



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

PHNOM PENH – The Overseas Press Club of Cambodia (OPCC) welcomes today’s decision by the Siem Reap court to release photographer Go Takayama and the Cambodian couple who appeared in images he took as a participant at the Angkor Photo Festival.

Go Takayama appeared in court earlier Tuesday on charges of producing pornography.

It seems that the court applied the spirit of the law rather than just the letter when assessing the evidence against Mr Takayama, and the OPCC is glad of that application.

However although the OPCC welcomes the acquittal and release of all three people involved, it remains concerned that the wording of the law defining pornography as imagery that “stimulates sexual desire” allows it to be used improperly or erroneously in the case of photojournalism, art or photography.

To avoid a similar situation, the OPCC would encourage improved training of law enforcement authorities in the proper implementation of the law’s anti-trafficking provisions to preclude a repetition of this situation in future.

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.