

The following allegations were included in Global Witness' July 2018 campaign, which called for US sanctions against key members of Prime Minister Hun Sen's inner circle.

For more information, see - <https://www.globalwitness.org/en-gb/campaigns/cambodia/who-profits-death-cambodias-democracy/>

Hun family

Members of the prime minister's family own or part-control companies with listed capital of more than US\$ 200 million.¹

Hun Sen's daughter, Hun Mana, was director of WS Mining from 2009 to 2012.²

The military was drafted in to guard the company's gold mine. Soldiers blocked local residents' access to their paddy fields.³

Cyanide was used to leach gold from the ground, which contaminated the water. Many people reportedly fell ill and much of their livestock died.⁴

Hun Sen's nephew, Hun To, is listed as director of LHR Asean Investment, which runs a network of petrol stations across Cambodia.⁵

He was also accused of being part of an international drug-trafficking and money-laundering syndicate – allegations he denied.⁶

Hun Sen's son-in-law, Sok Puthyvuth, is CEO of the Soma Group.⁷

One of its companies was part of the team expanding Phnom Penh International Airport.⁸

Local residents were told their homes would all be destroyed, but that they wouldn't be compensated.⁹

8 people were arrested after painting SOS signs on their roofs. They hoped that US President Obama would see as he flew into Cambodia for a summit.¹⁰

These are just a few examples of the Hun family's business interests, which span most of Cambodia's major sectors.¹¹

Senator Ly Yong Phat

Ly Yong Phat has been called one of Prime Minister Hun Sen's "favourite senators"¹² and is thought to be one of Cambodia's richest men.¹³

He's behind some of the most violent land grabbing that Cambodia has seen this century, which has seen thousands of people thrown off their land.¹⁴

Police shot at and beat up people who refused to abandon their homes to make way for Ly Yong Phat sugar plantations.¹⁵

A community activist was reportedly found axe murdered after documenting such evictions.¹⁶

Sugar is just one industry in Ly Yong Phat's vast business empire, which spans hotels, casinos, infrastructure, the media and more.¹⁷

The Senator has profited handsomely from Hun Sen's Cambodia and has a lot to lose from a free and fair election.

Senator Lao Meng Khin

Senator Lao Meng Khin has donated large sums of money to the state,¹⁸ and funds Cambodia's military.¹⁹

His family are business partners with members of Prime Minister Hun Sen's family²⁰, and he and his wife have accompanied the premier on diplomatic trips to China.²¹

Senator Lao Meng Khin owns Shukaku,²² the company behind the eviction of thousands of families from their homes at Boeung Kak lake.²³

Residents who took a stand against the development have been beaten, arrested and jailed by the authorities.²⁴

Another of his companies, Pheapimex, holds Cambodia's biggest land concession, which is 33 times bigger than the current legal limit.²⁵

Neither Lao Meng Khin nor his companies have ever been held to account for the string of abuses committed in the name of profit.

The Senator has profited handsomely from Hun Sen's Cambodia, and has a lot to lose from a free and fair election.

Senator Mong Reththy

Senator Mong Reththy is one of Prime Minister Hun Sen's closest allies, and has been referred to as his 'Money Man'.²⁶

Global Witness investigations revealed how a port owned by Mong Reththy and named after him appeared to be a gateway for large-scale timber smuggling.²⁷

When allegations surfaced that the senator was linked to marijuana trafficking, the prime minister said anyone attempting to arrest him should "wear a steel helmet".²⁸

Mong Reththy was also at the heart of a massive sand dredging scandal worth millions of dollars, where licenses were handed out behind closed doors.²⁹

The senator also flattened the historic Royal University of Fine Arts campus in Phnom Penh and forcibly evicted residents to make way for a development he named 'China Town'.³⁰

Mong Reththy has profited handsomely from Hun Sen's Cambodia, and has a lot to lose from a free and fair election.

Try Pheap

Try Pheap is one of Cambodia's most prominent tycoons and previously a personal advisor to Prime Minister Hun Sen.³¹

Global Witness investigations revealed how he controlled a multi-million dollar timber smuggling operation in Cambodia that was destroying Cambodia's last forests and the lives of those who depend on them.³²

Officials from government, the military, police and customs were all complicit.³³

Try Pheap's company was even granted exclusive rights to buy any illegal timber that was seized by the authorities, to sell on at a profit.³⁴

Try Pheap funds the Cambodian military, which has been a major actor in a systemic campaign of land seizures that have caused mass displacement and serious human rights abuses.³⁵

The tycoon has profited handsomely from Hun Sen's Cambodia, and would have a lot to lose from a change in government.

