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UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
Cambodia

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Celebration of the World Press Freedom Day  
*Safety of Journalists in Cambodia:*  
*Rule of Law in Ensuring the Safety of Journalists and Combating Impunity*  
3 May 2014  
Intercontinental Hotel  
8:00 am-12:00 pm**

3 May was proclaimed World Press Freedom Day at the UN General Assembly in 1993 following a recommendation adopted at the 26<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO's General Conference in 1991. It is a day to encourage and develop initiatives in favor of press freedom, to assess the state of press freedom worldwide, and to remind governments of the need to respect their commitment to freedom of expression.

The Theme of WPF 2014 is *Safety of Journalists in Cambodia: Rule of Law in Ensuring the Safety of Journalists and Combating Impunity*. This year's WPF celebration aims to provide a forum for dialogue among media representatives, practitioners, and civil society organizations to discuss the current challenges and issues surrounding the safety of journalists in Cambodia.

This year, the UN presents *The UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity*. This Plan of Action aims to create a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development. The Plan aims to establish a coordinated mechanism with government, CSOs and media institutions to handle issues related to the safety of journalists as well as assisting to develop legislation and mechanisms favourable to freedom of expression and information, under the existing international rules and principles.

"Freedom of expression, independent media and universal access to knowledge will fortify our efforts to achieve lasting results for people and the planet," stated the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, opening a press briefing at the UN Headquarters on "Media freedom for a better future: shaping the post-2015 development agenda." The full statement can be found in this link: <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7639>

The discussion mirrors the theme of this year's World Press Freedom Day, which, along with proving an opportunity to celebrate the fundamental principles of this freedom and to pay tribute to the journalists that have lost their lives in the line of duty, will spotlight the media's importance in development; the safety of journalists and the rule of law; and the sustainability and integrity of journalism.

World Press Freedom Day 2014 will be celebrated by UNESCO Phnom Penh Office and the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in cooperation with Cambodian Communication Institute (CCI), Club of Cambodian Journalists (CCJ), Cambodian Center for

Human Rights (CCHR), Cambodian Association for the Protection of Journalists (CAPJ), and the Department of Media and Communication (DMC) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

THE END

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