

Khamtay Siphandone

Born : 8 February 1924, Champassak province

LAOS

President



Training/education

1947: Joins nationalist guerrillas fighting French colonial rule.

Professional experience

2005: Censors relayed French TV programmes about the country's Hmong minority.

2004: During ASEAN summit meeting in Vientiane, foreign journalists arrested and not allowed to move around freely. Media that do not follow line set by sole political party are censored. Army steps up attacks on rebel Hmong forces, killing several people, including children. Four political prisoners.

2003: A French and a Belgian journalist and their Hmong guides are arrested. The journalists get 15-year prison sentences and are then freed. The criminal code punishes journalists who "put out news undermining the government." Military operations against the Hmongs cause famine and disease, killing several hundred civilians.

2002: Journalist Thongpaseuth Keuakoun sentenced to 20 years in prison. Ten dissidents held in harsh conditions. Freedom of expression and religion very small.

October 1999: Five democracy activists, including journalist Thongpaseuth, arrested.

24 February 1998: Elected country's president by parliament.

1992: Becomes head of Lao People's Revolutionary Party (formerly Pathet Lao) on death of Kaysone Phomvihane.

1991: Appointed prime minister.

1975-91: Vice-premier, defence minister, head of the army.

1972: Joins party politburo.

1960: Becomes head of military affairs Pathet Lao central committee.

1959: Appointed head of propaganda and radio for Pathet Lao.

1954: Joins Indochina Communist Party and then Pathet Lao.

Hobbies/interests

Unknown.
