

Mass Evictions in Anlong Krom



A home burnt to the ground in November by RCAF's Brigade 31

300 families from Anlong Krom Village are the latest targets of ongoing illegal evictions in Kampot province. Although they are legally entitled to their land according to the Cambodian Land Law, they are being pushed off their land by the military, which is intent on owning the land. In late November, 12 soldiers entered the village armed with guns and tazers. The soldiers proceeded to torch homes and all possessions inside ruthlessly, beating and tazing citizens.

Four villagers, one of them a woman, were injured and severely traumatized. One older man, bedridden and unresponsive to his caretakers' greetings, took ill since soldiers burned his house for the fourth time. Another young victim was a boy who had run to escape the soldiers, falling into a ditch and breaking his leg. His mother struggles to care for him and reports inadequate and even verbally abusive treatment at the hospital.

Villagers are slowly rebuilding their shacks, but wary of constructing permanent structures as they fear they will be destroyed yet again. Many citizens have lost their livelihoods and abandoned their hopes for the future. Particularly affected are widows and single mothers, who rely on the land to provide for their children and grand-children. One widow, tears streaming down her face, reported that her grandson was severely ill, yet she did not have the funds to transport him to the free health clinic just a few kilometers away.

MP Mu Sochua's response:

MP Mu Sochua raised \$3,000 from Women Against Violence Everywhere (WAVE) for victims of Anlong Krom evictions. She visited the village on February 6, touring the village and visiting families. She took part in a community meeting, negotiating an agreement between two factions in the



MP Mu Sochua conducting a community meeting in Anlong Krom on February 6, 2009

village and helping them to become unified. Taking a register of land ownership from the community, she promised to return with medicines for the community.

MP Mu Sochua has since written to the Ministry of Defense to ensure there will be no more violent evictions. She also wrote to the Ministry of Environment to ask for social concessions for this desperate community. She will continue to advocate for the rights of these citizens in her capacity as elected representative of the people in Phnom Penh.



Women from Anlong Krom, many traumatized or seriously injured by the RCAF, which arrived without warning