

LAOS

# OCTOBER PROTESTORS

WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL 

## 20-year sentence for political protest

Student protesters Thongpaseuth Keuakoun and Seng-Aloun Phengphanh are serving 20-year prison sentences for taking part in a political demonstration.

On 26 October 1999, they were with a group of around 30 members of the Lao Students Movement for Democracy. As the group attempted to unfurl posters calling for political, social and economic change, they were surrounded by the police and arrested. Among them was Khamphouvieng Sisaath, who subsequently died of heat exhaustion after being tied spread-eagle to a post in the prison yard and left in the hot sun for several hours.

Thongpaseuth and Seng-Aloun are being held in Samkhe prison, just outside the capital, Vientiane. Conditions are brutal, with poor medical care and food. Prisoners are reportedly given near-impossible tasks, and harshly punished if they fail to complete them.

### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Thongpaseuth Keuakoun/Seng-Aloun Phengphanh  
Samkhe Prison  
Vientiane  
Lao People's Democratic Republic

- **Language:** English, Lao or your own language
- **Suggested message:** We are thinking of you and hope you will re-join your family soon.

### CAN I

- × Send a religious card or message?
- × Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- × Include my name and address?

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Urge Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay Kommasith to release Thongpaseuth Keuakoun and Seng-Aloun Phengphanh.**

**Write to:** Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay Kommasith  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
23 Singha Road  
Vientiane  
Lao People's Democratic Republic

**Email:** cabinet@mofa.gov.la

**Fax:** +856 21 414009

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

**In your letter:** Call on him to release Thongpaseuth and Seng-Aloun. Urge him to provide clear information about the charges against them, and ensure they are treated humanely pending their release. Call on him to independently investigate the death of Khamphouvieng Sisaath and hold those responsible to account. Demand he ensures Laos upholds its human rights obligations as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.



Seng-Aloun Phengphanh



Thongpaseuth Keuakoun

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