

# The CAMBODIA DAILY

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## Arrests Hint At New Route For Traffickers

BY YUN SAMEAN  
AND MOLLY BALL  
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

A Vietnamese couple was arrested for trafficking and 10 girls and women were taken into custody Saturday, in an incident observers said is part of a growing trend.

Phnom Penh, they say, is becoming a stopping point where potential sex workers get fake Cambodian passports on their way from Vietnam to Malaysia.

Police found Keav Ham, 45, his wife, Den Ty Deak, 40, and another couple holding the five minors—four Vietnamese and one ethnic Khmer from Vietnam—and five adult Vietnamese women in a Daun Penh brothel, said Toch Ngem, chief of the anti-trafficking police bureau in the Ministry of Interior.

The second couple were released when police determined that they were house workers unconnected to any crime. Keav Ham and Den Ty Deak are to appear in Phnom Penh Municipal Court today.

Toch Ngem said the five minors were intended to sell their virginity and continue working in the brothel here, while the five adults were to acquire Cambodian passports and fly to Malaysia.

He said all were sold by their families—one for \$75—or tricked into coming to Cambodia. When

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## Prince Moving to Create New Royalist Party

By DAVID KIHARA  
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Convicted coup leader and former exile Prince Norodom Chakrapong is reportedly starting a new anti-communist, anti-CPP political party—a move that has attracted heavy criticism from top Funcinpec members.

Although details about the creation of Prince Chakrapong's tentatively named "Khmer Spirit Party" were unavailable Sunday, several top Funcinpec officials—including at least one member of the Funcinpec Steering Committee—confirmed that Prince Chakrapong is indeed going to

create a new royalist party.

Prince Chakrapong, who declined to comment about the formation of the party on Sunday, said he would speak about the matter later this week.

"I tried to persuade him not to start this party," said Princess Norodom Vacheara, a member of the Funcinpec Steering Committee and the Chairperson for the Committee of Foreign Affairs at the National Assembly. "I told him it would be bad."

On Saturday, Princess Vacheara said she and two unidentified Funcinpec members met with Prince Chakrapong at the

Hotel Cambodiana to discuss the creation of the Khmer Spirit Party and urged him not to form the party because "I am worried it would hurt Funcinpec. But he absolutely wanted to start the party," she said Sunday.

Although Princess Vacheara said Prince Chakrapong did not release his political platform and told her Saturday that he would "follow the Sihanouk line," a National Assembly member close to the situation said Prince Chakrapong's party would be an anti-communist, pro-democracy party "that would never form a

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## Traffickers...

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two of the women found out the real reason they were being taken to Malaysia, they told a motorcycle taxi driver to tell the police.

A new trafficking route seems to be forming, going from Vietnam to Cambodia to Malaysia, said Christian Guth, an international police expert who, with funding from the UN, World Vision and other groups, advises the Ministry of Interior on anti-trafficking strategies.

This is the third time in three months that traffickers and their

victims have been apprehended here on their way to Malaysia, he said. The victims somehow acquire Cambodian passports here, Guth said. Cambodians don't need a visa to enter Malaysia, but Vietnamese do, according to official Web sites.

Officials don't yet know if the several cases in the past year were connected, but the similarity of the incidents, and the perpetrators' ability to acquire Cambodian passports, suggest an organized ring, Guth said.

Once they have passports, the girls go to Malaysia, where they become part of a largely unregulated sex industry in a country

with a higher standard of living than Cambodia's.

One human rights worker said that while Cambodia has long been a stop for Vietnamese on their way to Thailand, Malaysia is a new destination.

Police said the 10 victims found Saturday spent that night at a shelter run by the Ministry of Social Affairs. They were handed over to the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center on Sunday.

Police said five of the women were released when they claimed they had family here to stay with. The other five were staying at the center Sunday, a CWCC worker said.

