LICADHO Canada is a Canadian human rights organisation working closely together with its sister organisation the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO) in Cambodia. LICADHO Canada works on the front lines to expose the national and international community to Cambodia’s land grabbing and human rights crisis, while protecting and supporting threatened communities and human rights defenders. LICADHO Canada’s small multinational team is committed to flexibility and adapts its services to meet the emerging needs of the Cambodian people’s movements.

Vision: For all people in Cambodia to live in a peaceful society that respects human rights, democracy, and social justice.

**MONITORING & PROTECTION**

**Observe and Document**
Observe and document evictions, trials, and other events as per request of LICADHO, partners, and/or community/group leaders. The digitally documented events are shared with relevant partners, media, campaigns, lawyers, and community/group leaders, and archived as an important part of Cambodia’s history.

**Protection and Security**
Respond and protect human rights defenders and provide protective accompaniment when required. Provide support and fill gaps in client protection services, and identify services for victims of human rights abuses.

**Social and Emotional Support**
Support first and second tier leaders of communities and grassroots groups to maintain strong people’s movements and resilience against state-sponsored human rights abuses. Support includes community visits, meetings with family members of imprisoned activists and prison visits.

**Capacity Building and Training**
Facilitate trainings and workshops, and mentor human rights defenders on topics of physical and digital security.

**PROMOTION & ADVOCACY**

**Advocacy**
Produce multimedia advocacy materials, including video production for communities, partners, campaigns, media, and as evidence, to stimulate systematic change on local and international levels. Raise profiles of human rights defenders threatened or unlawfully detained. Live tweeting during actions and events.

**Creative Workshops**
Facilitate creative advocacy workshops/training opportunities to support communities and partners to produce/edit their own music CDs, multimedia advocacy materials and videos, to aid rehabilitation and build people-led movements.

**Human Rights Defender Apparel**
Design and market Human Rights Defender Apparel, a range of clothing, bags and other items with human rights messages printed on fair production products. Profits are used to support Cambodian human rights defenders and their families.

For More Information Contact:
Ms. Lee Robinson, Director
LICADHO Canada
#16, Street 99
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Email: contact@licadhocanada.org
Web: www.licadhocanada.org Twitter: www.twitter.com/licadhocanada
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/licadhocanada Vimeo: www.vimeo.com/licadhocanada
Facebook: www.facebook.com/licadhocanada

Cover photo: Female land rights campaigners at a police barricade during a Say-No! Union, Association and NGO-Law action, July 7, 2015.
2015 was a year of resilience and perseverance of activists and human rights defenders, made even more remarkable considering the mountain-sized obstacles that civil society was forced to swallow throughout the same time period.

Most concerning in 2015 was the ludicrously abusive judiciary and the undemocratic drafting and passage of unconstitutional laws. After more than 30 years, the Hun Sen regime has learned to use democratic institutions and mechanisms as weapons against perceived enemies. When violating human rights, the regime also knows they can bank on silence or lack of sustained criticism from most influential stakeholders, including local UN bodies, embassies/bi-lateral donors and many of the larger INGO/NGOs. This is worrisome for Cambodia’s future, especially as people’s movements expand and as we near the next national elections.

Particularly frightening in 2015 was the passage of the highly-contested Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organisations (LANGO). Prior to the Law passing, Maina Kiai, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, warned, “Should the draft law be adopted, any group advocating for human rights, basic freedoms and good governance can be shut down and criminalized. It will ultimately have a disastrous impact on Cambodian citizens’ democratic participation in furthering the development of their country.”

The Law was passed by the regime-controlled Council of Ministers, National Assembly, Senate, and King. Now under the Law, grassroots and informal groups have little to no choice other than disobey this unjust law.

The oppressive laws being drafted and passed seem to reveal the intentions of the regime to squash any dissent of any sector of society. This, alongside blatant abuse of the judicial system and other sketchy regime maneuvers over the past year, are also indicative that the regime will likely deny Cambodia fair and free elections and a peaceful passage of power. The money, weapons and power are concentrated in the regime’s hands, whereas civil society is left solely with smartphones and people power.

In this growing darkness, the light of the people’s movements shines so bright.

Looking back on 2015, I am amazed at the growth of many our grassroots partners, our institutional partners, and of LICADHO Canada itself. The year had an organic theme of development as human rights defenders: learning new skills, tightening up activities, practicing Active Non-Violent strategies, sharing knowledge and skillsets, and expanding networks. While, unlike 2013 and 2014, we don’t have reports of peaceful mass-gatherings, the people were becoming stronger though knowledge and preparation. The groups that did step up to face the overwhelming obstacles in 2015 showed incredible courage and determination.

LICADHO Canada moves into 2016 focused and confident that our activities are in-line with the needs and actions of our grassroots and other partners. The future is uncertain but we carry on with maintained momentum and will not waiver until forced to.

Power to the peaceful,

Lee Robinson
LICADHO Canada Director
Throughout 2015, the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) seemed to realize they were losing their grip on power, evident in all their underhanded tactics to silence any challenge to its authority. With imprisonment of activists, oppressive laws, the legalized control over the court and judges, and a firm grip around a bullied and weakened opposition, Cambodians have increasingly less space to exercise their rights. Thousands of people who continued to struggle for their rights failed to receive justice from the corrupt courts, were abused, threatened and intimidated for standing up for their rights, and saw their freedoms being taken away through repressive legislations. Despite these losses, thousands of people continued to call for change, stood up for their and others’ rights, and refused to be silenced by the authorities.

LEGALIZING OPPRESSION

A number of oppressive laws were fast-tracked in 2015, targeting freedom of assembly, association and expression. Altogether, these laws comprise a comprehensive legal framework for the government to control all aspects of civil society in Cambodia.

The dreaded Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO), originally proposed by the ruling party in 2005, was shelved in its fourth draft in 2011 after being heavily criticized by the international community. In April 2015, Prime Minister Hun Sen announced that the draft law had been finalized secretly in 2012, and that the government had been planning all along to adopt the law in 2015. LANGO, which was only released to the public in June 2015, places restrictive and cumbersome registration requirements not only on NGOs, but also on informal networks, grassroots groups and social movements. Many groups from multiple sectors across civil society mobilized to halt the passage of the LANGO. After the announcement by Hun Sen in April, land activists, unions, NGOs, youth and members of the LGBT community passionately took to the streets and social media to expose the threat LANGO poses to Cambodian civil society and human rights. The Say No! Union, Association and NGO Law-campaign peaked with hundreds of protesters taking part in weekly rallies, marches and impromptu dances from late June to late July.

On July 10, an extraordinary National Assembly session was held during which ruling party members of parliament voted to approve the LANGO. On July 13, the ruling party members of the Senate also approved...
the LANGO. On both occasions, opposition party members of the parliament and the Senate boycotted the sessions while hundreds of people assembled outside the institutions to voice their condemnation of the law.

On August 12, Cambodia’s Constitutional Council declared the Law constitutional both in its content and in the process of its drafting and approval despite extensive critique from both Cambodia and abroad. Numerous provisions violate Cambodia’s constitutional rights and freedoms as well as restrict legitimate activities of civil society and human rights defenders protected by international human rights conventions to which Cambodia is a party. Within a day, the King had rubber stamped the Law, and it came into effect 10 days after in Phnom Penh, and 20 days after in the provinces.

