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KHMERS KAMPUCHEA-KROM FEDERATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Condemning Vietnam's Use of Forced Confessions Against Khmer-Krom Activist Danh Set

WASHINGTON, D.C., 02 April 2023 – The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) strongly condemns the recent actions taken by the Vietnamese authorities against Khmer-Krom activist Danh Set. We call on the United Nations and the international community to speak out against Vietnam's use of forced confessions and other forms of repression against human rights defenders.

Danh Set, a resident of Wath Pich cluster, Vinh Phuoc ward, Vinh Chau town, Soc Trang province, was summoned to the police station on March 31, 2023, after attending the International Women's Day celebration in Tra Vinh province on March 8, 2023. He was detained and interrogated from 8 am to 11 pm on March 31. He was allowed to sleep and interrogated again from 8 am to 11 am on April 1. During the interrogation, Danh Set was not only forced to sign a false confession to accuse the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation and other Khmer-Krom activists but also threatened with economic siege. The police made it clear that if he did not stop his peaceful advocacy work, his family members would face severe economic consequences.

Vietnam is a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council and has an obligation to uphold international human rights standards. The use of forced confessions and other forms of repression against human rights defenders is unacceptable and must be condemned by the international community. We call on the Vietnamese authorities to immediately cease all forms of harassment, threats, and intimidation against Danh Set and his family.

We call on the United Nations and the international community to take immediate action to hold Vietnam accountable for its actions and to ensure that Danh Set and other human rights defenders in Vietnam are protected from further abuse and persecution.

