

LICADHO Canada

Promoting and Monitoring Human Rights in Cambodia



Annual Report 2008

www.licadhocanada.com

Letter from the Director

WOW! Did another year fly by already? It's amazing to think that LICADHO Canada has been continuously in the field for two years! What an incredible journey!

LICADHO Canada's secret weapon, Borey Penn, joined our team in early 2008 as Assistant to the Director. In addition to filling each of his job requirements, he has naturally become a mediator, councillor, teacher and facilitator in the field. Anyone who meets Borey cannot help but be affected by his happiness and helpfulness and we are so grateful to have him on our team.



LICADHO Canada spent most of the year strengthening our relationship with the Dey Krahom community, providing services to promote the defence of their community, and working together to create initiatives to reach out to other threatened or evicted communities. For LICADHO Canada and Dey Krahom, 2008 was about Solidarity and developing creative resistance and visual advocacy strategies to share with others.

As in previous years, 2008 revealed a continued increase in evictions and attacks against land activists and human rights defenders in Cambodia, alongside the continued silence of the international community. But as oppression grew, so did solidarity and the resolve of the people involved in the protection and empowerment of communities. It's such a blessing to be a part of the network of partners and communities uniting to overcome extreme odds and adversity in creative, non violent ways.

2008 required A LOT of work, planning and preparing amidst many struggles and losses on the battle field, including the arrest of Dey Krahom's spokesperson, and his sentencing to three years in prison. But we kept our eyes on hope and courage and as the end of the year approaches, we have many accomplishments to celebrate. And as we enter 2009 we finalise preparations for a powerful and magical journey and renew our commitment for continued promotion of land and human rights through creative expression as individuals and as a unified movement.

A heartfelt thank you to the many people who made LICADHO Canada's achievements in 2008 possible through contributions and donations. Without you, it wouldn't have been possible for us to put the 'human' back into human rights.

Lee Robinson - LICADHO Canada Director

LICADHO Canada

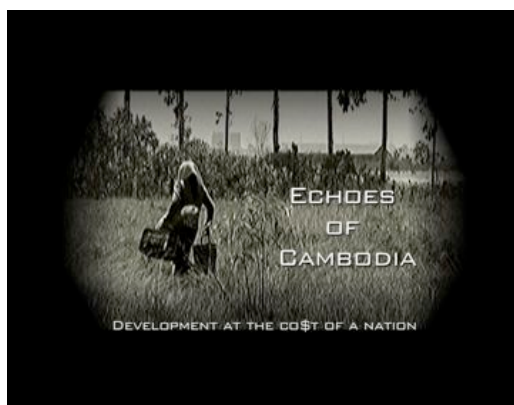
LICADHO Canada is a not-for-profit, non-governmental, grass-roots organisation working to promote justice and human rights in Cambodia. Registered in British Columbia, Canada, LICADHO Canada is made up of committed international volunteers and was founded in 2006 with the purpose of providing various forms of support to LICADHO in Cambodia while bringing the voice of Cambodians to the international stage.

By the end of 2007, LICADHO Canada had refocused support and advocacy activities on housing rights, now an important human rights violation affecting Cambodians. LICADHO Canada continues to collaborate closely with Cambodian communities to encourage and support free expression, non-violent resistance and empowerment of communities. Partnered with Platapus Productions, we produce legal evidence and documentaries with communities and LICADHO as a prime advocacy strategy for human rights in Cambodia and worldwide.

**Once there is seeing, there must be action.
Otherwise, what was the point in seeing?
- Thich Nhat Hanh**

LICADHO Canada and Platapus Produktion 2008 – 2009

Platapus Produktion has joined the **LICADHO Canada** team for 2008 and 2009 for the production of **Echoes of Cambodia – Development at the Co\$ of a Nation** documentary and initiatives.



www.echoesofcambodia.blip.tv

Our core aim in this film is to highlight unlawful evictions and the systems that support these systematic human rights abuses, while giving a rare insight into the types of services that are needed from human rights defenders to maintain a diplomatic space for communities to rise up to the odds and defend these rights.

Echoes of Cambodia tells the story of evictions through the eyes and lives of leaders from Dey Krahom and LICADHO Canada. The objectives of LICADHO Canada and Dey Krahom are united under the production of *Echoes of Cambodia*.

Activities in 2008

- **Monitoring**

Objective: *Observe politically or socially tense situations to reduce the threat of violence and obtain an accurate account of events.*

LICADHO Canada provided monitors/observers for various events including trials, demonstrations, political rallies, International Human Rights Day, and International Labour Day.

With a sharp rise in attacks on communities, LICADHO Canada learned to rapidly respond, gathering legal evidence and using camera presence to reduce the threat of violence. Additionally, there have been situations where the threat of violence cannot be reduced by monitoring alone and LICADHO Canada has stood side-by-side with Dey Krahorn to ensure their safety, including sleep over's in the community.

