



International
Commission
of Jurists

10/1 Soi Aree 2
Phaholyothin Road
Samsennai, Phayathai
Bangkok 10400
Thailand

t +66 2 61 98 477/478
f +66 2 61 98 479
www.icj.org

H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
23 Singha Road
Vientiane
Lao PDR

4 December 2014

Re: Updates on investigations of Sombath Somphone's case

Dear Sir,

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) is an international organization that is dedicated to the rule of law and the protection and promotion of human rights throughout the world.

As you may be aware, the ICJ has been following closely the investigation of the disappearance of Sombath Somphone, who has not been seen since 15 December 2012.

Since Mr. Sombath Somphone's disappearance, the Laotian police have issued only three police investigation reports publicly. The most recent investigation report was released on 8 June 2013, while the other two reports were released on 11 January 2013 and 2 March 2013. In addition to these reports, the Laotian Government released four additional formal statements between 2012 and 2014, which provided points of clarification on the case.

As nearly two years have passed since Sombath Somphone's disappearance, and it has been more than 15 months since the last police investigation report, we write to request an updated progress report on the status of the investigation.

At a minimum, an update on the status of the investigation should be provided to Ms Ng Shui Meng, the wife of Sombath Somphone. As she herself is a victim of what may be an enforced disappearance, she is entitled, under international law, to information including regular updates on the progress of the investigation.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Zarifi', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sam Zarifi

Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific
International Commission of Jurists