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Cambodia: Verdict due in trial of government critic Mam Sonando

On Monday 1 October 2012, the Phnom Penh Municipal Court will hand down its verdict against Mam Sonando, a prominent critic of the Cambodian government who has been on trial for anti-state offences including “insurrection” and “inciting people to take up arms against the authorities”. He faces a prison sentence of up to 30 years if convicted.

Mam Sonando, 71, is the owner of Beehive Radio, one of Cambodia’s few independent radio stations that broadcast programmes critical of the Cambodian government and give airtime to opposition parties.

The charges against him stem from a speech made by Cambodia’s Prime Minister on 26 June 2012, in which he accused Mam Sonando of being behind a plot for a village in Kratie province to secede from Cambodia.

Amnesty International considers the charges to be baseless. We consider Mam Sonando to be a Prisoner of Conscience, arrested and detained for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression through his radio broadcasts, and are calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

Further information:

- Amnesty International spokespeople are available for interviews before or after the verdict
- Pictures of Mam Sonando and his supporters are available
- [“Cambodia: Arrest of radio owner another dangerous blow to freedom of expression”](#), Amnesty International Opinion Piece, 4 August 2012
- [“Cambodia: Government critic detained: Mam Sonando”](#), Amnesty International Urgent Action, 1 August 2012

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