On at least two occasions since the adoption of the LANGO, the Law has been used to suppress civil society activities. The same month as the Law was adopted, district police in Kratie province informed a representative of a group of 69 families seeking a resolution to their land dispute that they needed to register before any further action could be taken. The Law stipulates that failure of an association or group to register with the government can be subject to fines, and prosecuted as a criminal offence. Additionally, grassroots groups Coalition of Cambodian Farmer Community (CCFC) and Independent Democracy of Informal Economy (IDEA) have also been prohibited or banned from organizing meetings since the LANGO was passed.

Additionally, the draft Law on Unions of Enterprises (Trade Union Law) was leaked in 2014. The Trade Union Law looks to be yet another tool to further restrict civil society by controlling union formation and activities – a network crucial in protecting the rights of workers. In April 2015, Prime Minister Hun Sen made a statement that the government had tried to silence activists and supporters, monks and land rights activists. In April 2015, Prime Minister Hun Sen made a statement that the government wanted to protect its power. On the 20th day of May 2015, the Trade Union Law was signed by the King. The law required a quick passage despite extensive critique from both Cambodia and abroad. Numerous provisions violate Cambodia’s constitutional rights and freedoms as well as restrict legitimate activities of civil society and human rights defenders protected by international human rights conventions to which Cambodia is a party. Within a day, the King had rubber stamped the Law, and it came into effect 10 days after in Phnom Penh, and 20 days after in the provinces.

On at least two occasions since the adoption of the LANGO, the Law has been used to suppress civil society activities. The same month as the Law was adopted, district police in Kratie province informed a representative of a group of 69 families seeking a resolution to their land dispute that they needed to register before any further action could be taken. The Law stipulates that failure of an association or group to register with the government can be subject to fines, and prosecuted as a criminal offence. Additionally, grassroots groups Coalition of Cambodian Farmer Community (CCFC) and Independent Democracy of Informal Economy (IDEA) have also been prohibited or banned from organizing meetings since the LANGO was passed.

The abuse of the judiciary continued to be an underhanded tactic by the CPP throughout the year. In July, a new wave of arrests took place in Cambodia, again targeting opposition party members and supporters, monks and activists.

On July 21, 11 opposition party members and supporters were arrested for leading and/or participating in an insurrectionary movement. The arrests happened shortly after the opposition party Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) boycotted the extraordinary National Assembly session that passed the LANGO. Before the arrests, four opposition members of parliament also led more than a thousand opposition party members and supporters to the disputed border demarcation between Cambodia and Vietnam – a hypersensitive subject to the government. This incident severely escalated tensions between the two parties. Additionally, three CNRP activists were arrested in August, also charged with participation in an insurrectionary movement among other charges.

In August, two monks, an opposition party senator, four activists and a university student were arrested, three of the activists from outspoken Mother Nature organization. Mother Nature has been in the spotlight since one of their staff, environmental activist Alex Gonzales-Davidson, was arrested and deported from Cambodia in February 2015. The three Mother Nature activists were arrested amid an ongoing campaign to end alleged illegal sand dredging in Koh Kong. The senator is charged with forgery of public documents, use of forged public documents and incitement to commit a crime after publishing an altered treaty on disputed border demarcation between Cambodia and Vietnam on his Facebook page. The university student was arrested over a Facebook post in which he called for people to join him in a ‘colour revolution’. Later in October, an Areng Valley activist and CPP Commune Councilor was also arrested. He worked closely together with Mother Nature to halt the construction of the proposed hydroelectric dam. Altogether, 22 men are currently detained for blatantly political reasons.

Following the arrests of the three Mother Nature activists, daily gatherings took place in Koh Kong provincial town to demand the release of the detainees and call for solutions to on-going land conflicts. In early September 17 participants

Photo 3: Land rights activists, part of Free the 19, at the Appeal Court, January 26, 2015.
in a demonstration, including ADHOC provincial coordinator, a Khmer Post journalist, a citizen journalist affiliated with Community Legal Education Center (CLEC), a Mother Nature staff, two Areng Valley activists and four LICADHO staff – one medical, were detained in Koh Kong provincial police station. All detainees were released within

Tep Vanny:

‘I will still advocate and peacefully protest to demand solutions and justice for all the victims in Cambodian society, even if I will be imprisoned or killed by the authorities.’

a day, yet it demonstrates another example of the abuse of the judicial system to silence opponents.

A BULLIED OPPOSITION

In May 2015, Prime Minister Hun Sen and CNRP President Sam Rainsy signed a seven-point code of conduct laying out what party members are allowed to say in public speeches under the ‘Culture of Dialogue’. Since then, CPP continued to insist that the ‘Culture of Dialogue’ aims only to encourage friendly and productive dialogue between the two parties. However, the term has been widely used by the ruling party to censor critical opinions from the opposition.

Near the end of July, the ruling party moved to discourage further rallies against LANGO as the campaign to halt the legislation was peaking. Government officials began publicly framing the rallies as part of a ‘color revolution’ allegedly masterminded by western countries. The Prime Minister himself, along with the Minister of Defense, called on the armed forces to be loyal to the government and suppress any signs of a ‘color revolution’. Since the rumors of a ‘color revolution’ began, several arrests took place, including the previously mentioned monks and Mother Nature activists. After the university student was arrested in August, a government official stated that the authorities plan to arrest journalists if they write about a ‘color revolution’.

On October 26, after extensive critique from the CPP against the deputy leader of CNRP: Kem Sokha, a thousand CPP-hired protesters gathered outside the National Assembly to demand the removal of Kem Sokha from his post as National Assembly first vice-chairman. As parliamentarians were leaving the National Assembly, protesters viciously attacked two opposition parliamentarians, which were left with serious injuries and later evacuated to Bangkok for medical treatment. Later the same day, several hundred protesters assembled outside Kem Sokha’s house and threw rocks and bottles at the house. Not surprisingly, the security forces, known to violently block and break up peaceful demonstrations, did nothing to hinder these two incidents. Many of the protesters were later identified as members of the Prime Minister’s Bodyguard Unit Headquarters and members of the Phnom Penh Municipal police.

The CPP-staged protest followed speeches by the opposition party, including CNRP leader Sam Rainsy, saying that it was the right of Cambodians to protest in Paris during Prime Minister Hun Sen’s visit in France. Hun Sen responded that there could also be protests in Phnom Penh, and that Kem Sokha could lose his position at the National Assembly. Four days after the assaults on the opposition party members, on October 30, Kem Sokha was stripped of his role of deputy president of the Assembly by CPP members of parliament.

In November the bullying continued as the Phnom Penh Municipal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sam Rainsy, citing a seven-year-old defamation case. Sam Rainsy, who was scheduled to return to Cambodia after being outside the country when the October incidents happened, cancelled his plans to return and went into self-imposed exile. The arrest warrant was issued shortly after Sam Rainsy had made comparisons to the developments in Myanmar’s recent election with Cambodia and to demand that the government stop forced evictions in the name of development. At least two trucks of security guards tried to interfere with the ceremony and threatened former Dey Krahorm leader Chan Vichet as he was about to give a speech.

In November, City Hall made an announcement that only 35 of the 154 remaining displaced Borei Keila families would receive on-site housing in the community. The other families were offered a small house at the Andong relocation site, or $3,000-$5,000 – far below what their original plots were worth at the time of eviction. The offerings were based on the quality of paperwork proving the families as residents at the former site. However, most families had their documentation destroyed as excavators bulldozed the community early 2012 without allowing families to collect their belongings.

Borei Keila was the first of four social land concessions in Phnom Penh, announced during the
lead-up to 2003 national elections, and was meant to be the model alternative to the eviction and off-site relocation of the city’s urban poor. In 2003, it was agreed that Phanimex company would develop parts of the community site with apartments for the 1776 families living there in exchange for ownership over the rest of land.

