

RELEASE IN PART
B1,1.4(D)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 4/6/2011 7:17:43 AM
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Subject: Cambodia: Police and an NGO Team Up to Catch a Corrupt Cop
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From: AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PGOV, CB, KCOR, KTIP
Captions: SENSITIVE
Subject: Cambodia: Police and an NGO Team Up to Catch a Corrupt Cop

1. (C) SUMMARY. Cambodian National Police (CNP) arrested Police Colonel Eam Rattana, former head of the Phnom Penh Municipal Police (PPMC) Department of Anti Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection (AHTJP), on March 27 under suspicion of corruption. Colonel Eam allegedly attempted to recruit an investigator from NGO partner [REDACTED] and two others within CNP's AHTJP Department to be informants in a criminal network protecting those involved in human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Eam Rattana was held for questioning in CNP's Major Crimes Division until his release on April 1. [REDACTED]

End Summary.

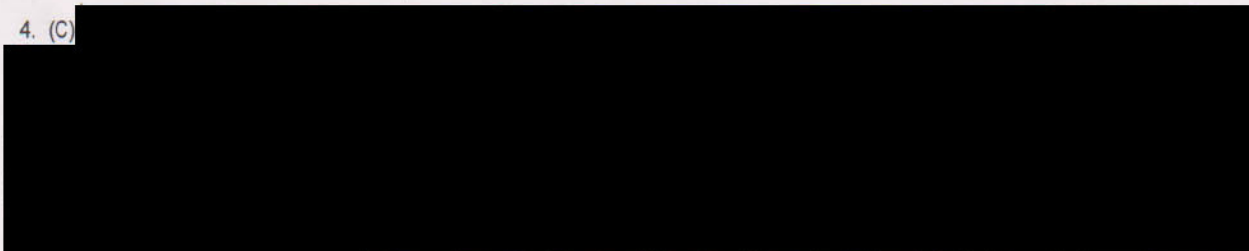
2. (SBU) On April 1, [REDACTED] briefed PoOff, USAID, LEGATT and RSO on the arrest, before it was made public. According to [REDACTED] Eam Rattana approached its investigator, a Cambodian national, in October 2010 after [REDACTED] fired another investigator it suspected of corruption. Colonel Eam invited the [REDACTED] investigator [REDACTED] to meet at a popular Khmer restaurant in Phnom Penh. During that meeting, [REDACTED] recorded their conversation, during which Eam Rattana seems to attempt to recruit him into a network of informants tipping off corrupt police and brothel owners to upcoming anti-TIP operations. In the recording, Colonel Eam indicates that the network includes informants within most anti-TIP NGOs operating in Cambodia as well as high-ranking RGC officials who remained unnamed.

3. (SBU) Police Colonel [REDACTED] approached [REDACTED] in March for assistance when he too was contacted by Eam Rattana. The CNP then worked with [REDACTED] to record and position undercover officers to observe a meeting between [REDACTED] and Colonel Eam, during which Colonel Eam invited Colonel [REDACTED] to join his network. While the CNP was working with [REDACTED] to build the case, Police Major [REDACTED] Colonel [REDACTED] subordinate, reported that he also had been approached by Eam Rattana. Colonel [REDACTED] brought this information to the head of the unit investigating corruption within the CNP, who subsequently brought it to the attention of the Commissioner General of the CNP, General Neth Savoeun. Colonel [REDACTED] also passed suspicions to [REDACTED] that two others within the national AHTJP Department, Police Brigadier General Ten Borany, Deputy Director of the AHTJP Department and Police Colonel Prum Vutha, Chief of Office of Juvenile Protection of the AHTJP Department, may also be involved. However, there is no concrete evidence against them, and

REVIEW AUTHORITY: [REDACTED], Senior Reviewer

they are not currently under investigation.

4. (C)



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believes that, if sufficient additional evidence is obtained, Police Commissioner General Neth Savoeun will recommend the case for prosecution. Colonel Eam was previously transferred from his position as the head of the PPMC Department of AHTJP in 2009 for suspicion of corruption related to human trafficking and sexual exploitation and, at the time of his arrest, was already in an administrative position. He has reportedly already hired two lawyers to assist him in defending against the current allegations against him.

5. (SBU) Previously, [redacted] had issued a letter to Mok Chito calling for Colonel Eam's prosecution based on admissions of criminal activity during his meeting with [redacted] staff investigator [redacted] (copy sent to EAP/MLS). [redacted] argues that Colonel Eam should be charged under the following articles which carry a maximum sentence of 7-15 years imprisonment: Penal Code Article 586: Taking Measures to Prevent Law Enforcement; Penal Code Article 594: Accepting Bribery; Penal Code Article 279: Bribes Given to and Employee; and Law on Anti-Corruption Article 35: Abuse of Power. After meeting with Mok Chito, [redacted] said it was more positive about how the case is proceeding than its previous letter indicated.

6. (C) COMMENT. This case is the latest indication of a RGC stance against corruption in the law enforcement community, and perhaps beyond. [redacted] speaks volumes about the protection individual officers expect from and within their own organization and illustrates how far the RGC and CNP have to go in rooting out corruption. At least thus far, police action like this is a step in the right direction. End Comment.

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Signature: [redacted]

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