¹ Global Witness, *Hostile Takeover*, July 2016. See press release, available for download here - <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/reports/hostile-takeover/>

² Global Witness, *Hostile Takeover*. Page 22.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Global Witness, *Hostile Takeover*. Page 12.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Global Witness, *Hostile Takeover*. Page 23.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Global Witness, *Hostile Takeover*, July 2016. See press release, available for download here - <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/reports/hostile-takeover/>

¹² Media Ownership Monitor Cambodia. See <https://cambodia.mom-rsf.org/en/owner/individual-owners/detail/owner/owner/show/ly-yong-phat/>

Diplomat, 'Cambodia's Hun Sen Taps Himself for Glory'. February 2015. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2015/02/cambodias-hun-sen-taps-himself-for-glory/>

¹³ Bangkok Post, 'Ly Yong Phat, the King of Koh Kong'. February 2013. Available at: <https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/investigation/334020/ly-yong-phat-the-king-of-koh-kong>

Sydney Morning Herald, 'ANZ under fire for loans to controversial Cambodian sugar plantation'. January 2014. Available at: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/anz-under-fire-for-loans-to-controversial-cambodian-sugar-plantation-20140122-3196z.html>

¹⁴ Phnom Penh Post, 'Land grab victims appeal for government intervention'. June 2008. Available at: <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/land-grab-victims-appeal-government-intervention>

Equitable Cambodia and Inclusive Development International, *Bittersweet Harvest*, 2013. Available at: http://www.inclusivedevelopment.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Bittersweet_Harvest_web-version.pdf

¹⁵ National Human Rights Commission Thailand, Findings Report, March 2015. Pages 3 and 7. Available at: https://earthrights.org/wp-content/uploads/unofficial_english_translation_-_tnhrc_report_on_findings_-_koh_kong_land_concession_cambodia_0.pdf

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¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Refer to the Ly Yong Phat Group website at <http://lypgroup.com/group-profile.php>

¹⁸ Lao Meng Khin is an okhna – an honourific title given to businesspeople who donate upwards of US\$ 500,000 to the state (although when he became one the price was US\$ 100,000). See Global Witness, *Family Trees* (June 2007). Page 19. Available at: <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/reports/cambodias-family-trees/>

¹⁹ Government of Cambodia, 'Decision on Restructuring between Army Units, National Police and Civil Bodies'. Available from Global Witness upon request.

See also 'Global Witness Urges Cambodia's Donors to Condemn Sponsorship of Military Units by Private Business'. Available at: <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/archive/global-witness-urges-cambodias-donors-condemn-sponsorship-military-units-private-businesses/>

²⁰ Company documents show that the Lao-Choeung family have direct business links to the prime minister's family. As Global Witness reported in its 2016 *Hostile Takeover* investigation, Hun Sen's son Hun Maly is listed as co-director of a construction company called 5 Siblings Rock Mining Co. Ltd., as is Choeung Thean Seng, the brother of Lao Meng Khin's wife, Choeung Sopheap. Hun Maly's sister, Hun Mana, chairs NVN Corporation, which shares a registered address with companies linked to Choeung Thean Seng and Choeung Sopheap's daughter, Choeung Sokuntheavy. See *Hostile Takeover*. Page 46, footnote 128.

²¹ Global Witness, *Country for Sale*, February 2009. Page 24. At: <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/reports/country-sale/>

²² BBC, 'Cambodia lake battle: How Boeung Kak became a puddle', August 2011 at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-14488100>

Cambodia Center for Human Rights, 'Fact Sheet: Case study series: Boeung Kak', October 2011 at: [http://cchrcambodia.org/admin/media/factsheet/factsheet/english/CCHR%20Case%20Study%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Boeung%20Kak%20\(ENG\).pdf](http://cchrcambodia.org/admin/media/factsheet/factsheet/english/CCHR%20Case%20Study%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Boeung%20Kak%20(ENG).pdf)

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²³ Reuters, 'Cambodian court upholds jail term for woman land rights activist', August 2017. At: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cambodia-landrights-women/cambodian-court-upholds-jail-term-for-woman-land-rights-activist-idUSKBN1AO15N>

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²⁴ Economist, 'The Boeung Kak 13', June 2012. At: <https://www.economist.com/blogs/banyan/2012/06/justice-cambodia>

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Phnom Penh Post, 'A tale of two Boeung Kak protests', January 2015 at: <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/tale-two-boeung-kak-protests> and International Accountability

²⁵ Pheapimex presides over the biggest ELC in the whole country, which was granted in 2000. See LICADHO data on ELCs at: http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/land_concessions/

ELCs also cannot exceed 10,000 hectares, and the same person or legal entity cannot hold several concessions that total more than 10,000 hectares. See Cambodia's 2001 Land Law, Article 59. At: http://www.cambodiainvestment.gov.kh/land-law_010430.html

²⁶ See a 2007 US embassy cable published on Wikileaks, called 'Cambodia's Top Ten Tycoons'. At: https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/07PHNOMPENH1034_a.html

²⁷ Global Witness, Family Trees. Page 84. Available at: <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/reports/cambodias-family-trees/>

²⁸ Global Witness, Family Trees. Page 85.

²⁹ Global Witness, Shifting Sands (May 2010). Page 3. Available at: <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/reports/shifting-sand/>

³⁰ Global Witness, Family Trees. Page 85.

³¹ Global Witness, Cost of Luxury (February 2015). See press release, available for download at: <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/forests/cost-of-luxury/>

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Government of Cambodia, 'Decision on Restructuring between Army Units, National Police and Civil Bodies'. Available from Global Witness upon request.