In July 2008, the full LICADHO Canada team were observers of national elections through the Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia [NICFEC] and LICADHO.



September 23rd marked the 1,700th day that Born Somnang and Sok Sam Oeun have spent in prison for a crime they didn't commit. LICADHO Canada and others demonstrate outside PJ prison. September 2008.



LICADHO Canada staff accompanied union workers facing riot police for having a support rally without permission. Phnom Penh, August 2008.

- **Networking**

Objective: **Connect individuals, communities and organizations/groups together with the aim of capacity building, resource sharing, and empowerment and solidarity.**

In 2008, LICADHO Canada was involved in many people-based initiatives. On March 8, International Women's Rights Day, LICADHO Canada organised and collaborated with

Dey Krahom musicians to provide entertainment for celebrations with women in Takmao prison.

For International Children's Day, June 1, 2008, LICADHO Canada and LICADHO took the lead in working to organise a children's festival in Andong, Cambodia's largest Internally Displaced People's camp. Over 600 people attended the festival which included mural painting, plays, break dancing, games, and special performances.

Five days later, LICADHO and LICADHO Canada prepared a memorial for the people of this same village, to remember their violent eviction on June 6, 2006. The memorial provided a space to recognize injustice and show solidarity. Platapus produced a documentary appeal calling for water and sanitation for the Andong camp.

Networking and solidarity between the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), Dey Krahom leaders and LICADHO Canada resulted in a Musical Resistance concert in the Dey Krahom children's art centre in October 2008. Over 100 people gathered to watch performances by community artists as a response to continued attempts by a local developer to destroy the centre. The event gained media exposure and the developer has not resumed efforts since..



International Children's Rights Day festival in Andong, Cambodia's largest IDP camp. June 1, 2008.



Dey Krahom children perform in a Musical Resistance Concert to create solidarity and prevent the unlawful destruction of their art centre. September 2008.

- **Awareness and Advocacy**

Objective: Support LICADHO's existing national and international advocacy efforts to highlight land and human rights abuses while encouraging positive actions to support democracy in Cambodia.

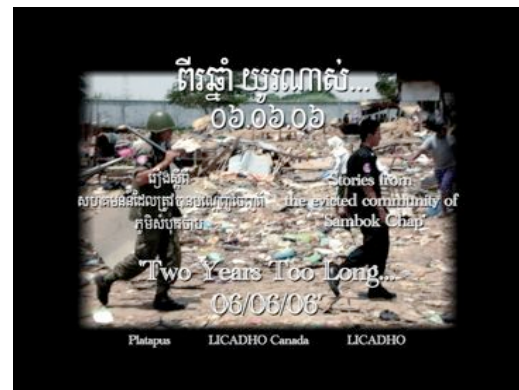
LICADHO Canada continues to provide information to members, partners and media including newsletters, information packages, documentaries, reports, web-links, human rights t-shirts, petitions, songs and appeals.

In 2008, LICADHO Canada and Platapus produced four, bi-lingual short documentaries to compliment LICADHO's existing advocacy efforts. These videos have been distributed to national/international human rights organisations, communities, and UN and Embassy personnel and have been used by Al Jazeera English (*101 East*). Two of these videos are being used as part of Amnesty International campaign to stop evictions in Cambodia and one is being used by WITNESS in a campaign to highlight global eviction crisis.

www.licadhocanada.blip.tv



Three Days in Dey Krahorom. *This documentary looks at threats and intimidation in land evictions.*



Two Years Too Long. *This documentary uses interviews with villagers in Andong camp to recall the unlawful eviction of Sambok Chap in June 2006. .*

Most recently, we provided funding, translation and marketing support to Dey Krahorom leaders for the production of a CD of songs written by the community in reflection of their three year to eviction. This CD will be released in January 2009.

***“Oh my village, my Dey Krahorom village
where I used to live happily and peacefully
In the year 2003, my government,
he [the prime minister] gave us a social land concession***

***But today, the land has become as valuable as diamonds
So they changed their minds
changed our lives
changed the hope we once had”***

- **Excerpt from English translation of Lament of Dey Krahorom**

2009 Activities - Looking Forward

So much excitement happens right at the beginning of 2009! Our objectives have remained the same but we've stepped up the creativity involved in our efforts, increased our network of friends and plan to make a little magic as we now reach out to communities.

