

Prime Minister Hun Sen
Office of the Prime Minister
Jok Dimitrov Boulevard Phnom Penh,
Cambodia

Groningen, 2021

Dear Prime Minister Hun Sen,

I am deeply concerned about the relentless persecution of environmental activists affiliated with Mother Nature Cambodia. Long Kunthea, Phuon Keoraksmeay, Thun Ratha, Sun Ratha, Ly Chandaravuth, and Yim Leanghy have all been imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising their human rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. It is distressing to learn that Long Kunthea, Phuon Keoraksmeay and Thun Ratha are facing additional criminal charges of 'plotting' by the Phnom Penh Municipal Court. Already sentenced to 18-20 months imprisonment for trumped up charges of 'incitement', they could now face an additional 10 years in prison if convicted.

I urge you, Prime Minister Hun Sen, to take all necessary measures in order to:

- Ensure the immediate release of Long Kunthea, Phuon Keoraksmeay, Thun Ratha and quash their conviction;
- Drop all pending charges against all six activists and ensure their immediate and unconditional release from prison;
- Pending their release, ensure that they are protected from all forms of ill-treatment and provided access to adequate healthcare;
- End the harassment, intimidation and persecution of all environmental activists and groups and provide adequate support and protection to those working on defending the environment in Cambodia.

Yours sincerely,