

Journalist in Poipet arrested by military police while covering news

An online journalist from Hang Samnang Post News in Poipet city in Banteay Meanchey province was physically assaulted and arrested by military police while covering a crackdown by the authorities on “anarchic activities” on June 27.

When contacted by CamboJA on June 28, Poipet military police said it was not a “case of arrest”, rather they “wanted to ensure that the journalist did not interfere in their work” as he “was not carrying his press card” to indicate that he was tasked to cover news.

Relating the incident on the early morning of June 27, the journalist said he had gone to cover the police crackdown on anarchic activities, which was allegedly started by a group of Indonesians living in Poipet.

While he was taking photos, a police officer came up to him and seized his smartphone. He tried to fight back and asked for his phone back but was arrested and sent to the military police station.

In a picture viewed by CamboJA, the journalist was seen without a shirt and forced to lie on the ground with his hands tied with a rope. He stressed that he did not commit any wrongdoing but was still treated as a criminal.

The journalist said he was released three hours later after being asked to sign an agreement not to write about the arrest in the media.