Activities planned between January and June 2009:

- **CD releases:** In January, a year after his first visit to Cambodia, Karl Bille reunites with friends in Dey Krahom to release two CDs. The Khmer CD is produced by Dey Krahom and the English CD by Karl. Both CDs have eviction as a common theme and raise money for the protection of communities. The CDs will be sold nationally and internationally through our networks and members.
- **Sounds of Solidarity [SOS]:** Support concerts aimed at threatened and evicted communities to show solidarity and promote non-violence, peace and land rights. Dey Krahom musicians and Karl Bille gather some special friends for this unique and daring concert tour which launches in Dey Krahom at the end of January 2009. SOS concerts are still seeking funding.
- **Dey Krahom documentary:** The leaders of Dey Krahom are creating their own documentary about evictions with the support of LICADHO, LICADHO Canada and Platapus. The target audience will be Cambodians. This initiative is in the initial stages of planning.
- **Echoes of Cambodia documentary:** Platapus has been filming for the documentary since the start of 2007 and will finish by May of 2009. This film is seeking immediate funding so that production can branch out into the provinces as well as share resources with SOS concerts and the Dey Krahom documentary. *Echoes of Cambodia* will be released internationally through film festivals, progressive media avenues, Universities and organisational networks.
- **Human Rights Defence Fund [HRDF]:** A LICADHO Canada designed initiative that provides emergency funds to Cambodian human rights defenders in crisis through the sale of modern day clothing for activists abroad. Money raised through the HRDF will support emergency needs not identified by traditional donors; for example, lawyers and bail fees for human rights defenders attacked through the courts and security measures for activists being threatened. The HRDF will officially launch in February 2009 with a website soon to follow.



The latter part of 2009 will have a focus on capacity building in Canada and Denmark, including increasing the number of active members involved with LICADHO Canada and our objectives in Cambodia. We will initiate this process through the promotion of the CDs and documentaries listed above and special events with appearances from Cambodians depicted in the *Echoes of Cambodia* documentary.

LICADHO Canada's Team

LICADHO Canada is supported by a local and international team.

Year 2008

Board Members 2008

Lee Robinson	Victoria, British Columbia
Julie Salisbury	Saanichton, British Columbia
Greg Salisbury	Saanichton, British Columbia
Candace Penner	Vancouver, British Columbia
Amber Penner	Winnipeg, Manitoba

Cambodia Team 2008

Lee Robinson, <i>Canada</i>	December 2006 – present
Ruth Gleeson, <i>Ireland</i>	April 2007 – present
Kir Vieth, <i>Denmark</i>	January 2008 – present
Chanborey Pen, <i>Cambodia</i>	April 2008 – present
Karl Bille, <i>Denmark</i>	January 2008 – March 2008
Kate Yesberg, <i>New Zealand</i>	April 2008 – August 2008
Anton White Orbaek, <i>Denmark</i>	May 2008 – July 2008
Simon Power, <i>England</i>	October 2008 – present

Acknowledgement of contributors and active members

- ❖ **Poppy Smith** – consultation, video editing, proposal editing
- ❖ **Mathieu Pellerin** – consultation, video editing
- ❖ **Genevieve Ruel-King** – website update, photographer, advocacy, research and legal analysis
- ❖ **Shawn Schnick** – advocacy, networking and fundraising
- ❖ **Karl Bille** – advocacy and fundraising
- ❖ **Cornelius Lundsgaard** – advocacy and fundraising
- ❖ **Candace Penner** – administrative support, networking and advocacy
- ❖ **Christine McMeckan** – advocacy and networking, fundraising
- ❖ **Dey Krahorn leaders** – teachers of courage, creativity and determination

LICADHO Canada furthermore wish to thank the many individuals from around the globe who made it possible for us to maintain our presence and our activities in Cambodia for the entire year through financial donations. Every dollar helped!

Acknowledgement of Partners and Advisors

LICADHO Canada would not have the knowledge, resources or ability to impact others through our activities without the continuous support, consultation and shared resources of the following partners:

- ❖ LICADHO – Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights
www.licadho.org
- ❖ COHRE – Centre of Housing Rights and Evictions
www.cohre.org
- ❖ BAB – Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia
www.babsea.org
- ❖ WITNESS
www.witness.org
- ❖ HRTF - Housing Rights Task Force
- ❖ FCF - Future Cambodia Fund, Phnom Penh Office
www.futurecambodiafund.org
- ❖ CSJ – Christians for Social Justice
- ❖ Distinctive Event Management Co.
www.nomadaroundtheworld.com/marketing/index.html
- ❖ Barnard-Boecker Centre Foundation
www.bbcf.ca
- ❖ Peter Sage
www.petersage.com

Financial Report

Annual Financial Report for the Period December 1st 2007 to November 30th 2008

Income Statement

For the period Dec. 1st 2007 until Nov. 30th 2008

Revenue from private donations and gifts	\$8050.00
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TOTAL REVENUE	\$8050.00
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Disbursements and Administration

Stationary and Supplies	\$368.04
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Copying and Printing	\$303.70
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Post and Telecommunications	\$899.60
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LICADHO Canada Donations	\$1250.00
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Khmer Salaries and Translation costs	\$3340.00
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Equipment	\$1,733.26
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Consultation Fees	\$225.00
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$8119.60
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EXCESS DISBURSEMENTS OVER REVENUE	-\$69.60
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Funds available for future use at end of financial year	-\$69.60
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Cash Flow Statement

For the period Dec. 1st 2007 until Nov. 30th 2008

Cash at the beginning of the financial year	\$67.37
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Cash at end of financial Year	\$69.60
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