



ECONOMY

Union Demands Authorities Arrest Union Officer's Attackers

2 min read

Khut Sokun | Tue Feb 11, 2020 9:31 pm



Union leader Ath Thorn visits unionist Soeung Pros in a hospital, in this photograph posted to the Cambodian Labor Confederation's Facebook page on February 11, 2020. Pros was attacked by five unidentified men outside the Phnom Penh factory where he works on February 10.

[responsivevoice_button voice="US English Female"]

A labor union representing garment factory workers on Tuesday demanded authorities find five masked men who attacked a local union officer in Phnom Penh, leaving him bloodied and in need of stitches.

Soeung Pros, deputy president of the Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers Democratic Union's (CCAWDU) chapter at the W&D garment factory, was hospitalized on Monday after the daylight assault in front of the factory in Meanchey district, according to a union statement.

"CCAWDU would like to condemn the perpetrators and the accomplices, and ask all related

LATEST NEWS

In Floating Village, New Tourist Boat System Frustrates Community

Feb 10, 6:35 pm

Candlelight Alleges CPP Member Stole a Party Billboard in Kampong Thom

Feb 10, 6:32 pm

Battambang Authorities Ask Villagers to Remove Fish Farms, Claiming Pollution

Feb 10, 6:31 pm

Chong Khneas' Ethnic Vietnamese Fishers Are Leaving Amid Fishing Crackdown, Arbitrary Fees

Feb 10, 5:29 pm

Sihanoukville Beach Fence Demolished Overnight

Feb 9, 7:22 pm

More News

MOST POPULAR

authorities including the court to clearly investigate the case to find justice for the victim,” the union said.

Pros, who has led union protests in the past, was attacked from behind during his lunch break by a man wielding a belt and four others. The unionist was knocked to the ground and sustained cuts to his head resulting in three stitches, the statement said.

He is being treated at the capital’s Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital.

About 900 fired W&D workers **returned to work** in March last year after Prime Minister Hun Sen publicly demanded their reinstatement, ending a nearly three-month labor dispute that stemmed from demands for unpaid seniority benefits.

Hun Sen had **earlier called** workers’ demands and related strikes “illegal.” More than 1,000 workers were fired in January 2019 for striking after the company had declined to pay seniority bonuses that workers claimed they were owed.

Pros told VOD that while one man beat him with the metal buckle of a belt, another holding a metal bar stood nearby, but didn’t attack him.

All five men wore surgical masks covering their faces. After the beatdown, they drove away on two motorbikes, with the drivers also wearing helmets, he said.

Pros said he wasn’t sure who would attack him, since he had never had an argument with anyone.

“I don’t know how to draw a conclusion because I am just a workers’ representative,” he said.

Em Pheary, police chief for Steung Meanchey III commune, said authorities received information about the case on Tuesday and were looking into it, including checking if there were cameras at the scene.

“We need the victim to clarify so it is easy for authorities to investigate. If we don’t cover all bases, how can we investigate?” Pheary said.

Cambodian Labor Confederation president Ath Thorn said police were “skilled enough” to arrest the assailants by checking footage from nearby surveillance cameras that could be used as evidence.

He considered the assault against Sros just another threat against the apparel workers’ union stemming from Sros’ previous protests and defense of workers’ rights at the W&D factory.

“It is another unjust act,” Thorn said. “If violence happens, it affects the government’s effort in improving the condition of labor rights in Cambodia.”

(Translated and edited from the [original article](#) on VOD Khmer)



© VOD. No part of this article may be reproduced in print, electronically, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without written permission. VOD is not responsible for any infringement in all forms. The perpetrator may be subject to legal action under Cambodian laws and related laws.



Finance Ministry Says It's 'Normal' as Program Budget Jumps \$650M



Banks Block Overseas Transfers to NagaWorld Union Strikers



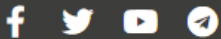
Garment Exports Expected to Ease Amid Global Pressures: Economy Ministry



VOD is an independent media outlet producing radio programs and disseminating information to the public via the Internet.

CONTACT US

- ✓ english@vodhotnews.com
- ✓ 023 726 845 - **Hotline:** 092 92 19 02 / 060 50 50 50
- House #14A, Street 392, Sangkat Boeung Keng
- ✓ Korng 1, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



IMPORTANT LINKS

[Advanced Search](#)

[Letters to the Editor](#)

[National](#)

[VOD Khmer](#)

ABOUT THIS SITE

[About VOD](#)

[Contact VOD](#)

[Journalistic Code](#)

[Privacy Note](#)

