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# WHO KILLED CHEA VICHEA?

the guardian

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**Cambodian government suppressing film about murder, says director**

June 2010: Bradley Cox accuses authorities of blocking screenings of investigative documentary 'Who Killed Chea Vichea'?

THE INDEPENDENT



**Cambodia bans film about union leader's killing**

The director of 'Who Killed Chea Vichea?', a documentary about the 2004 slaying of the Cambodian union leader, is asserting that the Cambodian government has banned screenings of the film.

U.S. filmmaker Bradley Cox says the government has been preventing screenings of his film for the past month in the first banning of a politically charged film since the 1990s.

The movie screened at the recently wrapped Cannes market and has been playing the festival circuit for the past two years. It's been named to Amnesty Intl's Top Ten Movies That Matter list.

Cox says trade unions attempted to hold the film's Cambodian premiere at the location where Vichea was killed but police raised the scene, leading to a declaration by the Cambodian government that the film is an illegal import.

The movie makes the case that the government was allegedly complicit in the slaying and that police framed two innocent men for the killing.

"It's not surprising that the government would quickly move to suppress the film," Cox tells Variety. "Chea Vichea was a hero to many because he dared to speak up for the little guy. In a country run on fear, this is a rare thing and in the end, Vichea paid the price for it."

Doc was produced by Rich Garella and Jeffrey Saunders. Garella lived in Cambodia for most of 1995-2002, was managing editor of the Cambodia Daily and later worked as press secretary for Cambodia's main opposition party.

Contact Dave McNary at dave.mcnaury@variety.com.

VARIETY International

**Cambodia vs. 'Chea'**  
Director claims gov is preventing screenings of pic

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**Labour activist documentary banned in Cambodia**

Print - Email

Updated: June 9, 2010 19:20:15

Authorities in Cambodia are refusing to allow a film about the murder of a prominent trade union official to be screened in the country. The documentary "Who Killed Chea Vichea?" questions whether or not the two men charged with his death were responsible, or if they were framed.

Presenter: Stephanie March  
Speakers: Bradley Cox, director of

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亚洲电影资讯  
FILM BUSINESS ASIA

June 8, 2010 07:00 AM (GMT+8)

**Cambodia halts Chea Vichea screening**

**Who Killed Chea Vichea?**  
Investigative movie banned

in this country, if you know too much, you can die.

By Patrick Fraser  
Tue, 06 June 2010 07:47 AM (GMT+8)

**Distribution News**

The Cambodian government is reported to have blocked the screening of Who Killed Chea Vichea, an American-made documentary about the 2004 slaying of a Cambodian trade union leader.

A screening of the film in Cambodia last month was halted by Cox.

"The police raided the scene, and dismantled and seized" Cambodia government, led by Prime Minister Hun Sen, a film an illegal import and announced that it intends to go "whenever they are held," said Cox in a statement.

"This is what governments do when they don't want their facts and when they can't afford to show weakness, even Cambodia, one of the film's producers at Loud Mouth Film.

The film attempts to reconstruct a police plot that framed two innocent men for the slaying of Vichea, who was killed in 2004. Cox describes his film as the "most important film of the world's most important moment."

The film was screened at the Cannes Independent Film Festival, the 2004 assessment of the film's impact on Cambodia's most prominent union leader, Chea Vichea, who devoted his life to improve working conditions and wages for Cambodia's 200,000 garment workers. The film was also named one of Amnesty International's "Top Ten Movies That Matter."

Trade unions attempted to show "Who Killed Chea Vichea?" at the very location where the union leader was murdered last month in honor of International Labor Day, but Cambodia police raised the scene and dismantled the scene. The government of Prime Minister Hun Sen banned the film an illegal import and will not permit a screening of the film "whenever they are held." The film implicates the government and police officials in Vichea's murder, which was the subject of a screen.

Cox "covering the film" media contributed his own words summarized in 2010.

REUTERS

**Cambodia bans film about trade union leader Chea Vichea**

FRANCE PRES  
Tue Jun 8, 2010  
2:20pm (GMT+8)

**Related News**

Cambodians don't see film about union leader's killing  
June 8, 2010  
Aid donors urged to get tough on Cambodia over land  
Thu, 06 June 2010

(Reuters) - The Cambodian government has banned a documentary about the unsolved 2004 assassination of influential trade union leader Chea Vichea, according to the film's U.S. director Bradley Cox.

