

## **Prevention, Legal and Educational Reform Program 2009**

### **Notification and Referral System- \$ 2,400**

- CASC maintains a 24/7 acid burn hotline for victims, their friends and family, and witnesses. The caller receives critical medical advice. An ambulance equipped with oxygen and other medical supplies is on standby in cases of emergency.  
**\$800**
- In the coming months, CASC will be implementing further provincial visits, focusing on contact with local health care providers. The aim of these visits is to create a more effective notification and referral system. Also, educational materials outlining first aid and CASC services will be distributed.  
**\$1,300**
- An on-call driver and nurse is available 24/7 for immediate response to emergency calls.  
**\$300**

### **Prevention Campaign/Education- \$ 2, 910.00**

- CASC has recently started advertising its services in Health Messenger magazine. This magazine is distributed free of charge to health care providers and provincial hospitals throughout Cambodia. Health Messenger is published quarterly and the CASC advertisement will address different issues each quarter. Some topics include: identifying acid and its danger and preventative measures. (Please see attached advertisement)  
**\$880**
- In conjunction with the Health Messenger advertisement, CASC will begin radio advertisements covering the same topics. CASC has selected the only AM radio station in Cambodia to broadcast these advertisements, as it has the widest coverage.  
**\$1,080**
- Brochures on prevention, first aid measures and CASC services are distributed around Phnom Penh and throughout the provinces.  
**\$300**
- Outreach programs will continue and enable CASC staff to communicate with survivors in rural areas whilst simultaneously educating villagers on the safe use of acid, the effect of acid burns, and the legal consequences of “acid attacks”.  
**\$500**

- Posters entitled “Stop acid violence” have been printed and distributed at events such as the MEDiCAM conference. (See below)  
**\$150**



**Legal Assistance- \$ 1, 300.00**

- CASC provides financial support for the processing of documents requested by legal aid providers such as police reports and other supporting documentation.  
**\$500**
- CASC has developed relationships with other organizations such as Licadho (a human rights organization) that provide legal advice to survivors. CASC monitors these interactions and aims to make sure cases are properly investigated.

CASC works with other organizations to provide a range of legal services extending beyond pressing charges against perpetrators. For example, we are currently working with AFESIP in a child trafficking case regarding a lady who was attacked with acid after witnessing a father trying to sell his daughter.

**\$300**

- CASC aims to provide as much support as possible to acid burn survivors at their trials. In June 2009, CASC staff, survivors and their families attended two court hearings in Kampot (see two articles below). Although the victim and her granddaughter did not survive the attack, it was beneficial for CASC staff and patients to attend the hearings and understand the court system. The victim's family were grateful for the support, and CASC survivors were also encouraged by the favourable outcome which had not been expected. One survivor even commented that after seeing the day's proceedings she had changed her mind and was considering pressing charges against her own perpetrator.

**\$500**

Phnom Penh Post article after day 1 of Kampot acid attack trial:

### **Accused stands trial over fatal Kampot acid attacks**



Written by Chrann Chamroeun

THURSDAY, 04 JUNE 2009

**Court hears that an ill-fated love triangle may have been the cause of the attack, which left a Kampot woman and her granddaughter dead.**

#### **ATTACKED BY ACID**

Since 1999, there have been at least 127 acid attacks reported in Cambodian newspapers, involving a total of 208 victims. At least nine of the victims died, with the remainder often left with severe injuries. Of the 208 victims, 112 of them were male and 96 female. The youngest was a 3-week-old baby, according to data from local rights group Licadho.

THE trial of a man accused of an acid attack that killed a Kampot woman and her granddaughter opened Wednesday, although two others accused of the crime are still on the run from authorities.

Mon Ton, 27, appeared in Kampot provincial court Wednesday, accused of the murder of Thom Saroeun, 46, and her 3-year-old granddaughter, Thai Srey Thim, in January 2008.

Yun Phally, a Kampot-based prison researcher for local rights group Licadho who was present at the hearing, said the accused denied the allegations against him, but court prosecutor Chum Samba upheld the charges.

The presiding judge, Pich Chhoeut, told the court the verdict will be handed down Tuesday.

