

Group Says Drug Detention Centers Should Be Shut Down

BY ZSOMBOR PETER
 AND KUCH NAREN
 THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Cambodia should shut down its much criticized drug detention centers due to the abusive treatment detainees continue to receive inside, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a new report yesterday. A government official dismissed the criticism, saying that the centers are here to stay, while others said the government was seeking alternatives such as voluntary treatment programs.

The American rights group released a scathing report of Cambodia's drug centers in 2010, accusing the government-run facilities of regularly beating and sexually abusing those in detention while offering them military-style drills in place of genuine treatment. In its latest brief, HRW repeated its call on Cambodia, China, Laos and Vietnam to shutter the centers.

"Drug detention centers jeopardize the health and human rights of detainees. They are ineffective, abusive and are detaining people in violation of international law," Joe Amon, the group's director of health and human rights, said in a statement.

"There are proven ways to address drug dependency consistent with human rights, but beating, forced labor and humiliation are not among them," he added. "These centers need to be closed, and voluntary, effective drug treatment provided in their place."

In its 2010 report, HRW said about 2,000 Cambodians went

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Lanh Samoeurn
 The Cambodia Daily's general manager Nuon So Thero, left, presents The Daily's archives on microfilm to Khlot Vibolla, director of the National Library of Cambodia. Annie Lao-Brauner, a French-Cambodian based in Hong Kong, donated the microfilm to the National Library.

Syria's Largest City Rocked By Bombings

BY BABAK DEHGHANPISHEH
 THE WASHINGTON POST

BEIRUT - Syrian warplanes bombed the nation's largest city Tuesday, activists said, a dramatic escalation in the 16-month uprising and a stark sign of the government's growing desperation as it tries to reverse the recent momentum of rebel forces.

Aleppo, like Damascus, the Syrian capital, had long been seen as a stronghold of support for President Bashar al-Assad. But the unrest has spread to the city, Syria's commercial capital, in recent days, adding to a sense that the regime is losing control after the assassinations last week of four of its top security officials in a bombing.

Tuesday's aerial bombing of Aleppo, the first of its kind in the conflict, was part of a coordinated assault by government forces that included heavy artillery shelling and rockets launched from military helicopters. The attacks targeted Tariq Bab, a residential area east of Aleppo, as well as the neighborhoods of Sakhour and Masaken Hanano in Aleppo, according to the Local Coordination Committees, an activist network.

Although helicopter gunships have been used in the past, the government's decision to deploy fixed-wing aircraft appeared to be

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Waistlines Expand During Ramadan Fasting

BY CLARE FLEISHMAN
 LOS ANGELES TIMES

CAIRO - The sun slips beyond the Nile and the fast is broken. As they have done for centuries during the holy month of Ramadan, Egyptians hurry home through the twilight to eat and drink after a long, scorching day.

Fasting renews the spirit but it often does little to trim the waistline. What happens between dusk and dawn can endanger health: Feasting, inactivity and disrupted sleep—Muslims often stay up until 4 a.m. to eat a last meal before sunrise—can add weight in a

population already struggling with one of the highest obesity rates in the world.

"Unfortunately, many Muslim patients, and Muslims in general, tend to overeat upon breaking their fast, and usually the meal involves heavy, fatty foods that are high in calories," Dr. Al Madani, head of Emirates Diabetes Society, told TradeArabia, an online news site.

The breaking of the fast usually begins with fresh dates and lots of water, followed by soups and juices, including a popular one made from berries and topped with pine nuts. Soon after evening

prayers, a large meal called "iftar" is shared. Poor people are not left out: They dine under tents called "God's tables," which are donated by the wealthy and dot the neighborhoods of this sprawling, ancient city.

The feasting continues after dinner as Egyptians visit with family and friends. Special desserts such as creamy "konafa" and syrupy "basboussa" are served throughout the night. The next meal, or "sohour," comes just before morning prayers; there are more sweets to supply fuel through the

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through 11 such centers a year. The U.N. also said in March that more than 300,000 people passed through these centers across Southeast Asia and issued its own call for the host governments to shut them down.

Although Cambodian officials have talked about shutting down some of the centers, they have also defended their approach, even though relapse rates among detainees are believed to approach 100 percent.

Meas Vyrih, deputy secretary-general of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), said yesterday that the centers would stay open.

"Of course it [the government] cannot shut down the drug rehabilitation centers. Why do they just always recommend closure? Do they want the drug users walking around?" he said. "I think Human Rights Watch should build a drug center by itself to satisfy its demands."

Mr. Vyrih said the government currently has 10 centers running and that long-delayed plans to build yet another in Preah Sihanouk province with Vietnamese funds were still on.

Graham Shaw, a drug use and treatment expert for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Cambodia, said he was not aware of any improvements at the centers since HRW came out with its 2010 report.

But he said the government was also pushing ahead with a voluntary, community-based approach to treatment in northern Cambodia of the sort the centers' critics have long been advocating for.

When authorities in Stung Treng province called NACD chairman Ke Kim Yan to open a new center, Mr. Shaw said the chairman turned them down and advised them to adopt a community-based program instead.

"Having said that, none of the existing centers have closed, but at least no new ones have opened," said Mr. Shaw, who with the WHO recently started providing training to the voluntary program, which over the past year has expanded from Banteay Meanchey province to Stung Treng and Battambang.

