



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Local EU Statement on Koh Kong incident

The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with EU Heads of Mission in Cambodia

“The EU Delegation is deeply concerned about the incident which occurred on 26 April in Koh Kong province resulting in the death of Mr Chut Wutty, a well-known environmentalist and human rights defender, and of Mr In Rattana, a military policeman.

The EU Delegation calls for a speedy, robust and independent investigation of this case which casts a shadow over the Government's and civil society's efforts to curtail illegal logging in the country.

The EU remains concerned about the violence surrounding the protection of natural resources in Cambodia. While welcoming recent declarations by the Royal Government of Cambodia to combat activities that aim to extract illegally resources from protected forests and areas, the EU urges the government to strengthen its efforts in this regard.

Having witnessed an increased use of force, particularly the use of firearms, the EU calls on the Royal Government of Cambodia to take all necessary measures to protect persons in Cambodia who seek to advocate peacefully for all legitimate causes, including the protection of the invaluable natural resources of Cambodia.”

Phnom Penh, 01 May 2012