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KHMERS KAMPUCHEA-KROM FEDERATION

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Vietnam Uses Torture to Silence Khmer-Krom Activist

WASHINGTON, D.C., 21 January 2023 - The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) condemns the Vietnamese Police of Soc Trang province to continue practicing torture against the Khmer-Krom activists even though Vietnam is now an official member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) and ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UN CAT).

On January 20, 2023, at 1:00 pm, the Vietnamese Police summoned Trieu Sieu, born in 1989, to the local police station at Trung Binh village, Tran De district, Soc Trang province, to “*discuss some issues related to using social media (Facebook)*.” Mr. Trieu Sieu was interrogated for about an hour by the local Police and then transferred to the police station in Soc Trang city for detention. While he was being detained for interrogation for about 30 hours about his activities of sharing information on the Internet, especially sharing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) document, the Police also used torture against him. He was punched twice in the face and beaten up on his body, causing bruises. To put more pressure on him, the Police summoned his mother to the police station. The Police asked her to sign a commitment letter to promise that she would be punished if Trieu Sieu did not stop his advocacy activities. After his mother signed, he was temporarily released at 6:30 pm on January 21, 2023. He might be summoned again after the Vietnamese New Year. The Police confiscated his phone, identification card, and T-shirt.

In this regard, the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) urgently calls on the international community to urge the United Nations to ask Vietnam to:

- Uphold its commitment as a member of the HRC to genuinely implementing the UN CAT to stop using torture against the Khmer-Krom activists, such as in the case of Mr. Trieu Sieu.
- Return the confiscation of Mr. Trieu Sieu and stop summoning him to see the Police because he must have the right to enjoy his freedom of speech to share and express his opinion freely on social media as enshrined in the treaties that Vietnam signed with the United Nations.

