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Cambodian Center for Human Rights

CCHR PRESS RELEASE, Phnom Penh, 21 June 2011

CCHR welcomes the UN resolution on sexual orientation and gender identity (“SOGI”), and releases a Khmer translation of the Yogyakarta Principles

[The Cambodian Center for Human Rights](#) (“CCHR”), a non-aligned, independent, non-governmental organization that works to promote and protect democracy and respect for human rights throughout Cambodia, welcomes the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (the “Resolution”), which supports equal rights for all people regardless of sexual orientation. The Resolution was narrowly passed on 17 June 2011 with a 23-19 majority, and is the first ever United Nations resolution that addresses the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (“LGBT”) people. Cambodia did not support the Resolution.

As part of its efforts to promote the human rights of LGBT people, CCHR today releases its Khmer translation of the “*Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*”, adopted in November 2006 and initiated by the International Commission of Jurists and the International Service for Human Rights, on behalf of a coalition of human rights organizations (the “Yogyakarta Principles”). The Yogyakarta Principles are a set of international legal principles; their aim is to affirm binding international legal standards with which all states must comply, and their vision is of a different future in which all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights. The Yogyakarta Principles (in English and Khmer) are available on CCHR’s human rights portal, Sithi, at www.sithi.org/temp.php?url=view_law.php&&id=183.

Phok Sokuntheary, Project Co-ordinator for CCHR’s SOGI project, commented:

“Both the Resolution and the Yogyakarta Principles are sure to have a positive impact on Cambodia and the way in which LGBT people are viewed. However, I believe that for such legal initiatives to fulfil their potential and have maximum impact, it’s vital that the Cambodian government voices its support for them and for the LGBT community in Cambodia, which will otherwise continue to suffer discrimination, violence and other human rights violations. It is high time that the government recognized the prevailing winds of global tolerance towards LGBT people, and took positive steps to end discrimination in Cambodia.”

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Notes to Editor

CCHR was founded in November 2002.

Ou Virak, CCHR President, won the 2007 [Reebok Human Rights Award](#) for his work promoting freedom of expression. CCHR is a member of the [International Freedom of Expression Exchange \(IFEX\)](#), the global network for free expression.