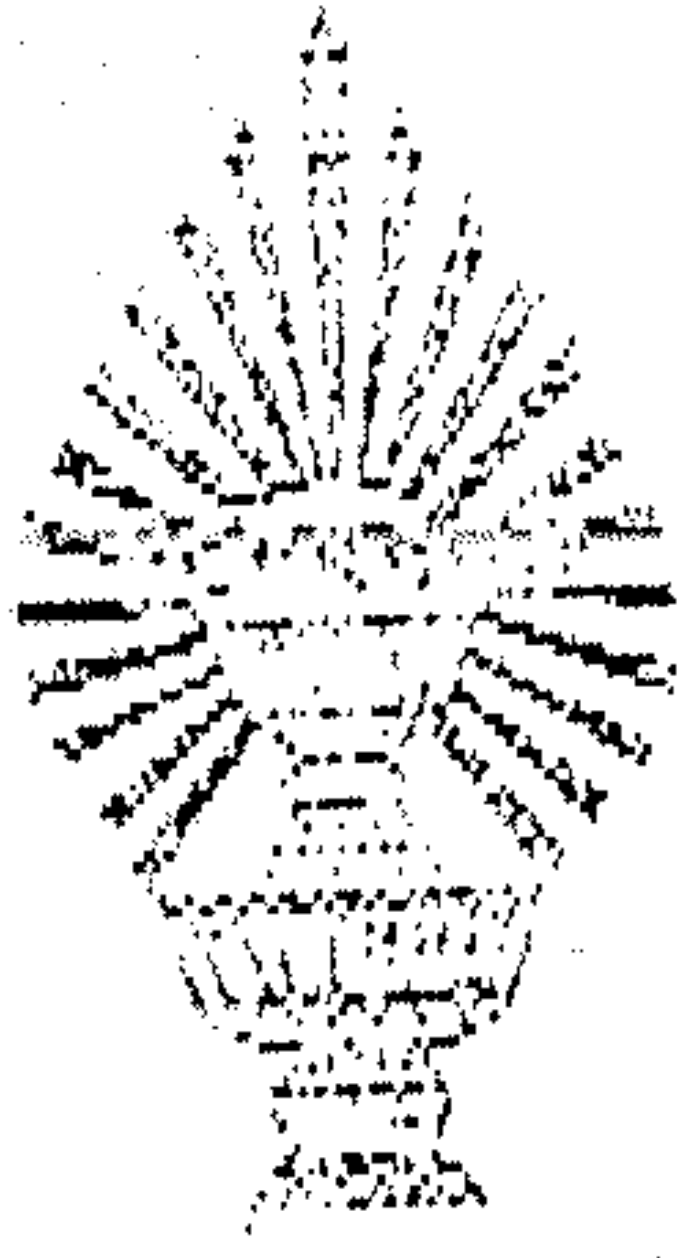


KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PUBLIC STATEMENT

21 January 2004

PROVINCIAL COURT COLLUDES IN POLITICAL INTIMIDATION

Besides failing to accord full security to citizens, judicial authorities closely associated with the ruling party have embarked upon seemingly "legal" acts that can only be described as political intimidations.

A Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) active member, Ang Chib Dim, 45, is to lodge an appeal after being ordered by Kompong Thom provincial court to pay 400,000 riels as compensation to Mat Khun Veng for allegedly injuring the latter's cow. Ang Chib Dim is a member of the SRP commune council for Meanchey Commune in the province of Kompong Thom, where he resides. The judge, Touch Sok Khun, rubs shoulders with the ruling party high profiles in the province, and Mat Khun Veng is an active member of the Cambodian People's Party commune council.

Mat Khun Veng has indeed made good his open threat, heard by many witnesses, before the July 2003 elections that he would organize to have Ang Chib Dim jailed if the SRP failed to win the elections. Ang Chib Dim was arrested on 4 December 2003 for allegedly injuring a Mat Khun Veng's cow. He was released from custody on 13 January 2004 after paying, as demanded, a bribe of USD\$200 to a provincial prosecutor, Huot Ly.

The provincial court saw it appropriate to jail, for longer than a month, an active member of the Opposition for allegedly harming a cow of a CPP member, and to release him only after a bribe was paid. But the same judicial authority refused to take any legal action against a CPP member who was alleged to have slashed an ear of one of the SRP members in Taing Kra Sao Commune, Prasath Sombo District in the same province of Kompong Thom.

The SRP condemns the Kompong Thom provincial court for failing to discharge their judicial authorities justly and fairly. It is just another typical case that clearly justifies the Alliance of Democrats' demand for an overhaul of the judicial system.

The SRP Members of Parliament

Contact the SRP Press Office for further details:
Samrithy Duong Hak, 012 802 752
Ung Bun-Ang, 023 217 452, 012-605-999