In January 2012, mixed security forces violently evicted the families without apartments and drove them to the outskirts of Phnom Penh. Some families refused to stay at the relocation site, due to a lack of sufficient electricity, clean water, education, health services or markets, and moved to reside on the rubbish area of the former community. Several of these people, are still advocating for justice for the Borei Keila families and are prominent human rights defenders.

The Phanimex company was contracted to build 10 buildings but only completed eight, leaving 380 families without the promised apartments.

Throughout 2015, land rights activists continued to struggle for justice both in Phnom Penh and in the provinces. The last 12 months were marked with threats and intimidations against land rights the activists as they endeavored to highlight their conflicts with local authorities, private and government-connected companies. Numerous communities also came to Phnom Penh to seek intervention from the authorities, which was mostly met with heavy police presence blocking the communities.

POWER OF THE PEOPLE

Regardless of the continued threats and attacks against activists and groups demanding justice and their rights, around 1,400 people from over 50 communities, civil society organizations and other grassroots groups gathered on October 5 to celebrate World Habitat Day. During the celebrations, community representatives from various provinces shared their stories about land grabbing and forced eviction, followed by a march to the National Assembly to submit petitions. Although various security forces repeatedly tried to interfere with celebrations by setting up blockages, the group bravely persevered submitting their petitions and appealing to the authorities to stop forced evictions and land grabbing.

This was the first large scale civil society event organized since the passage of LANGO, but far from the last.

In December, Cambodians again showed that they will not be intimidated by the ruling party’s stronghold. For International Human Rights Day (IHRD) in December, celebrations took place all over Cambodia to commemorate the 67th Human Rights Day as well as to highlight human rights abuses and call for justice. An estimated 10,000 people took part in the events including around 3,000 people that marched through Phnom Penh before they assembled outside the Ministry of Justice to submit petitions.

Throughout Cambodia, community representatives and grassroots groups advocated for an end to land grabbing, reform of the judicial system – including the release of imprisoned activists, a raise in the minimum wage and respect for labor rights, an end to state-sponsored violence, and respect for fundamental freedoms.

MOVING INTO 2015

As 2015 came to an end, Cambodians continue to experience systematic and sustained human rights abuses. The 12 months were characterised by a ruthless and petrified ruling party, who will use all means to maintain their grip on power. Yet, as Cambodia is getting closer to the next elections (2017–commune, 2018–national) different sectors continue to advocate jointly for justice. The democratic space is shrinking fast and groups and networks calling for change are required to use creative means to carry on their work.
LICADHO Canada’s Monitoring & Protection programme serves as the foundation of much of what LICADHO Canada has gained its reputation for, including creative advocacy. By monitoring and digitally documenting actions/events and human rights abuses, LICADHO Canada collects an extensive amount of footage to be used as evidence, for advocacy productions and as supplement to LICADHO’s comprehensive case database. The footage is also archived and shared with relevant stakeholders and media as per request. By having human rights monitors clearly visible during international celebrations, protests or community actions, the likelihood of violence is sometimes reduced. If violence does happen, monitors are trained in first aid and can quickly assess if and what additional medical assistance is needed from LICADHO’s medical team.

The year 2015 saw fundamental freedoms taken away from Cambodians, at the same time as the very existence of civil society became under threat by a broad spectra of repressive laws. In times like these, human rights monitors also bear the important role of helping to bridge grassroots groups and activists to NGOs and building solidarity between various sectors of civil society.

Between January and December 2015, LICADHO Canada documented 32 days of actions/events, many of which had hundreds of participants/demonstrators. State security forces were present 16 of the monitored days. While the deployment of state security forces often leads to violence and beatings, LICADHO Canada was pleased that no serious injuries were inflicted during the days where staff was present. However, threats, intimidation and shoving were common practice and the constitutional right to assembly was frequently denied.

LEGAL SHENANIGANS

Also persistent in 2015 was the state’s abuse of the judiciary, turning the judiciary into its own circus while pushing its own political agenda. As the year 2015 started with 19 opposition party members and supporters, land rights activists and monks imprisoned for exercising their rights to assembly and expression, LICADHO Canada also monitored four full days of court hearings, both inside the courtroom and outside among supporters. Seven of the 19 were convicted in November 2014 – barely 24 hours after their arrests – for obstructing public traffic and received the maximum sentence of one year in prison and a $500 fine. Four additional activists were charged and convicted with...
aggravated obstruction of public officials and received the maximum sentence of one year in prison and a $500 fine, also within a day of their arrest. The remaining eight, remained in pre-trial detention until April.

On January 22, the appeal court heard the two cases of the 11 convicted on November 11 and November 12 in a joint hearing. LICADHO Canada brought its long-term partner WITNESS to the court hearing to document and show WITNESS how LICADHO Canada uses the cameras in the field. On January 26 the appeal court ruled to uphold the wrongful convictions and sentences, while reducing some sentences and fines. Additionally, on March 19, another land rights activist held in pre-trial detention was denied bail by the Phnom Penh Municipal Court in a hearing originally scheduled as a trial. The actual trial was thereafter rescheduled to March 25, 2015 without any explanation. The judge later told media that the trial had been postponed because of an electricity blackout.

On February 23, 2015, a trial was scheduled for 11 CNRP members and supporters, but postponed for the third time. The 11 were all charged with offences they were supposed to have committed during violence that took place at Freedom Park on July 15, 2014. Five of the 11 were among the Free the 19. The remaining six were not imprisoned, yet had charges of leading and/or participating in an insurrectionary movement.

All of the 19 were finally freed in April 2015. Eighteen were released on bail or pardoned as a result of political negotiations between leaders of the ruling CPP and the opposition CNRP. Three monks and five CNRP members and supporters were released on bail, however their cases remained open. The ten convicted land rights activists were granted a royal pardon while the last of the 19, a land rights activist in pre-trial detention, was released on bail shortly after her family had agreed to sell their land to a well-connected tycoon. The 19 clearly show the abuse of the judiciary and the absence of fair-trial procedures in Cambodia.

Later in July, another wave of arrests took place in Cambodia, again targeting opposition party members and supporters, and human rights activists. On July 21, 11 CNRP members and supporters were arrested and convicted in the trial which had been on-going since before the bail release of the five from Free the 19. All 11 were convicted on the same day of their arrest and received 7-20 years imprisonment. These hefty convictions happened during on-going negotiations between the ruling party and the CNRP over new laws governing elections – elections that the ruling party is terrified of losing.

On August 1, two monks were also arrested and charged for death threats, concealing drugs, and use of forged documents, seemingly placed to frame them for their activism. On August 4-5, three more CNRP activists were arrested and within a day charged with participating in an insurrectionary movement and incitement to commit a felony. Additionally, a Sam Rainsy party senator was arrested on August 16, charged with forgery of public documents, use of forged public documents and incitement to commit a crime. Lastly, a student was arrested on August 20 for calling people to join him in a ‘colour revolution’.

In 2015, LICADHO Canada facilitated a meeting between Boeung Kak activists, Borei Keila activists and Myanmar activists. The Myanmar activists visited Boeung Kak community and Borei Keila community to learn about their land conflicts and share strategies of resistance.

Eight grassroots activists from Myanmar met with four community leaders from Boeung Kak community and two from Borei Keila community. Suffering from similar human rights abuses as Cambodia, the Myanmar activists were eager to learn about Cambodian campaigning, security strategies and civil resistance.

