well as to advance access to justice and support human rights defenders, environmental defenders, and journalists at risk. Piseth is also a part-time Southeast Asia Researcher for the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre. Before becoming a lawyer, he was Director of Advocacy at the Cambodian Center for Human Rights. Piseth also had working experience as a National Human Rights Officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia.

Contact person and Office Address

- Address: #G10, Street 5P, Prek Talong village, Chak Angre Krom commune, Meanchey district, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Name: Mr. Duch Piseth
- Telephone:(+855)12 712 371
- Email: pisethduch168@gmail.com
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/piseth-duch-432b1596/>

Mission: To promote and protect human rights, fundamental freedoms including freedom of the press, environmental rights, the rule of law with respect for democratic principles as well as to advance access to justice and support human rights and environmental rights defenders and journalists at risks.

Court Proceeding

- Cases related to human rights violations including freedom of the press
- Defending cases filed at any level of courts of Cambodia upon the request of client
- Service in preparing complaints or other documents concerned
- In addition to litigation, providing training, consultation and legal advice on freedom of expression and human rights and environmental due diligence



Attorney. Ham Sunrith

Background: HAM Sunrith holds a Master of Private Law, a professional certification from the Lawyer Training Center of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and a Diploma in English Language. He has been working in the legal field since 1996 and has been a practicing lawyer since 2006.

Contact person and Office Address

- Address: #36C, Street 271, Boeung Salang, Khan Toul Kok, Phnom Penh , Cambodia.
- Name: Mr. Ham Sunrith
- Telephone: (+855) 12 988 959
- Email: rithlawyer75@gmail.com

Court Proceeding

- Cases related to human rights violations
- Defending cases filed at any level of court of Cambodia upon the request of clients
- Service in preparing complaints or other related documents
- Consultation and legal advice/service



Office of the United Nations Commissioners for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Background: The Office of High Commission for Humna Rights (OHCHR) Cambodia promotes and protects human rights while actively contributing to sustainable peace and inclusive development in the country. The Country Office monitors and documents the human rights situation in the country. It provides technical advice to national institutions based on its human rights assessments and conducts capacity-building for both government and non-governmental actors.

Address

Address: No.4, Street 271 Yothapol Khemarak Phoumin Blvd, Sangkat Phsar Daem Thkov, (120112) Mailing Address: P.O. Box 108, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Contact Person

- Name: Mr.YUN, Dina
- Position: Programme Analyst, Civic Space and Participation, Protection Unit
- E-mail: dina.yun@un.org
- Mobile: +855 17 604 260

Type of legal Services

- OHCHR Cambodia does not directly provide legal services; however, there is the possibility of referral of cases.

Type of other services

- OHCHR Cambodia conducts advocacy on specific cases with its interlocutors, provides advice on international human rights law, and support for engagement with human rights mechanisms. It also conducts capacity-building on relevant issues for journalists, related to civic space and participation.

Criteria for beneficiaries/clients (journalists)

OHCHR Cambodia provides support to those who are affected by violations of their human rights.

Advocacy activities related to legal services

- OHCHR Cambodia raises cases with its government interlocutors and engages with international human rights mechanisms on specific issues and/or cases.

Collaboration with other legal organizations

- OHCHR Cambodia works with CSOs in general, including those who provide legal assistance.

Other information relevant to legal services

- OHCHR Cambodia monitors trials of journalists who are arrested and charged with cases related to their exercising of human rights. OHCHR Cambodia also visits journalists who are imprisoned because of the exercise of their human rights.



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cambodian center for independent media



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