

Second Appeal to the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Ng Shui Meng

Wife of Sombath Somphone

This is my second appeal to the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to release information or results of investigation of the disappearance of my husband Sombath Somphone on the evening of 15 December 2012.

Today is the 18th day since my husband's disappearance and I have been contacted only once by the Municipality Police to provide basic information about myself and my husband's family background and his work history. Surely, given the CCTV footages which clearly showed my husband being stopped at the police post on KM 3 Thadeua Road and subsequent footages of his jeep being driven away, and people being taken away in a truck with flashing lights at the said police post, there are enough leads for the police to trace the whereabouts of my husband's jeep, identify the license plate to the truck and question the people concerned at the scene that evening, and find my husband's whereabouts. Why has such results of investigation not been released to me. Our family badly needs to know this information and the progress of the police investigation.

Such complete lack of any news by the authorities, apart from a government statement released on 20 December, stating that the government will be seriously investigating Sombath's disappearance and that Sombath could have been "kidnapped", is very difficult to comprehend and for me and my family to bear.

Sombath Somphone is a Lao citizen with rights under the Lao Constitution and the Lao laws. He has the right to be protected by the State. If Sombath has committed a crime, he should be charged under the Law of the land and be protected under due processes of the Law. The absence of any information or progress of the investigation is causing me and my family tremendous stress and agony.

My husband is also in need of daily medication for his medical condition. Without such medication, his condition may worsen and his health could be severely compromised.

I therefore urge the Lao Government to quickly release information of the investigation and of his whereabouts, and if he is in the custody of the State, grant me and the family rights of visitation.

Respectfully yours

Ng Shui Meng