



September 2017

## Take action for Tep Vanny

### Cambodia

**Population:** 15.8 million

**Capital:** Phnom Penh

**Language:** Khmer

**Question:** Cambodia has a tropical climate. What do we mean by 'tropical'?



Map data ©2017 Google

### TEP'S STORY



Tep Vanny lives in Phnom Penh - the capital city of Cambodia. The area of Phnom Penh that Tep Vanny grew up in has the city's largest lake. Surrounding the lake were people's homes, restaurants and businesses.

Ten years ago, the Cambodian government sold the lake and surrounding land to a private company. This has led to thousands of families being forced to leave their homes so that the private company could fill the lake with sand and build a tourist area.

Tep has been standing up for her community's rights by demanding that they are allowed to stay and live in the area.

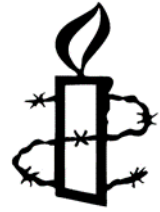
The Cambodian authorities do not want Tep to take action against them. They have harassed and been violent towards her. However, Tep remains determined to get justice. She has become a symbol of peaceful activism in Cambodia.

Last year Tep was arrested after campaigning for the release of five other people, who have been put in prison for standing up for their human rights.

The lake has been filled in with sand and construction work is underway.

Tep is still in prison and the Cambodian authorities are trying hard to keep her in prison. This sends a message to other human rights defenders and activists that they are not safe to stand up for themselves and others.

# Right in the Spotlight



## ARTICLE 20

**“We all have the right to meet our friends and to work together in peace to defend our rights...”**

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights Simplified Version*

### TALKING POINTS

- Tep and her community have had to leave their homes – how do you think they feel?
- Do you think that Tep and her community have been treated fairly? Why/why not?
- Why do you think the government has leased the lake for construction and development?
- What do you think the government should have done?



*It is clear that the authorities are using the courts to lock me up, silence my freedom of expression and break my spirit. They want to stop me from advocating and seeking a solution for the remaining people from Boeung Kak Lake as well as other campaigns to demand justice in our society.*

- Tep Vanny

# Take Action!



We take action for people all over the world, like Tep, who have had their rights taken away from them. We do this through solidarity actions and appeal actions.

**What does solidarity action mean?** Solidarity actions are sent to the people who have had their human rights taken away, and to their family and friends, to let them know that people are supporting them in their struggle for justice.



## Take solidarity action – Get creative!

Make a paper bird or draw a picture of a bird – maybe this could be a spot-billed duck, grey heron, or blue-eared kingfisher, all of which you can find near lakes in Cambodia.

Tell Tep about a body of water you like to visit (e.g. the sea, a lake, a pond), tell her you agree it is important to protect people's homes, and that you hope she is freed from prison soon.

We are sending your messages of solidarity to Tep and hope that this will give her some warmth and strength. We want her to know that we care about her and her cause, to try to encourage her to keep fighting for fairness for herself and the Boeung Kak lake community.



**What does appeal action mean?** Appeal actions are to make people in power sit up and take notice of a cause that you care about. Amnesty is made up of ordinary people across the world standing up for humanity and human rights. Your voice helps to ensure that when we speak, governments listen.

## Take appeal action

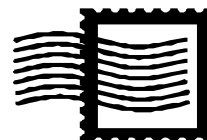
We are writing appeal letters to the Prime Minister of Cambodia. We want him to tell the government to release Tep Vanny, and grant Tep Vanny an audience to discuss the issues faced by the Boeung Kak community.

*Dear Prime Minister Hun Sen,*

*Tell him about Tep's case.*

*Urge him to release Tep and allow her to exercise her right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.*

*Urge him to speak with her and to speak out publicly in support of Tep and the Boeung Kak community.*



### CAN I?



Send a religious card or message



Mention Amnesty International



Include my full name and address.  
(You can add your first name if you wish.)



**Send your letters and cards to us** and we will forward them on:

Alice Sims  
Human Rights Education Unit  
Freepost RLUU-XXEY-CTEE  
Amnesty International  
17-25 New Inn Yard  
London EC2A 3EA

Don't forget to include your name and the name of your school with your cards and letters (but not on the cards themselves).



# **Junior Urgent Action Cover Letter**

**Please include this with any items you submit**

Name of teacher/guardian submitting these items: .....

Are you a: ☐ Teacher  
☐ Parent

Email: .....

School name: .....

School address: .....

Home address: .....

Number of items included in this envelope: .....

**Please can you tell us the following?**

How many young people did you use these resources with? .....

If a teacher, which year groups did you use these resources with? .....

How would you rate the quality of these resources? (Tick one box)

☐ 5 excellent      ☐ 4      ☐ 3      ☐ 2      ☐ 1 poor

Any other comments? .....

.....

☐ Tick if you would like to join our Teachrights e-newsletter which is a great way to receive info on future educational packs.

☐ I would like to receive email updates about the full range of Amnesty's work and other ways to support them.

If at any time you prefer not to receive updates from Amnesty, please email [sct@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:sct@amnesty.org.uk) specifying which updates you do not wish to receive. We care about your details and we will never share your phone number or email address. For more information about how Amnesty processes personal data, see our privacy policy at [www.amnesty.org.uk/privacy](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/privacy)

**Please post to:**

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