



TRIALWATCH TO MONITOR TRIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER THEORY SENG IN CAMBODIA

This statement can be attributed to a spokesperson for the Clooney Foundation for Justice. For further inquiries, please contact info@cfj.org.

Source: Michigan Daily

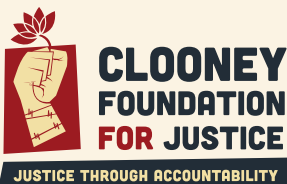
January 11, 2021

The Clooney Foundation for Justice announced today that its partner the American Bar Association Center for Human Rights will monitor the upcoming trial of Theory Seng in Cambodia as part of CFJ's TrialWatch initiative. TrialWatch monitors criminal proceedings around the world and works with legal experts to assess their fairness according to international and regional human rights standards.

Theory Seng, a Cambodian-American human rights lawyer who has been a persistent critic of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, was charged—along with more than 40 others—with conspiracy to commit treason and 'incitement,' charges that carry a penalty of up to 12 years' imprisonment. To date authorities have provided no factual information about the allegations against her but it appears that the charges may be based on allegations that Ms. Seng is affiliated with opposition leader Sam Rainsy, one of her co-accused, as well as the now-banned Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP). Her counsel has however said she has "[no affiliation](#)" with the CNRP.

This trial comes amidst a renewed [crack down](#) on anyone believed to be associated with the CNRP. Cambodia is also increasingly using its [vague 'incitement' law to prosecute critics](#).

Trial monitoring, which entails sending a neutral observer into court to observe criminal proceedings, permits an impartial assessment of whether a trial meets international fair-trial standards. **The Clooney Foundation for Justice [reiterates](#) its view that Cambodia's incitement law must be repealed or reformed. CFJ also calls on Cambodia to ensure that any trial of Ms. Seng respects her right to a fair trial and to freedom of expression.**



The Clooney Foundation for Justice's [TrialWatch](#) initiative monitors and grades the fairness of trials of vulnerable people around the world, including journalists, women and girls, religious minorities, LGBTQ persons and human rights defenders. Using this data, TrialWatch advocates for victims and is developing a Global Justice Ranking measuring national courts' compliance with international human rights standards.