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Cambodian Center for Human Rights

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Cambodian Government is drafting the first ever Cyber Law

According to today's article in *The Phnom Penh Post* entitled 'The "ill-willed spark cyber law: officials', the Royal Government of Cambodia is drafting its first cyber law, a move designed to prevent "ill-willed groups or individuals" from spreading false information, government officials said yesterday. Press and Quick Reaction Unit Spokesman Ek Tha said the law is not intended to restrict media, but to ensure that the "common interest is protected." "The government right now is drafting the first-ever cyber law, given the mushrooming of...modern technology like Twitter and You Tube and email and all sorts of technology activity," Ek Tha said.

An article posted to the Press and Quick Reaction Unit's website yesterday suggested that the cyber law had been discussed during a meeting on Tuesday between Deputy Prime Minister Sok An and EU Ambassador Jean-Francois Cautain. According to the article, Mr Sok An illustrated the need for a cyber law by pointing out that rumors had been circulated via text-message of violent clashes near the Cambodia-Japan Friendship Bridge between supporters of the Cambodian People Party (CPP) and the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP), but that these rumors were in fact "totally false". Mr Sok An added that "People use modern technology to spread false information, so we need a law to regulate them."

In February 2011, *The Phnom Penh Post* published the minutes of a government meeting at which the Minister for Posts and Telecommunications requested that internet service providers, including Metfone and Ezeecom, block the KI-Media blog - an opposition website that posts content often highly critical of government officials.

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