Below [Photo 7] is Nget Khun, alias Mommy, from Boeung Kak community, explaining the Boeung Kak case to the Myanmar activists.
Three activists from Mother Nature have been in detention since August 17 for their role in an on-going campaign to end alleged illegal sand dredging in Koh Kong. An associate to Mother Nature, Areng Valley activist and CPP commune councillor was also arrested on October 7. He has been on the forefront of Areng Valley community’s campaign to stop the controversial development of a hydroelectric dam by the Pheapimex group – headed by a ruling party senator, and a Chinese company.

The total number of people unlawfully detained at the end of 2015 was 22. The ruling party continues to use the judiciary to sustain their control of power.

**SAY NO! - CAMPAIGN**

Throughout 2015, the largest campaign monitored by LICADHO Canada, was the Say No! Union, Association and NGO Law-campaign, which intensified in April 2015 after Hun Sen made a statement that the draft law had been finalized secretly in 2012, and that the government had been planning all along to adopt the law in 2015.

On May 1, during celebrations of International Workers’ Day, marches and rallies were held around Phnom Penh, demanding a living wage of $177, greater respect for workers’ rights and freedom of expression, and for the government to drop the draft laws on unions, associations and NGOs (Trade Union Law, LANGO). This was the start of a months-long campaign to halt the legislation.

Towards the end of June the campaign intensified, and on June 28-30 various sectors of Cambodian civil society took part in a three-day action to halt the draft laws, including marches, balloon releasing, singing, media conferences and speeches.

LICADHO Canada monitored a total of nine days of campaign actions/events, as well as helped facilitate and produce advocacy material for the campaign (see Promotion & Advocacy). Unfortunately, on July 18 when grassroots groups distributed leaflets and explained for citizens the impact of LANGO, LICADHO Canada’s Monitoring & Protection Coordinator was briefly detained together with five land rights activists. All the activists remained calm and even continued their campaign inside the police station.

Despite widespread national and international condemnation of the LANGO, the ruling party announced that the law would be handed over to an extraordinary National Assembly session for adoption on July 13. The days before the National Assembly session, back-to-back demonstrations and forums took place in mainly Phnom Penh, but also the provinces, including a July 7-rally, where 500 people marched from the Embassy of the Russian Federation to the National Assembly.

The group, consisting of youth, NGOs, unions and land communities, danced, sang anti-LANGO songs, and held speeches. On both July 13 and on July 24 when the ruling party senators passed the LANGO, protesters gathered to voice their rejection with creative anti-LANGO materials and songs.

The SAY NO! Union, Association and NGO Law-campaign gained a lot of traction outside Cambodia, and many international stakeholders, media and organisations helped fuel the campaign by letters, statements, including from some of the brands who spoke out about the union law. While the King still rubber-stamped the law in August, the intensive campaign and the solidarity between groups alerted international stakeholders of what to expect from both the state and civil society in the 2017/2018 elections.

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2015**

From December 6–10 2015, approximately 10,000 people rallied in support of human rights and justice in 20 events across 15 provinces and Phnom Penh to celebrate International Human Rights Day 2015. Throughout the country, grassroots groups such as communities affected by land conflicts, youth networks, associations, and monks as well as unions and NGOs held celebrations under the theme ‘Justice’. Events included public forums to discuss current human rights issues, petitions to local authorities on local and national human rights concerns, human rights theatre sketches, and marches through provincial districts and towns.

On December 10, over 3,000 people from Phnom Penh and the provinces marched through the capital from four locations to convene at the Ministry of Justice where they submitted a petition to the minister amid music, dancing and celebrations. Human rights observers, medical personnel from NGOs, associations, and networks were deployed to participate and monitor events, in which organisers and participants called for change on issues including land conflicts; reform of the judicial system; a raise in the minimum wage and respect for...
LICADHO Canada had monitors documenting Kampong Speu province and Koh Kong province from December 6-8, as well as on December 10—events in Phnom Penh. These locations were selected due to the tensions in these provinces between community organisers and local authorities, and the potential risk of violence from the authorities. Luckily, these events were successfully carried out without any violence and with only minor intimidation from local authorities.

In Kampong Speu, LICADHO Canada marched with the participants for three consecutive days. Among the marchers were several land conflict victims, including a 68-years old farmer. She had lived on and farmed a plot of land since the 1960s until the village chief sold it to businessmen about 10 years ago. For the first time in 2015, the 68-years old farmer participated in the IHRD celebrations to highlight the land struggle in Cambodia. She also travelled to Phnom Penh to partake in the final petition submission.

On December 8, around 300 people from 11 communities, NGOs and associations marched through Koh Kong town, danced, played instruments, sang human rights songs and carried banners demanding justice. Community representatives submitted two petitions to the Koh Kong provincial government calling on the government to respect human rights and demanding the release of the four environmental activists.

On-Going Victims’ Support

In 2015, LICADHO Canada continued to provide various support to a now six year old boy from Borei Keila community who suffers from Thalassemia and requires life-long regular blood transfusions. The boy is an orphan living with his adoptive mother who is a well-known land rights activist.

In early 2015, the boy’s health had dramatically improved, and he had gained more weight and grown taller due to the frequent medical attention. While the boy still requires regular blood transfusions, the frequency has improved from every month to every third month after a surgery he underwent in 2014 with support from LICADHO Canada and LICADHO. His adoptive mother has also noticed that he is becoming smarter, is much more talkative and understands his disease better.

LICADHO Canada and LICADHO’s medical office have supported the boy since 2013, including financial support for surgery and vaccinations, and staff blood donations needed because of his disease. LICADHO Canada remains in contact with this adoptive family and continues to support the boy and his family.

Ly Seav Minh

Among the Free the 19 was a land rights activist in a severely complicated case. Ly Seav Minh was arrested in November 2014 when seeking information about her father who was arrested earlier the same day. Her family had lived on the same land in Phnom Penh for 35 years and been victims of repeated attacks over the years, including arrest attempt, having venomous snakes thrown into the home, poisoning of their animals and threats of physical violence, all due to a long-running land dispute with the municipality and Khun Sea company. The municipality had sold their family land to the company despite the Minh family’s paperwork showing ownership of the land. Seav Minh remained in pre-trial detention for more than five months while the company tried to negotiate a price for which the family would agree to sell the land to them, yet at the same time claiming to the courts that they – the company – already owned the land and that the Ly family were illegal occupants.

LICADHO Canada remained in contact with Seav Minh throughout her detainment and frequently met with the family to ensure their psychological well-being. As a preventative measure, LICADHO Canada also filmed interviews with the family in case of further family arrests. Throughout her court appearances, LICADHO Canada accompanied her family as well as allowed Seav Minh respite by sharing her story through the cell at the Municipal Court. Seav Minh remained vocal and strong throughout the detainment and refused to give in to the authorities. While in prison, she wrote a powerful letter. After she had agreed to sell her family’s land she was released on bail and returned to her old employer. She was even granted her old position as Senior Compliance [officer] back.

Free the 19

In 2015, LICADHO Canada frequently visited the imprisoned land rights activists, part of Free the 19, as well as passed on messages from inside the prison to media and partners outside. From January 2015, until their release in April, LICADHO Canada visited the Free the 19 detainees six times (January once, February twice, March three times).

After the 19 (imprisoned in 2014 and released in April 2015) were finally freed, many suffered from anger, frustration and poor emotional networks to handle the aftermath of detention. Eleven of the 19 were women and had suffered harsh conditions in prison and severe emotional drain from being away from their families. To assist these women, a weekend reflection and leadership retreat was organised in May by LICADHO Canada and other NGO partners with professional counsellors from Peace Bridges Organisation (PBO). This retreat encouraged the activists to face their trauma and offered tools to maintain solidarity despite harsh prison conditions and a stressful return to their pre-imprisonment lives.

