

**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA****Nation Religion King**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

20 January 2005

**Police Use Force to Stop Workers from Entering Union Office**

Armed Phnom Penh riot police surrounded the headquarters of the Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia (FTUWKC), preventing FTUWCK members from entering the union premises, at 1:00PM of 20 January 2005.

Mr. Heng Sophoan, a FTUWKC union leader at Su Tong Fang garment factory, was dragged by the collar and brutally forced into one of the police vehicles and taken to the police station.

Mr. Chea Mony, president of FTUWKC, who unsuccessfully tried to negotiate with the head of the police for the release of Mr. Heng Sophoan, was also taken. Both men are now under police detention. Members of Parliament from the Sam Rainsy Party are not being allowed to enter the police station to secure the release of both men.

The Sam Rainsy Party is extremely concerned for the safety of the union leaders and workers who are being confronted with the brutality of the police, local authorities and men hired by factory owners to prevent workers to strike for fair treatment.

The Sam Rainsy Party strongly condemns this act of violence and demands the Royal Government of Cambodia to respect the fundamental rights of union leaders who are lawfully representing the workers.

The SRP Parliamentarians

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