



Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation • Religion • King

National AIDS Authority

No.: 671 NAA

Phnom Penh, December 30, 2014

Chad Williams
Editor-in-Chief
The Phnom Penh Post

Subject: The latest video in the Phnom Penh Post website entitled "Mass Battambang HIV infection" dated December 23, 2014 broke the confidentiality of the People Living with HIV and AIDS.

Dear Chad Williams,

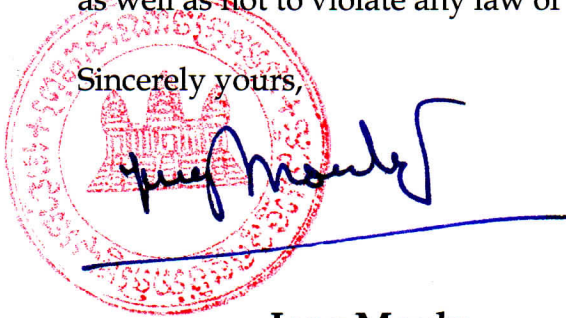
I have noticed that the Phnom Penh Post has widely and freely disseminated the information regarding HIV and AIDS infection in Battambang province, more specifically the video on YouTube in its website entitled "Mass Battambang HIV infection" dated December 23, 2014 which has broken the confidentiality of the People Living with HIV and AIDS. I acknowledge the role of the media on the dissemination of those related information as per reflecting the freedom of expression of the media of the Royal Government of Cambodia in a genuine democratic and pluralistic parties regime.

I would like to remind the attention of your newspaper to be responsible for confidentiality of HIV infected people. The respect of confidentiality is a measure to prevent stigma and discrimination against those people where any form of these acts is considered as a serious human rights violation. For controlling further spread of HIV and especially for preventing stigma and discrimination against HIV infected people, the National Assembly had adopted the Law on HIV and AIDS prevention and control which has been promulgated by His Majesty the King of Cambodia through the issuance of a Royal Kram Nor Sor/Ror Kor Mor/0702/015 dated July 29, 2002. The first paragraph of article 33 of the 7th section of the Law which is on confidentiality, asserts that People Living with HIV and AIDS deserve the preservation of confidentiality. The dissemination of photos, voices, videos with the actual location and their living environment is considered a break of confidentiality of the People Living with HIV and AIDS as referred to the article 33 of the Law. This violation is to be subject for punishment with an amount of 50,000 Riels to 200,000 Riels fine and with an imprisonment between 1 to 6 months as per the provision of the law.

Referring to the above mentioned matter, I would like to remind you, before printing or showing video in the website, to be mindful in maintaining the confidentiality and preserving the identity of the People Living with HIV and AIDS by not showing real photo, real voice, video and disclosing their actual dwelling in their public dissemination.

I hope that you will uphold the professional ethic of media by balancing the use of the freedom of expression and the violation of People Living HIV and AIDS's rights as well as not to violate any law of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Sincerely yours,



Ieng Mouly

Senior Minister

Chairman of the National AIDS Authority

CC: Minister of the Ministry of Information