Mom Ton's mother, wife of the O'Makak village Chief Mom Touch, and another unnamed relative are also wanted in connection with the case, which took place in Angkor Chey district's Dambok Kpos commune.

San Sou Dalen, a lawyer for the victims' family said they were requesting 30 million riels (US\$7,245) in compensation for the deaths and also to punish the fugitive suspects.

### **Police statement**

During the hearing, a clerk read out statements from a confession the accused's mother made at the provincial police station following the commission of the crime, Yun Phally said.

He said the clerk read parts of the interview in which the mother said the "acid attack was caused by a love triangle between her husband and the dead woman, who had a close relationship and made her jealous".

But Yun Phally added that Mom Touch has denied from the beginning that he was involved in an affair with the slain woman, although his wife and another relative have been on the run since the court issued arrest warrants.

Provincial Licadho coordinator Ngeth Soseng said there were still uncertainties relating to the case, and that there has been no official confirmation from the victim's family about whether a love triangle led to the deadly attack.

But he said Licadho had been informed that Thom Saroeun was the subject of a jealous hatred from the village chief's wife, who reportedly hired a man to kill her.

Ngeth Soseng said the would-be assassin informed his victim, and it was only later, once the woman lodged a complaint at the local police station, that she and her granddaughter were assaulted with acid.

"We couldn't ask any information from the woman [after the attack] because her condition was very serious and her granddaughter was also severely wounded," he said.

Court prosecutor Chum Samba declined to comment on the case pending Tuesday's verdict.

[Phnom Penh Post Article after day 2 of the trial:](#)



### **Kampot acid attackers guilty**

Written by Chrann Chamroeun

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2009

THE Kampot Provincial Court found three people guilty of premeditated murder on

Tuesday for the gruesome January 2008 acid attack that killed Thom Saroeun, 46, and her 3-year-old granddaughter, Thai Srey Thim.

Only one attacker, Mom Ton, 27, was in court, while two others - Mao Yan, described as the "mastermind", and Chok Heng - remain on the run and were convicted in absentia.

Presiding Judge Pich Chhoeut sentenced Mom Ton to 16 years in prison, while the Mao Yan and Chok Heng received 18 years and 16 years respectively.

The judge also ordered the three to pay 10 million riels (US\$2,412) in compensation.

Fueled by jealous rage, Mao Yan had Mom Ton, her son, and Chok Heng, her nephew, kill Thom Saroeun after Mao Yan became convinced the woman was having an affair with her husband, according to the rights group Licadho.

Yun Phally, a Kampot-based researcher for Licadho who was present at the court, said the decision "is very acceptable and it really gives a complete justice to the deceased victims and the living ones, although the compensation was not the 30 million riels that the victims requested."

The father of the murdered child, Sat Kunthea, told the Post, "I am very happy and accept the court's verdict, because it gives me justice, especially to convict the other two in absentia

After CASC sent staff members, survivors and their family members to day 1 of the trial in Kampot, Jason Barber of human rights group Licadho sent Dr. Gollogly this email:

Jim/Emma,

Thanks for sending the staff & survivors to the Kampot trial yesterday - that was great. The consensus of my colleagues and I is that the court was almost certainly planning to acquit the accused yesterday but, due to the strong turn out by Licadho and CASC to observe the trial, the judges hesitated. They decided to delay the verdict until June 9 (Tues next week). A lot will probably depend on how much (more) the perp's family has to offer the court before then. But it will be helpful if many observers turn out to watch the verdict next week too - the courts much prefer to take the money and give unjust verdicts when they think that no-one is watching (and in this case they'll be hoping that no-one will make the effort to go there from PP for the verdict). For that reason, it would be great if you could send your guys back down there for the verdict (8am on Tuesday morning, so they'd need to go down Monday afternoon). I'll be going down too with my colleagues.

BTW, I think it was great moral support for Sat Kunthea, the father of the dead child, that there were acid survivors present to watch the trial. I'd very much encourage that you send survivors (if they want to, of course) to other such trials in the future, too.

cheers,  
Jason

Survivors and CASC staff members at the trial