NATIONAL  
**Briefing****19-Year-Old the Latest Victim of Acid Attack**

A 19 year-old woman was recovering Sunday after she was doused with acid Thursday evening as she was riding a cyclo toward her home in Daun Penh district. The attack came from an unidentified man on a motorcycle, according to one Boeng Reang commune police officer. She received burns on her face, hands, chest and thighs, relatives said, and was immediately taken to Kossamak Hospital. Police said they found the empty bottle that had contained the acid in the street near the crime scene, but have not established a suspect or a motive for the attack. Suos Dany told Koh Santepheap newspaper that she had a platonic relationship with a military general, but did not know if the attack was a result of that relationship. The victim's brother said he doubted the attack stemmed from an illicit love affair. Acid attacks have become a widespread form of revenge that has typified a culture of "second wives." (*Van Roen*)

**Ministers OK Draft on Weapons Restrictions**

The possession of weapons and ammunition would be restricted under a draft law approved by the Council of Ministers Friday, a council statement said. The law would make it illegal for civilians to own, carry, discharge, buy, sell, make, repair, modify, transport, import, export or transport firearms or ammunition of any kind. Foreigners would also be forbidden from owning weapons. But "at formal request, the government gives exception to bodyguards of foreign leaders such as kings, queens, presidents, heads of state, prime ministers and senior foreign dignitaries who visit Cambodia," the statement said. The transportation of weapons and ammunition into Cambodia would require permission from the ministries of Interior and Defense. The minimum penalty ranges from six months to three years in prison and a fine of approximately \$256 to \$1,538. The maximum jail term would range between five years and 10 years behind bars and a fine of between \$1,025 to \$2,538. (*Pin Sisovann*)

**You Hockry Will Be Asked to Resign Post**

BY THET SAMBATH  
AND PIN SISOVANN  
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Funcinpec Secretary-General Prince Norodom Sirivudh will order co-Minister of Interior You Hockry to resign from his post at the ministry as well as from his position in the party, members from the Funcinpec Steering Committee said Sunday.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh also reportedly signed two letters—one to You Hockry and another to Prime Minister Hun Sen—informing both about the upcoming firing.

Although Prince Sirivudh will request Monday that You Hockry be ousted from his ministerial posting and position as "dean" of the Funcinpec Steering Committee, he will be allowed to retain his position as a member of parliament, the officials said.

"If he is obstinate to leave and he wants to see the evidence against him, all the Steering Committee members will show him the evidence against him and will allow him to ask questions [re-

garding the firing]," a committee official said Sunday.

Since March, high-ranking Funcinpec officials and at least 1,000 former Funcinpec resistance fighters have sought to oust You Hockry, accusing him of practicing nepotism and corruption. In early May, a majority of Funcinpec Steering Committee members signed an order to fire You Hockry from his position as co-Minister of Interior.

You Hockry, however, previously defended himself, saying that he spoke to several Funcinpec members who allegedly signed the order. The members told him they did not sign the order, fueling speculation that the petition to oust him may have been faked. He also requested that members of the party give a reason for his firing.

Although an official Sunday reported that Prince Ranariddh signed a letter informing You Hockry about his ousting, the prince on Friday said the firing will take a long time because the petition to fire You Hockry must

be re-written.

The prince also said the firing of You Hockry is taking a long time because "we need to study the regulations.... I don't want my decision to be accused of being personal."

Speaking Friday after a National Assembly debate, Prince Ranariddh said he had not seen the petition to oust You Hockry, adding "now the petitions are to be re-written to avoid allegations of being fake."

So far, no replacement for You Hockry has been announced. But one Funcinpec source said the list of candidates to replace You Hockry as co-Minister of Interior includes Nhiek Bun Chhay, vice chair for the Senate, and RCAF Deputy Commander-in-Chief Khan Savoeun.

The firing of You Hockry comes amid an anticipated reshuffling of key Funcinpec postings, including positions at the provincial level. Some have speculated that the shake-up is a result of the party's weak showing during the commune elections.

**Party...**

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coalition with the CPP."

The promises of a non-CPP royalist party sparked concern among Funcinpec members who saw their party lose strength after the February commune elections.

