Prime Minister Hun Sen
Office of the Prime Minister
Jok Dimitrov Boulevard, Phnom Penh,
Cambodia
Twitter: @PeacePalaceKH

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my grave concern for the future of all workers in Cambodia after the detention of **Chhim Sithar**, the leader of the Labor Rights Supported Union of Khmer Employees (LRSU) of NagaWorld. I am concerned about the arbitrary arrest of a labour union leader, the misuse of the criminal justice system, and what this means for the future of workers' rights throughout your country.

Under international human rights law and its Constitution, Cambodia has an obligation to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of workers and to ensure that they realise their rights to unionise and strike without fear of violent and/or legal repercussion.

It is extremely worrying to see that incitement charges brought against Chhim Sithar have not been dropped and that they appear to have been motivated because of her leadership of the LRSU and their ongoing strike actions against NagaWorld. In addition, her rearrest is greatly concerning as Sithar is accused of allegedly violating bail conditions that she had no way of knowing, because they were not provided to her or her lawyers, despite requests from her lawyers. This indicates that she was rearrested because of her ongoing work, exercising her right to freedom of speech and to freedom of association while in Cambodia and Australia.

Chhim Sithar has been detained solely for her human rights work. I therefore urge you to ensure that:

- **Chhim Sithar is released immediately and unconditionally;**
- **An independent and thorough investigation into the charges brought against her is undertaken by an objective body;**
- **Pending her release, Chhim Sithar and the other leaders of the LRSU and its membership, receive the protections afforded them under international human rights laws that Cambodia has ratified.**

Yours sincerely,