DR. LUREFUEL

Cox said the government has blocked any screenings of "Who Killed Chea Vichea?" over the past month - the first banning of a politically charged film since the 1990s in Cambodia which is widely criticized for restrictions on political freedoms.

The movie had its European premiere at the Cannes Independent Film Festival last month and has been put by Amnesty International's on its list of the Top Ten Movies That Matter.

Cox said trade unions tried to show the movie on May 10 at the spot where Vichea was killed to mark International Labor Day but police raised the location, leading to a declaration by the government, led by Prime Minister Hun Sen, that the movie was an illegal import.

"This is what governments do when they don't want their own people to know the truth and

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Der Mörder ist nicht der Gärtner

Beschlagnahmte Leinwand: Wie die kambodschanische Regierung versucht, einen kritischen Dokumentarfilm von Bradley Cox zu unterdrücken

SCREEN DAILY

**Film-makers behind banned Cambodia doc vow to fight on**

8 June, 2010 | By Jeremy Kar

The producer of a documentary banned by the Cambodian government is meeting with foreign sales agents and festival chiefs in a bid to give the film the widest possible exposure.

Rich Garella remained defiant after it emerged this week that Prime Minister Hun Sen declared who killed Chea Vichea? an illegal import. Bradley Cox's documentary investigates the 2004 assassination of labour leader Vichea.

"We're going to do what we can to get it shown in as many places and festivals as possible," Garella said. "This is a human rights issue. People should have access to freedom of information."

Garella said he expected the film to perform strongly in France, Australia and Japan, all of which have historical ties to Cambodia.

"The more traction it gets in the rest of the world, the harder it will be for the government to keep the Cambodian people from seeing it," Garella said.

US markets such as Long Beach, Philadelphia and Washington DC contain sizeable Cambodian populations and to the end Garella and the film-makers are submitting to festivals and hoping for a domestic broadcast deal.

Who Killed Chea Vichea? received its European premiere at the Cannes Independent Film Festival last month and has been hailed by Amnesty International as one of the human rights advocacy group's Top Ten Movies That Matter.

Who Killed Chea Vichea? is a co-production by Loud Mouth Films and Independent Television Service.

de Volkskrant

**'De echte moordenaar is al lang het zwijgen opgelegd'**

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## The Phnom Penh Post

CAMBODIA'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD  
CAMBODIA'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

**Who censored Chea Vichea?**  
FRIDAY, 07 MAY 2010 15:02 | MEAD SCHOENHA

**Government's various reasons for blocking screenings has observers puzzled**

An attempt to show a controversial documentary exploring the death of union leader Chea Vichea was quickly quashed last week, but some observers are questioning the multitude of reasons authorities have offered for banning public screenings of the film.

Various government departments weighed in when organizers announced plans to show Who Killed Chea Vichea? near the site where the influential union leader was gunned down in 2004.

Information Minister Khieu Kanharith initially said the government would have no "political objections" to the screening.

But Phnom Penh officials then demanded that organizers obtain approval from "relevant ministries" that was never granted.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said the foreign-produced film had been "illegally imported." And the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts stated that it must approve all films screened in Cambodia.

HOLLYWOOD-COM

**Cambodian leaders ban trade union hero's murder documentary**

By MEM/AM | 6 May 2010 07:20

Who Killed Chea Vichea? had its European premiere at the Cannes Independent Film Festival last month (May 10) and was named one of Amnesty International's Top 10 Movies That Matter.

But the film won't be shown in Vichea's native Cambodia.

Trade union leaders attempted to hold the film's Cambodian premiere at the very location where Vichea was murdered, but police raised the site and seized footage.

Cambodian leader Prime Minister Hun Sen has since demanded the provocative film an illegal import, and insists all screenings will be prevented.

Director Cox spent much of the past decade piecing the movie together and he is currently receiving treatment for a gunshot wound in Bangkok, where he investigated Vichea's murder.

Cox's documentary reconstructs a police plot that framed two innocent men who were sentenced to 20 years each. Several of the witnesses who appear in the film have fled the country or gone into hiding for safety reasons. The film has led to the reopening of the murder case and the Supreme Court provisionally released the two men wrongly accused of Vichea's murder last year (2009).