



The Overseas Press Club of Cambodia
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PRESS RELEASE – MR GO TAKAYAMA
6 December 2010

PHNOM PENH – The Overseas Press Club of Cambodia (OPCC) is very concerned at the November 23 arrest of photojournalist Go Takayama and the filing against him of pornography charges.

The OPCC urges an open and transparent trial process to better determine the nature of the allegedly illegal photos taken by Mr Takayama during the Angkor Film Festival.

The OPCC is also concerned with the wording of the law by which Mr Takayama is charged. The definition of pornography as imagery that “stimulates sexual desire” opens the law to wide interpretation that could be used improperly or erroneously in the case of photojournalism, art or photography.

If statements by the organizers of the festival are accurate – that Mr Takayama was indeed mistakenly accused – then the authorities should immediately release him and drop all charges against him.

The OPCC would urge the disclosure of relevant information concerning the case, including 78 allegedly offending photographs, to the public.

While international attention is focused on Mr Takayama, the OPCC is also concerned that the married couple who were the subjects of his photography remain in detention.

The OPCC similarly urges an open and transparent process for the Cambodian nationals involved and expects that the highest standards of justice will apply equally to all three individuals.

As a matter of principle, journalists, photographers and members of the media ought not be unjustly accused, harassed or arrested for going about the course of their professional duties.

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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.