

URGENT ACTION

CAMBODIAN WOMAN THREATENED WITH DEATH

A Cambodian woman, Ros Bopha, has gone into hiding after leading her community in protest about their living conditions. The community lives at Trapeang AnhChanh, over 20 km from the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, after being evicted from their homes because of a railway restoration project. She has received threats and faces arrest.

Amnesty International believes that **Ros Bopha** is being targeted because of her peaceful and lawful actions in defending the rights of her community.

In the past year, more than 160 families evicted as part of a railway rehabilitation project funded mainly by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Australian International Development Agency (AusAID) have been relocated to Trapeang AnhChanh. These "railway" families live on a separate site in Trapeang AnhChanh, adjoining the "original" community of other families relocated there after forced evictions in Phnom Penh in 2006. The "railway" community is facing difficulties accessing basic services such as electricity and water, and face mounting debt because of inadequate compensation and limited work and livelihood opportunities. On 2 April, Ros Bopha and other community representatives submitted a complaint to the ADB in Cambodia. Two days later, on 4 April, the village chief of the "original" community reportedly led 30 to 40 villagers and security guards in a violent assault on the "railway" community. They reportedly used electric batons, knives and sticks and threw bricks and rocks. Police were present but did nothing to intervene. Many people were injured. The "original" village chief reportedly went to Ros Bopha's house with a gun, threatening to kill her, but she had hidden elsewhere.

On 10 April, a delegation of officials from the local and municipal authority, police, and the Inter-Ministerial Resettlement Committee (IRC), reportedly went to Ros Bopha's house to arrest her on allegations of theft. She was not at home. Following her return, she was allegedly targeted again by the village chief and his supporters, who apparently gathered for two consecutive nights in front of her house, drinking alcohol, throwing rocks and shouting at her. She has since gone into hiding with her family.

Please write immediately in English or Khmer or your own language:

- Call for assurances that community representatives, including Ros Bopha, are able to act peacefully in defence of their rights and the rights of others, without fear of arrest, threats or violence.
- Urge the authorities to initiate an immediate and independent investigation into the threats and physical attacks against those recently relocated to Trapeang AnhChanh resettlement site, including Ros Bopha.
- Demand that those responsible for the violence are apprehended and prosecuted in fair trials.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 25 MAY 2012 TO:

Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Interior

Sar Kheng

#75 Norodom Blvd

Khan Chamkarmon

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Fax: + 855 23 721 905

Salutation: Your Excellency

Governor of

Phnom Penh Municipality

Kep Chuktema

#69 Blvd. Preah Monivong

Khan Daun Penh

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Fax: + 855 23 725 626 (keep trying)

Email: info@phnompenh.gov.kh

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Foreign Affairs and

International Cooperation

Hor Nam Hong

No 3 Samdech Hun Sen Street

Sangkat Tonle Bassac

Khan Chamcar Mon

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Fax: + 855 23 216 141

Salutation: Dear Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

CAMBODIAN WOMAN THREATENED WITH DEATH

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Rehabilitation of the Railway in Cambodia project, funded mainly by the ADB and AusAid, has become mired in controversy, mostly because of the involuntary relocation process of those affected and the impact on their lives. It affects more than 4,000 households living on or within a specified distance of the old rail tracks.

Conditions at resettlement sites in Cambodia for evictees are generally poor. Many sites lack basic infrastructure and access to services, work and other livelihood opportunities. Many of those evicted from Phnom Penh and resettled elsewhere have returned to the city after being forced to relocate to inadequate sites where they cannot make a living.

Like the “railway” community at Trapeang AnhChanh, more and more communities in Cambodia affected by evictions are taking action to defend their rights, and local authorities and others are attempting to silence them. An Amnesty International delegation visited Trapeang AnhChanh on 10 December 2011 to celebrate Human Rights Day with the community, but the local authorities stopped the planned peaceful celebrations from going ahead.

Name: Ros Bopha

Gender m/f: F

UA: 105/12 Index: ASA 23/005/2012 Issue Date: 13 April 2012