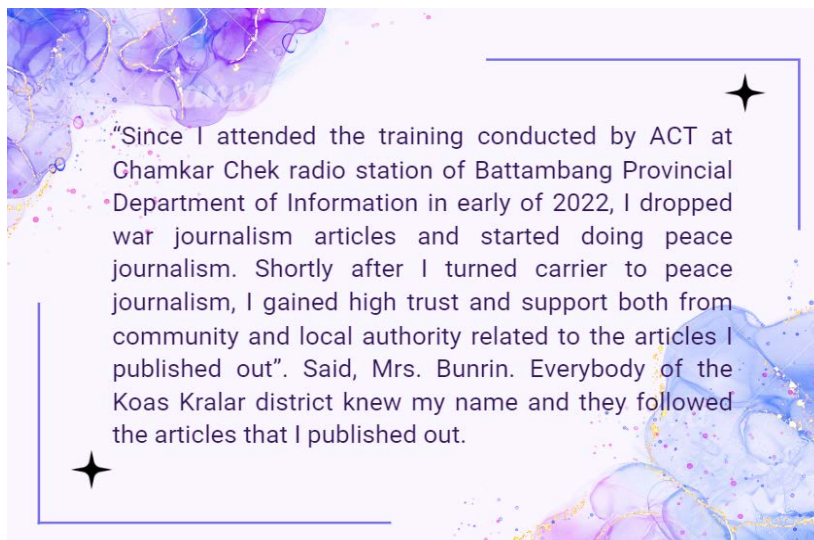


Case study of M4P NW was called for summons in Battambang Provincial Court

Mrs. Reung Bunrin, female journalist was selected during baseline survey in December 2021 for media for peace project. A female journalist living Chhay Ballangk village, Thipakdei commune, Koas Krala district in remote area of Battambang province, she was encouraged and selected to participate in Media for Peace Project for project period from 2022 to 2024.

She has been working as female journalist from 2018 with first media outlet named Mekong Khmer News TV online then moved to SH plus news and recently with ASEAN Daily News.

The most change that she claimed to improve her carrier and profession came out after attending the training with ACT for media for peace and peace journalism training in February 2022.



The most happiness for her not only helped community to get good road, food for the poor, renovated storm-destroyed houses for people but also she had helped the person with disability and other villagers to have better access to use volcanic road in her community and commune, on the other hand she had contributed a lot through her media on peaceful conflict resolution between district clean water supply owner and clean water consumer.

Cambodian migrants were working in Thailand had contacted her and asked her to support to raise the money for taking back the death body of Khmer labor worker from Thailand to Cambodia while the family of the dead could not access the fee to bring dead body home for religion ceremony. She got achieved and success most of the request from community and respond by local authority and the charity people. Many cases from communities that she had support from her role as women media/journalist.

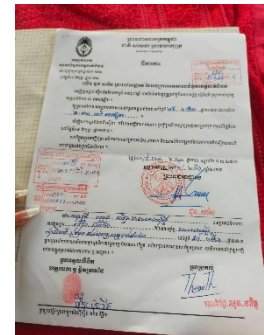


Her reputation was not from the community in her village but also the villagers in Koas Kralar district, Battambang province because of her role as peaceful media actor; often the villagers in her village and from other villages come to her house to ask for helping posting on social media to seeking justice for them.



Early February 2023, the owner of rice fields consisted of 5 families had asked her for help to coordinate with a group of laymen and monks to re-open water channel for their rice field, but those attempts were failed. Then the farmers requested her to posting on social media about conflict of water irrigation in the hope that the higher powerful person such as commune and district governor could solve the case. Before posting on the social media, she had brought the both conflict actors to meet face to face in order to solve the case peacefully and ended the case from now on. The farmer site agreed to meet with other conflict actors at Wat Cheng Ting, however, the result could not accept as the pagoda committee and acting director monk did not agree to open the water channel that had filled in.

She had called to all persons who could facilitate with the pagoda committee to help for this issue, such as village chief, commune chief and district governor. Then the district governor had invited both farmer and monk to district office to end the case without the presence of Mrs. Bunrin. Farmers came back and reported to Mrs. Burin that the district governor asked to the acting monk to re-open the water channel but this acting monk and pagoda committee did not agree.



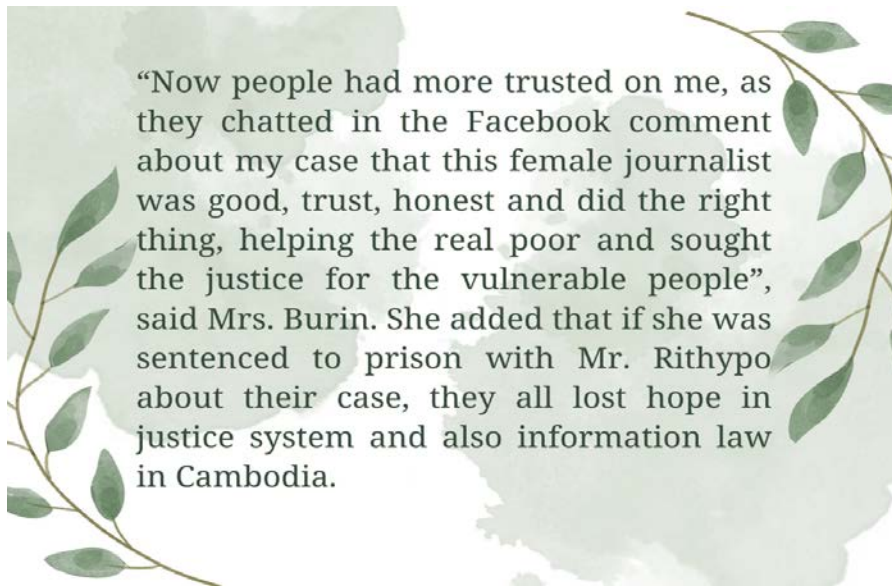
During the visit of His Excellency Bun Hun, Secretary of state from Ministry of Interior from Phnom Penh to meet with the community in the village, Mrs. Bunrin also sought the intervention from H.E. Bun Hun to visit the real rice field and a location where land filled in water channel. After the visit H.E. Bun Hun proposed to each party to have mutual understanding and ended the case peacefully; otherwise there would be a long story to go. The coordination from H.E. Bun Hun was failed, hence, farmers and Mrs. Bunrin had decided that they went directly to the rice field and started live on the Facebook page asking for intervention from provincial governor of Battambang province. Shortly after her video lived on FB page, the pagoda committees and acting monk had taken action against her and farmer (Mr. Rithypo) by filing a lawsuit to court with defaming case and making public chaos.

After receiving the letter called for court appeal at Battambang Provincial Court, she had called and chat to ACT for discussion on how to respond to this court appeal. ACT had called to Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC) staff and informed about the case also the story that Mrs. Bunrin was charged against her activities related to the live on FB page. LAC took intervention the case and went to visit Mrs. Bunrin, affected farmers, rice fields and filled-land.

During the court appeal at Battambang Provincial Court, Mrs. Bunrin, and Mr. Rithypo showed their face in the court and with a lot of questions asked to two of them. The two of them claimed their fairness related to the story of conflict and a series of intervention that they had done before coming to the court. LAC lawyer Mr. Ung Chanthol had asked to the court to drop the case and let the two of them free as what they did were following the code of conduct, information law and professional in making peace journalism.



Up to now the case did not call for the second appeal at the court since then (as it's supposed to appeal by 5th June 2023). After that ACT staff had chat through telegram to Ms. Bunrim about her case, she said that the court uphold her case and seemed no more calling to appeal. Asking how the villagers followed her case:



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