

of them will also take part in election monitoring and civic education. Described below are those generally understood to be the most active, effective and impartial.

The Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights (**LICADHO**), headed by Kek Galabru, a Canadian, was formed in 1992, after the Paris Accords. It has offices in the capital and in 12 provinces, and is opening 5 new offices at the district level in 3 more provinces. In addition to its election-related activities described in the Elections section above, LICADHO has the following programs:

- *investigations and interventions of human rights abuses.* LICADHO monitors cases brought to its attention and systematically observes and reports on prison conditions (it reports that more than half of prisoners are tortured). Over 1000 cases per year are investigated by its 10 investigators in the capital and 2 in each provincial office. Reports are sent to provincial authorities for action, failing which they are sent to the central authorities. LICADHO maintains a database on all violations. Its report on the March 30, 1997 grenade attack (based on 100 interviews) was sent to UNCHR. Worryingly, prior to July 1997, LICADHO had a government response in 70% of the cases on which it reported; since then, in only 30%, a reversal it attributes to the steady removal of FUNCINPEC officials and the tipping of the balance in CPP's favour. There have also been three times the number of human rights complaints since July, a change which seems attributable to the culture of impunity, rather than an organized plan;

- *children's rights.* This program seeks to promote children's rights through investigation of cases of trafficking, paedophilia, child labour, and imprisoned children, seminars on these issues<sup>17</sup>, the preparation of reports to enable the government to fulfil its requirements under the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and the provision of food and other services for imprisoned children. It has begun working with ngos in the southeast of Cambodia to combat trafficking in children to Thailand;

- *women's rights.* This program concentrates on follow-up on imprisoned women, integration of women's rights into LICADHO's literature, and investigation of cases of female victims of human rights abuses in collaboration with specialized ngos. LICADHO also investigates domestic violence, acting to heighten awareness of family planning and collecting data on relevant issues, such as whether there is judicial follow-up to rape (in this connection, LICADHO has found that the government is more active on children's than women's rights);

- *medical program.* A medical team monitors health conditions of prisoners (and guards) in 6 prisons. It has also helped victims of the March 30 grenade attack, and is compiling a data base on torture victims;

---

<sup>17</sup>the 1997 UNDP HDI Report on Cambodia estimates that 35% of sex workers are children.