

Premierminister
Samdech Hun Manet
Office of the Council of Ministers
Friendship Building
41 Russian Federation Blvd (110)
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
KAMBODSCHA

Chhim Sithar

Dear Prime Minister,

I am much concerned about the situation of the Cambodian citizen and trade union activist Chhim Sithar, who has been imprisoned since 26th November 2022 and was sentenced to two years in prison on 25 May 2023 as a consequence of her labour rights commitment.

At the time of her arrest, Chhim Sithar was chair of the Labor Rights Supported Union of Khmer Employees – LRSU, whose members had protested against mass layoffs.

A Phnom Penh court found Chhim Sithar guilty of "incitement to commit a felony or disturb social security" under criminal code articles 494 and 495, and sentenced her together with eight union member colleagues, who received sentences of one to one-and-a-half years.

As Chhim Sithar and her fellow union members have not committed any crimes according to international legal standards but were prosecuted solely for exercising their basic rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, I urge you to immediately quash those convictions and unconditionally release Chhim Sithar and her fellow union members.

Yours sincerely,