

គណៈកម្មាធិការប្រព្រឹត្តិកម្ម នៃ អង្គការសមាគមការពារសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា

CAMBODIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION COMMITTEE

ADHOC - CARAM Cambodia - CCPCR - CDP - CHRA - CKIMHRDA - CSD - CWCC - GENEROUS - HROTP - IDA
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PRESS RELEASE

6 December 2006

It has come to our attention that the appeal of Graham Cleghorn will take place tomorrow, 7 December 2006, at 7:30 am. The New Zealander was convicted by the Siem Reap Trial Court of the rape of five girls, four of whom were underage. The five girls belonged to a group of ten young girls whom the convicted employed and acted as their caregiver.

In violation of their rights, the victims have not been notified by the court of the date of the appeal. Such notification is required by law at least two weeks in advance of the appeal date so that the victims (civil parties) and their lawyers have time to prepare their case and can exercise their right to participate in the trial and be heard.

CHRAC learned about the date of the appeal hearing from a news story released by the New Zealand Press Agency on November 30th. The article quoted a statement made by New Zealand Embassy officials in Bangkok that suggests that Graham Cleghorn has been notified of the date of the appeal.

CHRAC, composed of 23 human rights NGOs in Cambodia, is concerned by this flagrant violation of the victim's procedural rights which undermines the procedural guarantees of an adversarial and fair trial.

CHRAC urges the Court of Appeal to delay the hearing at least two weeks, in conformity with due procedure, so that the victims may exercise their right to participate in the hearing and so that the court is able to render a decision that is fair and equitable and grounded in due process.

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