

I am writing this letter to express my sincere concern about Sombath Somphone who is well known for his work promoting education and sustainable development in your country. He was taken away in a truck by unknown persons after being stopped by police in the Lao capital, Vientiane on 15 December 2012. Nobody has seen or heard from him since.

So I urge you to immediately establish a new, independent commission to undertake a thorough and impartial investigation into the enforced disappearance of Sombath Somphone, and ensure that all steps are taken to locate and return him safely to his family as soon as possible, in accordance with Laos' obligations under international law;

I also would like you to ensure that this new commission seeks technical assistance for its investigations, including established experts to carry out a forensics analysis of the CCTV footage of the disappearance;

Lastly please frequently provide detailed information about the progress of the investigations to Sombath's family, lawyers and others with a legitimate interest.

Thank you for your quick attention on his matter.

Best regards,