The previously imprisoned land rights activists now continue their activism and have become better leaders and organizers for their community. Most of the women were also part of the main organizers for the Say No! Union, Association and NGO Law-campaign, and the IHRD celebrations across Cambodia.
PROTECTION & SECURITY

As part of LICADHO Canada’s security profile and its development of security tools for activists and resisting groups, LICADHO Canada ensures that all work is aligned with Active Nonviolence (ANV) theory. Through LICADHO Canada’s close partners: PBO and LICADHO, grassroots activists are now also trained in ANV and civil resistance.

In June 2015, LICADHO Canada’s Technical & Outreach Coordinator participated in an Advanced Study of Nonviolence Conflict course. The course was organised by the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict and the Fletcher Summer Institute. Forty-nine participants from 36 countries studied topics such as civil resistance, how people’s movements emerge and how to sustain movements, reviewed case studies such as the Arab Spring, strategies and tactics, repression and backfire, nonviolent discipline, and international human rights law.

While many study modules were essential, the most beneficial part, according to the Technical & Outreach Coordinator, was to learn from other countries experiences and strategies. During a side event, the Technical & Outreach Coordinator also presented nonviolent examples from Cambodia, for example how music and dancing can be used during demonstrations. The lessons learnt and material acquired during this course is now incorporated into LICADHO Canada’s own strategies and examples used during trainings.

All LICADHO Canada human rights monitors also participated in ANV training in 2015 through PBO. This training enabled both LICADHO Canada and other civil society partners to understand and practice ANV strategies, and have the tools to address the often traumatic experiences encountered by those on the front line. Although many activists have a great understanding of nonviolent resistance and campaigning, continued threats and provocation from authorities cause frustration and helplessness which is when human rights monitors can assist and remind activists of strategies and ways of negotiating.

Cameras for Security

In 2015, land continued to be the single most contentious issue in Cambodia. LICADHO Canada continues to document resisting communities and villagers protecting their property as a complement to LICADHO’s comprehensive case database, investigations and legal representation.

In January 2015, LICADHO Canada brought WITNESS representatives and monks for social justice to the last remaining house on former Boeung Kak lake to document the family’s story of resistance. The family that occupies the house is residing inside the roof as the first and second floor are filled with sand. The family has refused to give in to the authorities’ intimidation tactics and remains the last house on the former lake. Earlier in January, LICADHO Canada had received information that unidentified men had placed fencing posts around the family’s house and that the family felt threatened about being forcefully removed from their land. After LICADHO Canada brought WITNESS to the family’s house and documented their story, the family has not had any more unidentified men visiting their plot of land. Human rights monitors and various citizen journalists are now frequently visiting the house with cameras to show support to the family.

In December, LICADHO Canada and LICADHO were granted the opportunity to highlight some of Cambodia’s land rights communities and their struggles on Danish TV, as well as being visible with cameras as a protection strategy. LICADHO Canada’s Technical & Outreach Coordinator accompanied a Danish TV team to Boeung Kak (including the last house on the lake), and Village 1, Sangkat 3, Sihanoukville to illustrate the effects forced eviction and the continuous struggle have on land rights activists. The visits resulted in feature stories of resistance on Denmark’s biggest aid fundraising gala (broadcasted on Danish TV in early 2016), with some of the raised funds going to Cambodia.

Security Protocol

In late 2013 and 2014, LICADHO Canada expanded its security protocol to match the declining political atmosphere, and in 2015 the new protocol was being implemented with additional tools for increased security for LICADHO Canada and partners. The security protocol has been shared with many partners, as well as underground activists from Myanmar.

As of December 2015, security protocol consists of emergency packs (including first aid kits, goggles, phone lists, alkaline spray to neutralise tear-gas and extra phone batteries), helmets, smartphones with Panic Button application, a priority schedule for organising human rights monitors, and as of mid-2015 a legal booklet which was developed as part of a training workshop (see Promotion & Advocacy) for smartphone activists. The booklet is a tool for activists, citizen journalists and other groups taking to the streets to demand justice and documenting their struggles with smartphones and cameras. The booklet has also been distributed to partner and activists’ networks, and is also used during LICADHO Canada’s smartphone trainings.

Training for Security

LICADHO Canada organised several training opportunities for activists and groups to improve safe communication in 2015. LICADHO Canada and LICADHO carried out basic smart phone training to 28 community, land rights and environmental activists in 13 provinces where LICADHO has offices, to expand the use of smartphones for digital activism and secure communication between community organisers. Additional smartphone training has also been incorporated in the Basic Filming with Smartphones workshop (see Promotion & Advocacy). Several of these activists have shown great potential in citizen journalism and will in 2016 be invited to expand their smartphone use further through outreach training opportunities.

In light of continued threats and pressure from the government in restricting freedom of expression and information, LICADHO and LICADHO Canada started to introduce ‘Text Secure’ and ‘Telegram’ application for secure text messaging for partners and activists, including to participants in the training conducted in 13 provinces. TextSecure is an encrypted mobile text messaging solution and Telegram is a mobile and desktop messaging app with focus on security and speed. The applications are highly recommended for secure communication by LICADHO’s Monitoring Consultant and other ICT experts, including trainers from WITNESS, the Tibet Action Institute and by the Guardian Project.

With activists having access to ICT equipment and understanding of how to use it, their digital activism has increased significantly. The voice message function in Telegram has proven invaluable for people who struggle with reading and writing English and/or Khmer, or to share information when there is no possibility to type messages. The voice messages are recorded by holding a button and messages are automatically sent to the recipient/s, who can listen unlimited times to the voice message.

Activists from all over Cambodia now regularly share information from their smartphones through Telegram application, which has proven extremely valuable to access up-to-date information about threats and human rights abuses and well as pictures and voice messages clarifying the incidents. Boeung Kak community activists, part of the main organizing group for IHRD 2015, rapidly shared pictures of their community being barricaded the day before the actions on IHRD 2015. IHRD is a crucial event in Cambodia, not only to allow Cambodians to express their struggles, but also to grant access to international media and stakeholders through their pictures and messages on various social media and NGO platforms.

Photo 11: The last house on the former Boeung Kak lake, December 1, 2015.
LICADHO Canada produces a range of creative advocacy productions: advocacy videos, evidence videos, training videos, voice overs on existing training/resistance videos, other videos for various purposes, advocacy songs and apparel advocacy. This is a result of the human rights monitors who digitally document and maintain a regular presence at demonstration, international celebrations, and during human rights abuses, as well as from the intimate relationships LICADHO Canada has with grassroots groups and activists.

In 2015, LICADHO Canada prioritised quality advocacy productions and improved dissemination, and capacity building of partners and activists. Youth groups, monks’ networks, activists and membership groups received training in digital advocacy and equipment to enhance their capacity and quality of campaigns/advocacy.

EXPANDING VIDEO ADVOCACY

In 2015, LICADHO Canada expanded its video advocacy by using various media platforms for dissemination, and revisited our social media strategies as per recommendation by WITNESS. As of December 2015, LICADHO Canada disseminates videos on YouTube, Vimeo and/or directly to Facebook. Additional dissemination was also made by distributing hard copies and soft files for phones to community activists and provincial communities with limited Internet access. By strategically disseminating videos targeting different audiences on different platforms, or multiple platforms, videos have been much more exposed in 2015 compared to 2014.

