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

24 April 2018

Open letter: Tens of thousands call for the immediate and unconditional release of prisoner of conscience Tep Vanny

Your Excellency,

On 7 April, it will have been 600 days since prominent human rights defender Tep Vanny was first arrested. Considered by Amnesty International to be a prisoner of conscience, Tep Vanny has been imprisoned solely due to her peaceful exercise of her rights to freedom of expression and assembly. Tep Vanny has never used, nor advocated for, violence during her peaceful activism defending Phnom Penh's Boeung Kak Lake community who were forcibly evicted from their homes 10 years ago.

Following her first conviction on 22 August 2016 on trumped up charges for her participation in the "Black Monday" protests, Tep Vanny has had three dormant cases reactivated against her relating to her peaceful exercise of her rights to freedom of expression and assembly in 2011, 2012 and 2013. She has been convicted and sentenced to 30 months and six months in prison in two of those cases, with the latter pending enforcement by the Prosecutor.

Amnesty International is deeply troubled by the continued harassment of human rights defenders, activists, civil society groups, journalists and political opposition in Cambodia. As a Signatory to several core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Cambodia is obliged to protect and promote the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association as well as the rights to liberty and a fair trial. While the Cambodian Constitution and multiple national laws seeks to uphold these rights, Amnesty International strongly condemns the use of the judicial system to criminalise those that peacefully express their opinions, individually or collectively.

Amnesty International has addressed your Government on various occasions, and most recently at the 37th session of the UN Human Rights Council, urging Cambodia to respect its obligations under international law and put an immediate end to a relentless and coordinated crackdown on dissent in the country.

Featured in Amnesty International's global campaign, Tep Vanny epitomises the brave work of human rights defenders across the world. Working tirelessly to defend the rights of all of people in Cambodia and, despite countless obstacles, she has kept her determination and untiring struggle for justice alive.

Tep Vanny has inspired thousands of people from across the world and attached is 106,354 signatures from a global petition appealing to you, Prime Minister, to immediately and unconditionally release Tep Vanny and to quash all convictions against her as well as to stop any investigations into any other pending charges.

We urge you to demonstrate Cambodia's commitment to human rights and protect the right to freedom of expression by releasing Tep Vanny immediately and unconditionally.

Yours sincerely,

James Gomez

Regional Director, Amnesty International Southeast Asia-Pacific Regional Office