Princess Vacheara said the new royalist party would damage Funcinpec because most people in the country would not understand why Prince Chakrapong start a party when he already has the support of Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Funcinpec.

The new party would probably take votes away from Funcinpec during the 2003 national elections, she added. "People would not understand why the two brothers could not work together. This would not be good for the monarchy," she said.

Several Funcinpec members agreed with the princess, including at least two high-ranking Funcinpec ministers who declined to be identified.

"This will confuse many people," said one Funcinpec minister Sunday. "For those of us in the leadership, it is OK. But for the people and other Funcinpec members, it will be confusing."

Another Funcinpec minister,

however, had a stronger opinion about Prince Chakrapong.

"Morally speaking, he is not a man of principles.... And politically speaking, he is not considered a serious politician," the official said Sunday.

The son of King Norodom Sihanouk and half-brother of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Prince Chakrapong served as a top general in the royalist army that fought against the Vietnamese-backed government during the 1980s. He defected to the CPP in 1992 and was thought by some to have had a poor relationship with Prince Ranariddh after Ranariddh's Funcinpec won the 1993 UN-sponsored elections.

In 1993, he allegedly led a brief secession movement in several eastern provinces with Sin Song, a former CPP Interior Minister.

In July 1994, Prince Chakrapong and Sin Song allegedly plotted a coup against the government but failed when the 300-plus armed force allegedly enlisted by the prince was turned back by government soldiers. At the time, the prince said he was innocent.

Prince Chakrapong left Cambodia immediately after the attack after King Sihanouk issued a request allowing him to leave. The prince was convicted in absentia of plotting a coup and sentenced in 1994 to 20 years in

prison.

He was reported to have lived in Malaysia, Thailand and France. The King granted Prince Chakrapong amnesty in 1998 and the embattled prince returned to Cambodia in March 1999.

The prince founded Royal Phnom Penh Airways in 1999, reportedly with his own money.

Since the Khmer Spirit Party could be founded on a "pro-democracy" stance similar to the Sam Rainsy Party, at least one member of the opposition party expressed alarm over the formation of the new party.

"One always has to be concerned with the newcomer," said Tioulong Saumura, National Assembly member and wife of Sam Rainsy Party leader Sam Rainsy. "He may take votes away from us in the next elections, but not a lot."

She added, however, that she would like to see more political parties with a pro-democracy stance and would not exclude cooperation with the new party.

"If there is a political party that should be threatened, it's Funcinpec," she said. "There will be two parties courting the royalists, and although he may say he is anti-CPP and anti-communist—the same as the Sam Rainsy Party—he is still a royalist." (*Additional reporting by Thet Sambath*)

**National Briefs****CPP Officials Remember Victims of Khmer Rouge**

More than 100 monks and officials from the ruling party joined Senate President Chea Sim at the Cheung Ek "killing fields" memorial Sunday to commemorate the CPP's annual "Day of Hate" on behalf of the victims of the Khmer Rouge. A group of singers performed and were followed by monks' prayers at the ceremony. Chea Sim, a former Khmer Rouge soldier who turned against the genocidal regime and helped topple it in 1979, laid a wreath and some food in front of the park's stupa. Among the participants at the ceremony was Sun Kuntha, 39, who lost 30 members of his family to the Khmer Rouge. Sun Kuntha said by telephone Sunday that he came to Cheung Ek to find rest for his relatives—and peace for himself. In the early 1980s, 129 mass graves were unearthed at the Cheung Ek killing fields. More than 16,000 people—most of whom were sent from the infamous Tuol Sleng political prison in Phnom Penh—are believed to have been executed at Cheung Ek. (*Saing Soenthrith*)

**Official: US Deportees Unlikely To Go to Prey Sar**

The Cambodian government had threatened to send to Prey Sar prison about 100 of the expected 1,400 Cambodians who will be deported from the US under the terms of an agreement reached in March, according to Om Yentieng, an adviser to Hun Sen. But it's unlikely any of those people will go to prison, since they will have completed their prison terms in the US before arriving in Cambodia. The prime minister said earlier this month that any of the returning Cambodians who were in jail at the time they were deported must go to the overcrowded and disease-ridden Prey Sar, the nation's largest detention facility, when they arrive here after deportation. The deportees will be kicked out of the US under an agreement that forbids nonresidents who commit aggravated felonies—a serious category of crime in the US—from staying in the country. General Khieu Sopheak, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, said the government will likely create a center for the deportees not sent to Prey Sar. The center will hold people for two or three days before they are sent to live with relatives or friends throughout the country.