LICADHO Canada has noticed a lot of benefits of multiple platform sharing. For example, YouTube and Vimeo allow for higher quality file uploads and with Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License copyright, viewers can easily download high quality files and make use of in their own productions and/or upload on their own platforms. For example the opposition party leader, Sam Rainsy, downloaded a video made by LICADHO Canada in 2014 and uploaded the video on the memorial day of the deadly crackdown against workers and activists on January 3. LICADHO Canada’s video on Sam Rainsy’s Facebook page has received at least 1,350,465 views and 68,809 shares. Direct Facebook uploads are compressed into smaller files, which allow for viewing despite slow Internet or lower quality devises, making Facebook videos a good platform for viral content targeting Cambodians.

While Vimeo allows organisation of videos into...
In 2015, LICADHO Canada’s video views on YouTube came from 146 countries. The top viewing destinations are:

- Cambodia: 49%
- Thailand: 24%
- Vietnam: 20%
- United States: 3.1%
- Malaysia: 0.8%

233,877 views on LICADHO Canada’s YouTube channel (January 1 - December 31, 2015)

48% More views on LICADHO Canada’s YouTube channel in 2015 compared to 2014

137 New subscribers to LICADHO Canada’s YouTube channel in 2015

1,354,632 Total views on LICADHO Canada’s YouTube channel as of December 31, 2015

channels and albums, which is useful to keep collections together - for example training videos. YouTube is still the channel with the highest traffic. LICADHO Canada will continue to develop its dissemination strategy in the coming year to ensure maximum retention and engagement of human rights videos.

VIDEO ADVOCACY

From January to December 2015, LICADHO Canada produced/co-produced 48 videos: six advocacy videos (four were produced jointly with WITNESS), 12 short evidence videos, seven training videos, 12 voice-overs for existing training videos, and five internal videos. Of these 48 videos, 19 are available on YouTube, Vimeo and/or Facebook. The remaining 29 are either for internal use only or will be published in 2016. Most of these videos were distributed digitally on YouTube, Vimeo and Facebook. Seven of the videos are tutorial videos on how to film with smartphones, and training videos for workshops. These tutorial videos were distributed as Mp4-files to participants in the Basic Filming with Smartphones workshop to be shared with their respective community/group, as well as on social media.

In 2015, ten filmmakers/media outlets and/or other groups requested footage to be used in their own productions, see appendix. LICADHO Canada and LICADHO’s videos and footage were also featured in a number of full-length documentaries, for example: Ellen Grant from Cine Productions who made Cyber-Democracy: Cambodia, Kafka’s Kingdom.

True Cost documentary (2015) also used footage from Workers & Political Activists under Attack, a video released by LICADHO and LICADHO Canada in 2014. True Cost documentary is a story about the real price of clothing from the bottom of the production line to the high-end fashion market in Europe and America. The documentary is available on various platforms, for rent and purchasing, including on Netflix. Netflix has over 75 million members in over 190 countries. The True Cost documentary shows the importance of the use of Creative Commons licensing. The Netflix documentary never requested the footage, just simply downloaded it from YouTube.

In December 2015, The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights released a video to stop forced evictions, which included LICADHO and LICADHO Canada footage. Another example of use of LICADHO and LICADHO Canada footage for global advocacy is an investigative project: Pitted and Abandoned, by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, backed by more than 50 journalists, including from the Huffington Post, the Guardian, the Ground Truth Project and the Investigative Fund. The project reveals how the World Bank Group regularly fails to follow its own rules for protecting the most vulnerable in the name of development.

SAY NO!-CAMPAIGN

During the energetic SAY NO! Union, Association and NGO Law-campaign, Cambodian civil society voiced its opposition to the law. As a part of the campaign, LICADHO Canada supported youth activists and Boeung Kak activists to rewrite the lyrics to a classic Cambodian pop song. Originally titled “I Don’t Accept it”, the song is now called “We Don’t Need These Laws”. The lyrics assert the right of civil society groups to gather and express themselves. The song has been sung at the many protests and campaigns that have taken place in Cambodia and other countries. LICADHO Canada produced a music video showing some of the early campaign events at which activists and civil society members sang and danced to the song “We Don’t Need These Laws”. The video has been widely shared on social media, including on Maina Kial’s (the UN Special Rapporteur on Assembly and Association) Facebook page. LICADHO Canada, LICADHO and a community consultant also produced an additional campaign song: LANGO. This song is a tribute to the work of LICADHO Canada and other human rights organizations.

ADVOCATING ABROAD

In April 2015, LICADHO Canada and LICADHO went to Sweden and Denmark to highlight harmful legislation threatening Cambodia’s remaining freedoms and how the use of ICT, particularly access to smartphones, helps to realize fundamental freedoms such as Freedom of Information, Assembly and Expression for social justice in Cambodia. They also participated in the Defenders’ Days conference – an annual award ceremony and training conference for human rights defenders.

In Denmark, the delegation met with several Danish organizations such as Clean Clothes Campaign, Danish Confederation of Trade Union, Save the Children and Fair Trade DK. They also met with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Throughout the meetings, LICADHO Canada and LICADHO explained how safe communication through smartphones has helped people’s movements across Cambodia and how important it is for Denmark to continue supporting grassroots movements and ICT projects in Cambodia, including aid to Cambodian civil society as a means to halt harmful legislation such as the draft Trade Union Law, LANGO and the draft Cybercrime Law.

The delegation highlighted how ICT has helped generate newfound freedoms particularly for women, regardless of level of literacy, age and area of settlement. In Cambodia, women are often homebound or housewives, while the men
are the main breadwinners. Therefore, Cambodian women have taken the important role of community leaders and organisers. With help from smartphone distribution (by LICADHO) and smartphone training, women can be informed, create networks outside their immediate village and advocate with less dependency on NGOs (for example informing media of events, producing advocacy material, and reaching out for support). Women activists have also proven to reduce the likelihood of violence on the front lines.

The week after the Denmark trip, the small delegation went to Sweden to meet with H&M company representatives. H&M are among the largest companies sourcing from Cambodia’s textile industry. At H&M, LICADHO Canada and LICADHO discussed how the LANGO and Trade Union Law will affect workers’ right to mobilise for better working conditions, and how H&M’s stance directly affects thousands of lives in Cambodia. While a promise was made from H&M’s side to obtain and look closer at those draft laws, only one letter sent to the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training has been made public (leaked to the public). H&M remains awfully quiet about workers’ conditions in Cambodia.

In Sweden, the delegation also met with Amnesty International Sweden and Diakonia to update these partner organisations about the Cambodian human rights climate, particularly about LANGO and Trade Union Law, and to lobby for continued assistance from Sweden for human rights mobilisation support.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

LICADHO Canada continuously follows up with grassroots partners and community organisers about challenges in their own advocacy. Equipment and/or software needs often place hinders for these groups, partly because they lack sufficient financial means to purchase equipment, and partly because access to equipment and/or software can be a challenge even for those with financial means due to Cambodia’s counterfeited market. With adequate equipment and/or software, groups and network have increased possibilities to generate advocacy campaigns and highlight abuses directly for their community/group’s network.

In 2015, LICADHO Canada purchased and distributed 28 Adobe licenses for advocacy purposes. 22 Premiere Pro CC, three InDesign CC, one Photoshop CC, one Audition CC and one Flash Professional CC. The Adobe licenses were distributed to participants in the Intermediate Video Advocacy workshop (see below). LICADHO Canada also purchased and lent one desktop computer to Independent Democracy of Information Economy Association (IDEA) as one of their staff showed great potential in producing advocacy videos but did not have equipment to run the video editing software. Furthermore, one hard drive was purchased and distributed to a front-line monk activist to back up the sensitive footage he was carrying around.

The Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM) was one of the recipients of software in 2015. CCIM produced at least 500 videos on licensed Adobe Premiere Pro CC in 2015, including news, interviews, investigative stories, roundtable discussions, promotional spots, educational spots, economic news and unclassified videos. While this number does not represent the average recipient of Adobe licenses, because CCIM is a media organisation compared to the other membership organisations, the licenses received have been invaluable to CCIM, helping them produce this high amount of quality videos. CCIM is also an important contributor Cambodia’s democratic space by providing independent news reporting in a country where the ruling party controls most traditional media. Additionally, CCIM regularly reports on LICADHO Canada’s partners’ advocacy campaigns and/or highlighting human rights abuses to a wider audience making them a palpable recipient of LICADHO Canada’s support.

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

To further build the capacity of citizen groups and activists, LICADHO Canada organised two workshops in 2015: Intermediate Video Advocacy workshop and Basic Filming with Smartphones workshop.

The Intermediate Video Advocacy workshop included a three-day intensive training by WITNESS on topics such as ‘know your camera’, video production, archiving, workflow, storytelling, Adobe Premiere Pro CC, exporting, digital distribution, preservation/archiving and digital security. Following the three-day intensive training, WITNESS conducted one-on-one training sessions from half a day to one full day at each participating group’s office, specifically tailored to their individual needs.
In total, 24 participants took part in this workshop, four women and 20 men.

This workshop followed the skillset previously acquired through a WITNESS training in 2013. The participants were therefore pre-selected with exception of one monk participant and participants from CCIM. All participants are front-line activists from different NGOs and civil society groups: Cambodian Food and Service Workers Federation (CFSWF), IDEA, Equitable Cambodia (EC), Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (STT), Cambodia Youth Network (CYN), Community Legal Education Center (CLEC), CCIM, Coalition of Cambodia Farmers Community (CCFC), Venerable Loun Sovath, Venerable Prim Houn, and LICADHO and LICADHO Canada.

In September, LICADHO Canada held another workshop focusing on video advocacy by smartphones (Basic Filming with Smartphones). The workshop included three days of intensive training on topics such as basic smartphone use, filming with smartphones, editing on smartphones, social media dissemination, digital security, legal rights when filming and participating in demonstrations, and field security strategies. Training tools included videos, role plays and interactive, hands-on activities. In total 24 participants took part in this workshop, 12 men and 12 women.

The participants were selected to represent different networks and membership groups, as well as for their capacity to share their knowledge in their respective group/community. All the participants selected are from networks/groups in Phnom Penh due to the different needs/previous skills compared to those from the provinces (another workshop scheduled for 2016 will focus on provincial networks and membership groups). The following groups/networks were represented in the workshop: monks, Boeung Kak community, Thmor Kol community, Village 23 community, citizen journalists affiliated with CCEP, citizen journalists affiliated with CFSWF, LICADHO and PBO.

Of the participants in the Intermediate Video Advocacy workshop, five groups and two monks have produced advocacy videos since the workshop until the end of 2015. Venerable Prim Houn, has produced an impressive amount of at least 29 advocacy videos, one of which has received at least 217,389 views on Facebook. Among the participants from the Basic Filming with Smartphones workshop, at least eight have already produced and shared videos on social media. For example, Keo Somaly – independent citizen journalist, made a video about a labour protest that has received at least 3,093 views on Facebook.

Additionally, 12 participants in the Basic Filming with Smartphones workshop requested the training material to share with their group/community.

CFSWF has since trained their staff in filming and editing with smartphones and legal rights when filming, and PBO has trained their staff in digital security.

Beside the above-mentioned workshops, LICADHO Canada has carried out needs-based mentoring sessions for representatives from citizen groups, NGOs, CSOs and unions. These mentoring sessions complemented the skillsets acquired during the workshops and continued to support groups and activists digital advocacy efforts. Fifteen mentoring sessions was organized in 2015, from a few hours to full day sessions, covering for example technical assistance with social media security and/or video production.

In 2015, LICADHO Canada joined with LICADHO and CamASEAN to organise a space for creativity and inspiration for music production. In May, 23 community representatives, villagers and representatives from Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA) and Analyzing Development Issues Centre (ADIC) joined a workshop to produce songs and music for advocacy purposes. This was the first musical workshop where indigenous peoples were invited to participate and share their ideas. In many of Cambodia’s indigenous groups, music plays an important role, and instruments are often created by the material available in their respective province. The workshop resulted in a CD production that has been distributed across Cambodia to community organisers and activists.
The Human Rights Defender Apparel (HRDA) project remains an essential part of LICADHO Canada’s Victims’ Support Fund. The HRDA project generates profit by selling human rights apparel in Cambodia. The profit is distributed as small grants for activist and communities to carry out advocacy campaigns, community organizing and/or as social support. The HRDA items include t-shirts, bags and caps with human rights messages printed on, and a patch of a blue krama - a traditional scarf that has become a symbol of human rights defenders. Activists and communities also request HRDA items for their campaigning, to wear in court hearings or as a unified symbol for their human rights work, which are then donated by LICADHO Canada or LICADHO.

In 2015, LICADHO Canada hired a community consultant to develop two new designs for t-shirts. LICADHO Canada often hires community consultants, i.e. community members or evicted community members, to assist in LICADHO Canada’s work and to ensure that the advocacy LICADHO Canada does is grassroots driven. One of the community consultant’s designs is a common idiom in Khmer that translates to “one chopstick is easy to break but a bunch of chopsticks are unbreakable”, symbolizing the power of the masses. The other design carries a message commonly used by threatened communities: “hungry for justice”. The hungry for justice t-shirt was used during International Human Rights Day 2015, worn by both community and civil society organizers across the country.

In 2015, 1,651 HRDA items were sold, compared to 497 items in 2014. The most popular item was by far the different t-shirts.

LICADHO Canada’s Victims’ Support Fund is a unique fund which communities, individual human rights defenders and activists can apply for support from, or financial support be given as emergency grants to land grabbing victims or other human rights abuse victims and their families. The grants are easily accessible and quickly distributed in crises and can be transferred across the country within less than an hour.

In 2015, LICADHO Canada started working closer with youth groups, particularly youth from LICADHO’s Child Protection Groups. Several of these youth were part of the main organisers for the Say No! Union, Association and NGO Law-campaign. When three of these youth applied for support from LICADHO Canada to participate in ANV training, LICADHO Canada could proudly assist these youths to become even better organisers.

Additional support was given to Boeung Kak community organisers to campaign for the release of the imprisoned land rights activists, part of Free the 19, and as financial support for the funeral of a well-known community activist from Boeung Kak. Dey Krahorm former community representatives also received support to carry out a memorial event at the former site, six years after the brutal eviction, and Chi Kreng former community representatives received support for a memorial ceremony at the anniversary of the shooting which left four villagers injured. In total, seven grants were distributed in 2015.

Photo 17: The community consultant - Chan Vichet, posing in the new HRDA item ‘Hungry for Justice’ (Khmer logo on the back), November 12, 2015.
In 2015, LICADHO Canada employed five full time staff and one part time staff (five women and one man). LICADHO Canada’s newest employee was initially consulting during the January workshop as a fixer/translator. After the workshop, while in the final semester of her university studies, she carried out an internship at LICADHO Canada and quickly proved both talented and skillful. After the internship, LICADHO Canada was proud to have her join the small team as a full-time employee under the title: Media Production & Monitor.

