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SAM RAINSY PARTY
PARTI SAM RAINSY
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SECRETARY GENERAL

August 23, 2000

SAM RAINSY PARTY ACTIVIST ATTACKED

Sam Rainsy Party activist, Hou Sim, member of SRP council of Kaur Khchork commune, Kompong Trabek district, Prey Veng province, was injured at his ankle from an attack launched by an unidentified gunman who had opened fire twice on 19 August, 2000 at around 07:00 pm on his house. The assailant fled in the darkness of the night after firing at Hou Sim's house. One bullet damaged a house pillar but the other one went through the wall before reaching Hou Sim. The victim, getting frightened, knows exactly who has exclusive right to hold the weapon among innocuous villagers but does not dare to name anybody.

Hou Sim had served effectively the Party which become more and more popular and gained large support from villagers. This led the local authority to worry of losing their credibility and got angry with him. There's no doubt political violence to oppress people who enjoy elementary rights without agreement from the authority.

Chhim Chuon was assassinated along with his 7 year old daughter on February this year in Kompong Cham province, Khan Sophoan seriously injured last June from hacking in Kompong Cham province, Khim Nhak just killed on August 17 in the same province and two days later Hou Sim wounded from shot in Prey Veng province because they all had practised freedom of expression or right of supporting a political party like the Sam Rainsy Party. Day after day, score of Cambodian opposition members are subjected to target practice of local authoritarian elements if not facing to harassment, intimidation and threat. Cambodian society is going ahead far away from democracy.

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