

I am writing this to express my deep concern for Nget Khun, Tep Vanny, Song Srey Leap, Kong Chantha, Phan Chhunreth, Po Chorvy and Nong Sreng, who are all from the Boeung Kak community in Phnom Penh. They were holding a peaceful protest about flooding in their neighbourhood, including sewage water, when they were arrested. They were tried, convicted, and each sentenced to one year's imprisonment and fined an equivalent to US \$500. 3 more women, Heng Pich, Im Srey Touch, Phuong Sopheap and a Buddhist monk, Soeung Hai, were also arrested, as they were peacefully protesting with others to call for release of the above mentioned 7 and were also convicted and sentenced to 1 year in jail and fine equivalent to US \$500.

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Nget Khun, Tep Vanny, Song Srey Leap, Kong Chantha, Phan Chhunreth, Po Chorvy, Nong Sreng, Heng Pich, Im Srey Touch, Phuong Sopheap and Soeung Hai, as they have been convicted and jailed for simply exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly.

I also urge you to end the use of criminal charges to intimidate and punish peaceful protesters.

I further call on you to resolve the situation caused by the forced eviction of the Boeung Kak community and filling in of Boeung Kak Lake, including by addressing the problems around flooding, drainage and sewage.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,