LICADHO Canada’s advisory Board of Directors is comprised by six members, three women and three men (three residing in Cambodia, and two residing in Canada and one in New Zealand).

MOVING INTO 2016
Through information sharing, training sessions and direct support to carry out actions, 2015 laid the foundation for informed, connected and active citizenship in the upcoming elections in 2017/2018. An increased number of informed citizens and groups collecting information, triangulating through social media channels and direct messaging apps such as Telegram, ensure accurate and up-to-date information is shared rapidly to large networks.

The networks created by bringing together various sectors in workshops also increase the sharing and learning between different sectors. On social media and through Telegram, activists and groups are frequently sharing information about their struggles and gaining support beyond their immediate network. In 2016, LICADHO Canada will continue the capacity building and grassroots mobilising support to ensure that Cambodians are ready for the next elections, and for peaceful locally-driven change for Cambodia.
CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

LICADHO Canada moves into 2016 with richer experience, greater networks and stronger partners. However, 2015 was a year of human rights nosedives as Cambodians saw fundamental freedoms taken away and rights repeatedly abused, often by government-connected people and groups. These challenges need to be acknowledged and for human rights defenders to learn and grow from.

Navigating forward through a shrinking democratic space and looking back at 2015, LICADHO Canada concludes:

• Khmer grassroots activists find digital security and social media extremely difficult, as it requires English skills to understand settings, warning messages and threats to devices. Follow up training is necessary and LICADHO Canada’s mentoring will continue in 2016.

• Many programs to develop audio-visual advocacy material do not fully support Khmer script and/or “cut off the legs” or “hair” of Khmer letters.

• The Khmer language does not have highly technical words for video editing. When words are translated to Khmer (for example: b-roll, sequence) it becomes difficult for Cambodians to remember/understand them. LICADHO Canada will use English words and explain them in Khmer when training grassroots groups and activists.

• Many citizen groups still lack sufficient equipment to produce video advocacy. LICADHO Canada has lent one computer to IDEA and will suggest video partners to make use of LICADHO’s studio for their advocacy productions. However many partners suffer from extremely high workloads, and have focused on offline campaigning and mobilization, thus produced videos during non-regular working hours in 2015.

• Citizen journalism and advocacy have skyrocketed in 2015. More and more activists and groups use smartphones to access and share information as a way to by-pass state media censorship. Fewer activists are therefore willing to spend time to produce high quality videos, and focus on quick instant news updates and or evidence. LICADHO Canada has therefore re-evaluated the participants in the WITNESS training and suggested that some of them leave space in order to provide opportunities for other participants while they focus on developing their smartphone advocacy.

• LICADHO Canada and many of our partners suffered from severe funding gaps in 2015. More and more donors are leaving Cambodia for other recipient countries and those who still invest in Cambodia have suffered from cutbacks in aid due to increased refugee streams in Europe. Additionally, currency exchange losses have been severe, undermining many planned activities. LICADHO Canada continuously searches for new partnerships and tries to help our partners with various support when possible.
VIDEO STATISTICS 2015

PRODUCTIONS
10 advocacy videos
12 evidence videos
7 training videos
17 voice-over videos
7 unclassified

VIDEO SHARING PLATFORMS
1. Youtube
   - 9 videos in 2015
   - 1,364,612 views
2. Vimeo
   - 17 videos in 2015
   - 9,629 views
3. Facebook
   - 19 videos in 2015
   - 6,218 views

TOTAL CHANNEL VIEWS

137 new subscribers in 2015

233,887 views in 2015

Video on Vimeo were downloaded 59 times in 2015

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WATCHING LICADHO/LICADHO CANADA VIDEOS

146

VIDEO PUBLICATIONS

JANUARY
Advocacy: We Will Never Forget: Dey Krahorm Memorial Music Video, English
(produced in 2014, published in 2015)
https://vimeo.com/117495796

FEBRUARY
Evidence: Spotlight on the 19: The Freedom Park “Insurrectionists”, English
http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/articles/20150224/144/index.html

Evidence: Spotlight on the 19: The Freedom Park “Insurrectionists”, Khmer
http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/articles/20150224/144/index.html/khmer

JUNE
Advocacy: The Bird of First June: Khmer karaoke, Khmer and English
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B06wWdpZ_gQ
https://www.facebook.com/licadho/videos/1056177987744641/

Advocacy: On Stony Ground: The Struggle to Survive in a Cambodian Social Land Concession, Khmer and English
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nI7Tgz-wo3Q
https://www.facebook.com/licadho/videos/10714499905569782/

Advocacy: Say No! We don’t accept these Law, English
https://vimeo.com/123576821
https://www.facebook.com/licadho/videos/1077449909550782/

Khem voice overs: How to Film Protests Part 1, Khmer
(produced in 2014, published in 2015)
https://vimeo.com/130952297
https://www.facebook.com/licadhocanada/videos/vb.499684106849634/501970119954366/?type=2&theater

JULY
Advocacy: Say No! We don’t accept these Law, English
https://vimeo.com/123576533

Advocacy: Say No! We don’t accept these Law, Khmer
https://vimeo.com/123576533

AUGUST
Khem voice overs: How to Film Protests Part 2, Khmer
(produced in 2014, published in 2015)
https://vimeo.com/144573465

NOVEMBER
Khem voice overs: How to Film Protests Part 3, Khmer
(produced in 2014, published in 2015)
https://vimeo.com/144573465

Khem voice overs: How to Film Protests Part 4, Khmer

i

ii
LITER EASE PRODUCTION
Full-length documentary to be released in 2016 (footage of and from Venerable Loun Sovath)

DANCHURCHAID
Danish local TV (unknown broadcasting date)
(music less, textless version of On Stony Ground video)

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE
Production of a video to support the work of Workers’ Information Center in Cambodia (unknown release date)
(footage of the crackdown on workers and activists in 2014)

VIDEOS USED FOR MEETINGS
LICADHO Canada’s videos were shared with partners, and used for national and international meetings. In 2015, LICADHO Canada videos were used in four meetings/presentations.

1. LICADHO Canada’s Technical & Outreach Coordinator showed Cambodia Gangnam Style: Dancing to End Evictions-video during the Advanced Study of Nonviolence Conflict course. At the Resistance Through Arts module the Technical & Outreach Coordinator did a presentation about music for advocacy, including the video.

2. In 2015, two different groups of Australian university students visited LICADHO and LICADHO Canada’s office to learn about human rights in Cambodia. LICADHO Canada’s Technical & Outreach Coordinator and Monitoring & Protection Coordinator showed the Freedom of Assembly-video while discussing the democratic space in Cambodia.

3. In August 2015, a group of Burmese activists visited Cambodia to learn about resistance strategies and activism in Cambodia. LICADHO Canada’s Technical & Outreach Coordinator and Monitoring & Protection Coordinator showed Freedom of Assembly-video and Cambodia Gangnam Style: Dancing to End Evictions-video.

4. In April 2015, LICADHO Director participated in a panel discussion about ICT for human rights where she showed Freedom of Assembly-video and Cambodia Gangnam Style: Dancing to End Evictions-video.

STATEMENTS SIGNED BY LICADHO CANADA

1. Veng Sreng Anniversary: Still no Justice for the Dead, Missing and Injured

2. Civil Society Groups Condemn the Ongoing Detention of 11 Activists

3. Civil Society Groups Condemn Use of Visa Denial to Curb Activism

4. Joint Letter to Prime Minister Hun Sen

5. Civil Society Calls On Senate to Reject LANGO

6. Joint Statement of CSO on the Adoption of the LANGO by the NA