



អង្គការកម្ពុជាដើម្បីជួយស្ត្រីមានវិបត្តិ

ជួយស្ត្រីដើម្បីអោយស្ត្រីអាចជួយខ្លួនឯង

CAMBODIAN WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER (CWCC)

helping women help themselves

Press Release

Phnom Penh, July 12, 2007

Reference: New Zealander, Graham Cleghorn's final appeal rejected by the Chief Councils of Prosecution, Mr. Thou Morakny, on July 10, 2007.

Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC) has the honor to inform His and Her Excellency of different ministries and representatives of local NGO's, international NGO's, medias, private sector and the public that, on July 4, 2007, the Appeal Court upheld New Zealander Mr. Graham Cleghorn's (57 years old) sentence of 20 years in prison for the rape of four underage girls and a 19- year old young woman and for possession of illegal weapons in Siem Reap Province during 2002-2003.

On February 17, 2004, the Siem Reap Provincial court sentenced Mr. Cleghorn to 20 years imprisonment and to pay 2000 US Dollars in the compensation to each victim. Unsatisfied with this hearing, Mr. Cleghorn filed a complaint to the Appeal court. On July 4, 2007, another hearing was held at the Appeal Court by inquiring privately with the suspect, 3 victims, and 4 mothers of the victims. The final judgment was announced publicly on July 10, 2007. The Appeal Court upheld the original ruling in Siem Reap. CWCC and Cambodian Defenders Project (CDP) assisted in legal representation for the victims of this case, in both Siem Reap and in the Appeal Court in Phnom Penh.

CWCC is satisfied with the final verdict by the Appeal court. The case not only sets an example for women and children who have experienced sexual abuse, to encourage them to overcome extraordinary obstacles and scrutiny, to obtain justice by bringing their perpetrators, even foreigners, accountable for their crimes. This case also showcased that the Cambodian judiciary system and the justice system in Cambodia is strong.

To all readers! CWCC would like to congratulate the victims of the result and for their courage throughout their case against the perpetrator. Although we cannot eliminate the past, we hope that this result brings happiness to know that justice has prevailed. Thus, while the July 10, 2007 ruling is a step in the right direction for Cambodia, CWCC will continue to be concerned with incidences of sexual assault of women and children—which remains a prominent and divisive issue within Cambodian society—and fight to combat this gender-based abuse.

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