



**Q. Is the problem with rape increasing?**

**Kimunn:** Yes. There are problems with both child rape and trafficking in our country. The trafficking includes both girls and boys. Reports have said that a third of those in prostitution in Cambodia are less than 18 years of age.

**There is data that says that rape cases are increasing.** In the number of cases investigated and detained in 2002-2005 by police for child protection and against human trafficking, rape was the peak of crime - 75%, followed by trafficking and sexual trafficking and immorality on children respectively. In 2002-2005 1047 rape cases were arrested and detained. This number has increased from 25 in 2001.



The previous generation, our parents' generation, says that they never heard about child rape or stories about a father raping his daughter when they were young. We don't know if that before it didn't exist or if victims didn't have the possibility to make a complaint. Now there is more information, so there people will complain to the police or authorities when they hear about these cases. This could be family members or neighbours.

**Q. Are there other reasons as well?**

**Kimunn:** Yes. There are many problems that are because of the war and the Pol Pot regime. Many of our parents' generation didn't have the opportunity for an education – the Pol Pot regime was against that. Instead young people had to work in the children's camps. That experience means that many people do not think about their future or their family – they just think about what they want to do know. There has been a lot of influence from foreign culture. Porn video is really common – lots of people watch it. I think that can be a cause for rape against children. It puts the idea in people's mind – they think that children will be easy to lobby for sex.

**Q. Tell me a bit about the “Peaceful Family” Project.**

**Kimunn:** There are a lot of difficulties in families, particularly in rural areas. Domestic violence is really high. It seems like husbands and wives do not understand each other very well. They can get very discouraged, because of the poverty. So then they maybe just drink or play cards. Or the lottery – that is really popular.

And so when there are disputes in the family, between husband and wife, the main target for their anger, is children. This can be either physical abuse or cursing.

So we wanted to do a project to encourage families to not be so violent and to build peace in the family. **We organized it so that everyone works together.**

**Q. Where is the project located?**

**Kimunn:** We decided to do the project in three villages in Krok district. The reason for choosing these places is because of our baseline research that was conducted by the children and youth clubs. They interviewed 229 children and found that 83 of them were

experiencing domestic violence and physical abuse. That seemed very high for us – almost 30% - so we wanted to do our “Peaceful Family” project there.

**Q. Can you describe some of the activities and how people responded?**

**Kimunn:** Yes. We began with an orientation to the project and then there was a two day workshop where we asked families to participate and to discuss their situation. In the workshop we had a variety of activities – drawing, discussion as well as some talks to provide people with information.

At the beginning it was a bit difficult to get participation. Many people are busy with their daily activities like rice cultivation and palm climbing. So we went around to all the homes, all the families, to encourage them. That helped. There can be a problem of drunkenness, so people don't have the energy to participate in anything. One woman first said that she couldn't come – she was too busy with housework. But we encourage her and so she came. At the workshop she cried a lot, giving information about the difficulties in her family.

People appreciated a lot the words “Peaceful Family”. They also liked that we were doing the workshop and project together – the village chiefs were involved – that was important. They liked the fact that people spoke together, thought about the problem together instead of just being given a lecture. Most of the participants in the workshop promised to try to reduce domestic violence.

**Q. That sounds good.**

**Kimunn** Yes it was. We got a lot of cooperation from the monks and also the authorities. For us it was also good because in the workshop we gained a lot of knowledge and understanding about the situation that people are living inside. It was really good to have everyone there together, talking and listening to each other. The San Sor village chief praised us a lot – he said that it is rare for NGOs to talk about this issue, even though it is very important. The police and authorities were also good to us.

**Q. What was the best part of the project for you?**

**Kimunn.** I think the best part was the demonstration at the end of the project. We organized it to raise public attention and also so people could think about this issue more, see that there are many who want to stop this kind of violence. I have sent you some pictures about that day.

## The March and Demonstration: March 2007



**At the beginning everyone was working together, planning things.  
The village chief was really helpful and cooperative.**



**There was a lot of participation in the march – it was a big success.**



**At the end the monk and authorities both encouraged us to continue.  
They said that there needs to be more of these kinds of activities. The chief said that  
he wished it could be done in every village in the district.**

