

Land Grabbing - Spoliation

Kampot Forced Eviction

RCAF Brigade 31 led an armed group to forcefully evict 300 families in Ta Ken commune, Chhuk district, Kampot.



Brigade 31 has set up several barricades on public roads that have been used to seal off the area during the violent eviction of villagers; LICADHO was denied access to the eviction site for most of the day while smoke could be seen from burning houses half a kilometer away.



Villagers' possessions and animals strewn around burning cottages; villagers reported armed forces looted belongings, including chickens, during the 2-day-long forced eviction.



LICADHO briefly gained access to site on first night of eviction and saw dozens of freshly-burnt houses while families, including children, were sleeping next to still-smoking ashes.



A mother holding her young child standing next to their destroyed shack; while some families were new-comers to the area, others had settled years ago and were farming rice, bananas, mangos, etc.



The forced eviction was carried out by a mixed group of about 100 RCAF Brigade 31 soldiers, forestry officers, environment officers, police and military police. Most of them were armed with handguns or AK-47s.



When LICADHO was officially allowed to enter the area in the late afternoon on the second day of the eviction, military soldiers had been ordered out of the site; the few remaining soldiers disappeared into surrounding forest or quickly removed their military shirts as NGOs arrived.



This man and his son leaving their village; they are among the few families who were allowed to properly dismantle their home.