

Cambodian Human Rights Task Force (CHRTF)

CHRTF is a human rights NGO based in Cambodia.

Ouch Leng is the head of this NGO.

The CHRTF investigates and reports on **illegal logging activities**, particularly rosewood logging, by corrupt officials and business leaders in Cambodia.



CHRTF has produced three important reports on what it calls '**Cambodia's illegal logging crisis**'.

The reports have exposed **corruption** within government agencies, and have called for the licenses of certain companies to be revoked.



Persecution against Mr Ouch Leng

June 2015: Men in plain clothes, riding motorcycles looked for Mr Ouch Leng at his house at night.

September 2015: A CHRTF member is arrested in Koh Kong, following a peaceful protest against the Chinese company Union Development Group. He was interrogated about the whereabouts of Ouch Leng, and released after admitting he worked with him.

End 2015: As pressure on and intimidation against Ouch Leng grew, he and his family **had to move to a different province** (using funds provided by international civil society supporters).



Supporting Ouch Leng

During his persecution, Ouch Leng remained in close contact with **Civil Rights Defenders**' (CRD) South East Asia team.

He has applied for and secured two **security grants** from the European Union Human Rights Defenders Fund.

Grants have provided a lifeline for Ouch Leng. With this financial support, in August he was able to publish a third report on illegal logging, published in Khmer.

In April 2016, Ouch Leng was awarded the **Goldman Environmental Prize** for Asia. This helped him, *inter alia*, to: raise his profile (with important security benefits), strengthened his international connections and support, and put pressure on corrupt officials and illegal loggers thanks to international media coverage.