The Overseas Press Club of Cambodia
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PRESS RELEASE
OPCC CONCERNED AT ARREST OF PUBLISHER IN MYANMAR
14 February 2011

PHNOM PENH – The Overseas Press Club of Cambodia (OPCC) is concerned at the arrest of Australian national Ross Dunkley in Myanmar late last week. Dunkley publishes the Phnom Penh Post newspaper in Cambodia as well as the Myanmar Times in Myanmar.

A statement from the Phnom Penh Post said Dunkley was held on suspicion of violating Myanmar's immigration laws after returning to the country from a business trip abroad.

The chairman of Post Media Limited, David Armstrong, said the arrest was linked to a business dispute between Dunkley and his Myanmar business partner – who is a member of the ruling party – concerning "ownership issues and senior leadership roles".

Post Media Limited publishes the Phnom Penh Post newspaper.

Dunkley is currently being held at Yangon's notorious Insein Prison ahead of his trial on February 24, 2011. Conditions at the top-security prison are appalling – with credible reports of overcrowding, disease and beatings.

The OPCC sees no reason to imprison Dunkley ahead of his trial, and is concerned that his arrest is an abuse of the law in order to resolve a business dispute.

The OPCC is further concerned that Dunkley's arrest is in line with a trend of increasing authoritarianism in some countries in the region and efforts to circumscribe hard-won press freedoms.

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The Overseas Press Club of Cambodia is a non-profit organization that aims to promote the professional interests of foreign correspondents and journalists who work in Cambodia. It also fosters debate about issues that affect the country. Members include international correspondents, foreign and Cambodian journalists working within local media, and those of the general public who are actively interested in news-related events and the efforts of the Club.