

## **Statement**

It is with great dismay and deep sorrow that civil society organizations learnt about the death of environmental activist, Mr. Chut Wutty . Mr. Wutty was shot dead on the Thursday, 26.April 2012 around 12. 30 pm in the MondulSeima District in the Province of Koh Kong.

Mr. Vutty was the founder and director of the Natural Resource Protection Group (NRPG) and an outspoken activist strongly engaged in the protection of the forests of Cambodia against illegal logging. He was a dedicated supporter of various community networks, NGOs, Associations and local Communities struggling to protect Cambodia's natural resources throughout the country. He was our good friend and partner.

Owing to his tireless efforts to counteract illegal logging, Mr. Vutty received threats in the past. As members of civil society in Cambodia we condemn in the strongest terms any form of violence used against citizens and activists. In this tragic episode a member of the military police was also killed. We call upon all relevant authorities to immediately investigate the circumstances of their deaths in a comprehensive and transparent manner and bring the perpetrator to trial.

At this time, Civil Society mourns the death of Mr.Vutty.We offer our sincere condolences to Mr Vuttys family, friends and colleagues. At this sad time we also remember the bereaved family of the military police officer

His heroic efforts to protect Cambodian Forests will be remembered by and will always inspire Cambodian citizens and Civil Society.

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