

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 23/02/99

20 January 1999

Further information on UA 314/98 (ASA 23/29/98, 21 December 1998) and follow-up (ASA 23/01/99, 7 January 1999) - Fear for safety / Prisoners of conscience

**CAMBODIA**     **Kim San (m), human rights worker**  
**Meas Minear (m), human rights worker**

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On 20 January 1999, the Appeals Court in Phnom Penh ordered the immediate release of Kim San and Meas Minear, due to a lack of evidence against them.

Amnesty International believes that the charges against the two human rights workers, of robbery and damage to property, were politically motivated. Defenders of the two men are calling for all charges to be dropped.

Kim San and Meas Minear, who work for the Cambodian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LICADHO), were detained in Sihanoukville on 21 December 1998. They had been monitoring demonstrations in the town against the dumping of toxic waste in the area by a Taiwanese company.

Amnesty International welcomes the Appeals Court's decision as an important step in asserting the independence of the judiciary and in the protection of human rights workers peacefully carrying out their duties.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals on behalf of Kim San and Meas Minear. Although no further action is required by the network, participants may send letters, welcoming the decision of the Appeals Court, to the following address:

Ouk Vithun  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Samdech Sothearos Blvd  
Phnom Penh  
Cambodia