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Cambodian Center for Human Rights

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CCHR launches new Business and Human Rights Portal and releases updated data on garment factories and supply chains in Cambodia

[The Cambodian Center for Human Rights](http://www.sithi.org) (“CCHR”) launches today – 28 February 2014 – a new Business and Human Rights Web Portal and releases updated data on garment factories and supply chains in the Kingdom of Cambodia (“Cambodia”). The Business and Human Rights Portal and the updated database on garment factories in Cambodia are available on CCHR’s award-winning Cambodian Human Rights Web Portal at www.sithi.org.

The Business and Human Rights Portal is part of an effort to bring together businesses, civil society actors, the Royal Government of Cambodia (the “RGC”) and the public, to work together to promote and encourage a positive commitment to human rights by businesses. The Portal contains up-to-date resources, including Cambodian and international laws and other legal documents, news articles, press releases, reports by both local and international NGOs and United Nations agencies and other such resources. The goal of the Portal is to promote better understanding, constructive dialogue and close collaboration between these parties as they work together towards greater respect for human rights in Cambodia. The Portal is available at <http://business.sithi.org/>.

The updated map of garment factories and supply chains operating in Cambodia contains information gathered from official records of the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (“GMAC”), disclosure of supply chain lists from key international brands and news reports related to garment factories and human rights gathered from Khmer and English media. The information contained is updated as of January 2014, and includes 58 new garment factories in 14 locations, including in Phnom Penh, in addition to the 558 garment factories already included in the interactive map. Supplementing basic information about each factory, the updated map now includes, for 108 individual garment factories, news reports from January 2012 to January 2014 related to garment factories, which include issues such as strikes and demonstrations, episodes of fainting, instances of discrimination against union members, and decisions and awards by the Arbitration Council.

CCHR Business and Human Rights Project Coordinator Piseth Duch comments:

“Cambodia’s garment industry – and the responsibility of businesses to respect and promote human rights – is increasingly in the spotlight. 2014 has already been marked by deadly clashes, as security forces cracked down on protests by garment workers, who have been asking for an increase in the minimum wage. In this context, it is increasingly important for the business sector – including the international brands who purchase from Cambodian factories – to start making concrete

improvements in working conditions and to begin to respect human rights in a more systematic manner. I strongly believe that both the updated data on garment factories and the Portal will help achieve this, by providing greater information about the Cambodian garment industry and the human rights violations which are unfortunately increasingly defining it.”

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Notes to Editor:

CCHR, founded in November 2002, is a non-aligned, independent, non-governmental organization that works to promote and protect democracy and respect for human rights – primarily civil and political rights – throughout Cambodia.

CCHR is a member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), the global network for freedom of expression. CCHR is also a member of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) SOS-Torture Network.

The Cambodian Human Rights Portal www.sithi.org is the 2011 winner of the Information Society Innovation Fund Award in the category of Rights and Freedoms and the 2013 winner of the Communication for Social Change Award awarded by the Centre for Communication and Social Change at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.