With funding from both the Health Ministry and the U.N., the program trains staff at public hospitals and clinics to counsel drug users, prescribe the appropriate medication and refer them to additional services.

In Banteay Meanchey, the program has served about 600 patients

already and is in the process of expanding from 10 clinics to 15, said Chhum Vannarith, the province's deputy governor and the former director of its health department.

"Mostly, we focus on counseling and treatment with medicine. Parents and relatives of drug users are well aware of this program because we have an anti-drug mission from the grassroots to the upper levels," he said. "It is a good program to help treat drug users instead of taking them to detention."

During a visit to Cambodia earlier this week, the regional representative of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Gary Lewis, called the program an "excellent example" and praised the NACD for going against the grain.

"Ke Kim Yan is taking a political gamble on this because in this region there is a lot of indigenous support for the compulsory approach, and I think that he's showing political courage in pushing for something that is based on evidence but is counterintuitive to many citizens," he said.

Olivier Lermet, the UNODC's country manager, said the U.N. was actually at pains to help scale up the community-based program as quickly as the government would like. Despite the gradual expansion, he said, "the coverage remains much too low in order to reach the critical size and trigger a long lasting change for people who use drugs."

(Additional reporting by Simon Lewis)

FIFA Trains Cambodian Female Football Coaches

Twenty-five Cambodian female football coaches are participating in training sessions with instructors from FIFA, the international football governing body, in Phnom Penh this week, the Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC) announced Tuesday. The sessions, which began on Monday and will last until Saturday, aim to help strengthen Cambodia's football program by training provincial coaches in professional techniques. "It's about theory and practice, so the trainees learn professional techniques from the FIFA instructors that they can pass on to girls across Cambodia," said May Tola, FFC's deputy secretary. "It's a great training opportunity that enriches the women footballers' ability to become high-level, professional athletes." FIFA instructor Samuel Schweingruber from Switzerland said that the instructors are teaching the female coaches how to develop young players' skills by teaching them how to progress and by correcting their mistakes. (Len Leng)



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

BETTER
HEALTH
SERVICES

Better Health Services (BHS) is a USAID funded 5 year project designed to help support the Ministry of Health through increasing demand and equitable access to quality healthcare services in Cambodia. University Research Co. LLC was awarded the project by USAID in January 2009.

Senior Technical Officer - Maternal-Newborn Health/Family Planning

We are seeking an appropriately qualified local Cambodian national to fill the position of Senior Technical Officer - Maternal-Newborn Health/Family Planning to be based at our Phnom Penh Office. Under the supervision of the Maternal Newborn Health and Family Planning Program Leader, the successful candidate will be responsible for providing technical assistance activities in selected hospitals, in the fields of maternal/newborn health and family planning.

Duties will include:

- Under the program leader, lead URCs work in developing and strengthening the 6 month residency in obstetrics and gynaecology at NMCHC
- Fine-tune and implement the strategies for URC's work in this area
- Providing coaching to government staff mentoring residents in maternity/delivery and paediatric wards
- Facilitate the regular Clinical case review meetings for doctors and midwives at RHs
- Represent URC at provincial maternal death audit meetings,
- Help provide training to RH staff on MNH FP topics
- Co-facilitate the regular OD meetings for midwives from HC's and RH's
- Perform other tasks as required.

Requirements:

- Qualified doctor or midwife
- Minimum 5 years of work experience in maternal-newborn/FP health care
- Program planning and management experience
- Experience in training, mentoring and supervision
- Computer skills in Microsoft, email and internet
- Strong interpersonal skills; demonstrable ability to work well with people
- Proficiency in written and spoken English (and French desirable but not essential)

This is an important job opportunity for a person with clinical skills and MNH/FP program experience.

The application deadline is the 3rd August 2012. Interested candidates should send their application together with a covering letter to Mr. LAY Leangrun, Admin & HR Officer, through this e-mail address: hr-cambodia@urc-chs.com or submit a hard copy to URC at the 3rd & 4th floor, # 10, street 214, Sangkat Chey Chum Neas, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interview.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT, WWF-Cambodia

WWF, one of the world's largest independent conservation organizations, has a global network active in more than 100 countries. As part of the WWF Greater Mekong Program (GMP), WWF-Cambodia which manages a wide array of conservation projects in the forest, freshwater and species priority areas is seeking 1 **experienced and qualified candidate** for the below position:

Project Administrative Assistant, Eastern Plains Landscape, bases in Mondulkiri Province, WWF-Cambodia

The Project Administrative Assistant Responsible for the administrative needs and financial transactions for the efficient functioning of the EPL project.

Qualifications & Experience:

- University degree of Business Administration or other related degrees
- At least two years experience in administration management
- Thorough understanding of administrative issues
- Proficiency in MS Office (MS Access in an advantage)
- Fluency in written and spoken English and Khmer

Please find detail about major responsibilities in JD.

The Salary Range for this position is from \$286 to \$429 per month.

Please send your CV with three references and cover letter to WWF Cambodia, #21, Street 322, Sangkat Beoung Keng Kang I, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh. Email Address: jobwwfcam@wwfgreatermekong.org

Closing date for applications: 10 August 2012 by 05.30 pm. Please visit the website <http://www.panda.org/cambodia> for more information and detailed JD. Only Short listed candidates will be notified. **Previous applicants do not need to re-apply.**