

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

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Cambodia: ICFTU denounces travesty of justice in the sentencing of the purported murderers of trade union leader Chea Vichea

Brussels, 4 August 2005 (ICFTU online): The ICFTU strongly protests against the prison terms imposed on two innocent people accused of the murder of the President of the Cambodian workers' union (FTUWKC), Chea Vichea.

We would recall that Chea Vichea was assassinated on 22 January 2004 in the centre of Phnom Penh. However the ICFTU, along with numerous international observers and human rights organisations has denounced irregularities and inconsistencies in the enquiry that led to the charging of Born Samnang and Sok Sam Ouen, both of whom were sentenced to 20 years in prison on 1 August 2005, despite the fact that they had withdrawn their confessions, which had been obtained under duress.

In a letter sent yesterday to the Cambodian Prime Minister, ICFTU General Secretary Guy Ryder listed these irregularities and inconsistencies, referring in particular to the denunciations made by Peter Leuprecht, the UN Special Representative for Human Rights in Cambodia.

Chea Munny, the brother of Chea Vichea and his successor as leader of the FTUWKC, also publicly criticised this travesty of justice. Along with the former King, Norodom Sihanouk, he denounced the unjust sentencing of two innocent men and called on the government to release them and set up an independent judicial enquiry to identify the true murderers and bring them to justice.

The ICFTU fully endorses that approach and in his letter to the Prime Minister of Cambodia Guy Ryder insists that justice must finally be done over the assassination.

Links to:

- Letter from the ICFTU to the Prime Minister of Cambodia:
<http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991222087&Language=EN>
- Interview with Chea Munny (FTUWKC):
<http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991221538&Language=EN>
- Trade Union World article "Cambodia: textile workers face a gloomy future":
<http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991218894&Language=EN>

The ICFTU represents 145 million workers in 234 affiliated organisations in 154 countries and territories. The ICFTU is also a member of Global Unions: <http://www.global-unions.org>

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