

Journalism and Media Studies Centre
Centre for Comparative and Public Law
The University of Hong Kong

Joint Seminar

Media Legal Defense in Asia

H.R. DIPENDRA, Network Coordinator, South East Asia Media Legal Defense
Network, Malaysia

Aung HTOO, General Secretary, Burma Lawyers' Council

H. Harry L. ROQUE Jr., Director, Center for International Law, Philippines

Sinfah TUNSARAWUTH, media lawyer, Thailand

Tuesday, 27 April 2010, 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
Room P501, Graduate House, The University of Hong Kong

Reception, 4:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
Reception area outside Wang Gungwu Theatre, Graduate House

The massacre of 31 journalists in Maguindanao, Philippines, in November 2009 graphically illustrates the violence and impunity that threaten journalists in South East Asia. According to the South East Asia Press Alliance, journalists, writers and others throughout the region suffer from physical threats (as in Indonesia and Thailand), social ostracism and demonization (as in Burma and Vietnam), imprisonment, detention, and legal harassment (everywhere from Timor-Leste to Malaysia and Singapore). The lawyers and human rights advocates who defend them are also being arrested and harassed -- from Vietnam, Burma and Cambodia to Singapore and the Philippines.

The speakers are members of the **South East Asia Media Legal Defense Network**, founded in 2007 as the first regional network of lawyers dedicated to the defense of a free media in South East Asia and the training of legal professionals for that purpose. The Network consists of lawyers and media advocates from Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam who often collaborate and aid each other in their efforts for effective legal defence of the media.

H.R. Dipendra, a litigator in Kuala Lumpur; Aung Htoo, an internationally known human rights lawyer from Burma; H. Harry L. Roque Jr., legal counsel to some of the families of the victims in the Maguindanao massacre, and Sinfah Tunsarawuth, a media lawyer in Bangkok, will discuss media legal defense in the region and the often novel approaches being used there.

ALL ARE WELCOME

(This session is presented as part of the [International Media Conference: Reporting New Realities in Asia and the Pacific](#), co-hosted by the Journalism and Media Studies Centre and the East-West Center, 25-28 April 2010. If only attending this session, no registration is needed.)