Republic News (The) / Sārbartamān Sādhāraparāṭṭh / ស្ត្របតេយ្យការពារការណ៍

Published : Weekly
Language : Khmer
Average pages : 4, black and white
Circulation : –
Publisher/ownership : Lim Rattana
Editor-in-chief : Lim Rattana
Founding Date : 1995 – Early 1996

Overview:

The Republic News began in 1995, but the earliest issue held by Yale University Library is number 7. The paper was published weekly either on Monday or Tuesday of the week. There was no information about its circulation volume found during the research. The paper was ordered to close down by the government in early 1996 for its violation of constitution.

According to the available issues at Yale University Library, the paper provided the coverage for only local news that was flooded with opinion based writing pieces of political and social issues. It is very clear that the paper was used as a political tool and mouthpiece to defend and advocate the political ideology and principles of the right-wing. The paper strongly embraced and praised the collapsed regime of Khmer Republic and its leader, General Lon Nol (1970-1975). Instead of recognizing and acknowledging the achievements made by both monarchy and the current government, the paper used it editorial line to strongly criticize and attack these institutions. The paper criticized not only the King (Norodom Sihanouk) but also denied his achievements as well as his leadership and regime in the 1960s.

The King is protected by the Cambodia constitution as a national figurehead, head of state and is untouchable. Criticizing and attacking the King is violating the constitution. The Republic News had been warned several times by the government before it was closed down in early 1996.

Issues held by Yale University Library:

1995 [Year 1]
- Issue [7, 8, 9]: [Sep 4, 11, 18] (duplex 8, 9)
- Issue [10, 11, 12, 13, 14]: [Oct 2, 9, 17, 24, 31] (duplex, 12 has 4 copies)
- Issue [15, 16]: [Nov 14, 21] (duplex)
- Issue [17, 19]: [Dec 5, 26] (duplex)

1996 [Year 2]
- Issue [21-24]: [Jan 9, 16, 23, 30] (duplex; 21 has 4 copies)
- Issue [25, 26]: [Feb 6, 13] (duplex)