**Victims of HIV/AIDS Plead For an End to Discrimination**

BY LOR CHANDARA  
AND BILL MYERS  
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

BATTAMBANG PROVINCE - The winds picked up just as Ouk Thary struck her match. It took her several tries to light the small yellow candle and even then it did not stay lighted for long.

It was just one of several gaffes for Ouk Thary, 38. Moments earlier, as she tried to share her experiences of dealing with HIV and the discrimination she often feels, the speaker system overloaded and feedback drowned her out.

Not that it made much of a difference. Most of crowd—made up overwhelmingly of students—was not paying attention, anyway. The students played football, bought drinks or sat and gossiped in front of the grandstand. During Ouk Thary's remarks, event organizers had to break up a crowd of teen-agers and order them to sit down and listen.

Nonetheless, organizers hailed Friday's rally a success. The event, timed to coincide with national and worldwide ceremonies for victims of HIV/AIDS and to speak out against discrimination, was the first in the province's history.

"In general, the HIV problem in Battambang is declining and a lot more people have become aware of the situation and about discrimination," Battambang province Health Department Director Mel Yuong said.

But success does not mean victory. For every 100 patients in Battambang hospitals, around 15 of them are victims of HIV/AIDS, Mel Young said.

And while public awareness is increasing, both HIV workers and patients say the country still has a long way to go to break the ignorance.

Ouk Thary, of Battambang town, is an increasingly typical case. Her husband, a former soldier, spent most of his time away from home, working as trainer for the NGO World Vision, she said.

He brought back HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and gave it to Ouk Thary, who unknowingly passed it on to the couple's son at childbirth five years ago. The boy died in 1998, she said.

Besides battling the virus, Ouk Thary has also had to battle the

stigma attached to HIV/AIDS. She was a hairdresser, but clients stopped coming to her. She found herself alone.

"The neighbors wouldn't send their children to play with mine," Ouk Thary said. "They wouldn't even buy vegetables and fruits from me."

That, HIV patients say, is all too common.

As part of Friday's commemoration, more than 600 protesters in Phnom Penh marched on the National Assembly to demand anti-discrimination laws for HIV/AIDS patients.

Legislation outlawing several forms of discrimination against HIV/AIDS victims is scheduled to be considered by parliament in the next few months.

But legislation is a smaller concern for Meas Em, 62, a second-hand clothes vendor from Battambang town. She is more worried about feeding her two HIV-positive grandchildren.

Their mother, who died in late April, passed it along to each of the children at birth. She was infected with the virus by her husband, who got it having sex with prostitutes, Meas Em said.

As the two children sat on their haunches and picked at the grass near the grandstand, Meas Em said the situation was desperate.

"Everyone in the family is afraid of them," she said. "I want them to live at home with me, but my husband and I think we are getting older and we don't have much time to support them."

"I am getting older, I will die soon. So I have to send them to the orphanage so they'll have a better future," Meas Em said.

Kong Raksa, 55, said he infected his wife with HIV about seven years ago after sleeping with "cheap" prostitutes. She remains hospitalized with dysentery and probably will not live to the end of the month, he said.

In spite of the obstacles in the path of Cambodia's HIV/AIDS patients, the situation is improving, Ouk Thary said. Aid agencies have helped teach her neighbors about the disease. She says she feels "encouraged" to hang on a little longer, as long as people remember one thing.

"Don't discriminate against HIV-positive people," Ouk Thary said. "We can live together without fear."