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Rights groups protest Cambodian 'AIDS colony'

PHNOM. PENH: Right groups protested yesterday at Cambodia's shunting of sufferers of the virus into an insanitary "AIDS colony" outside the capital.

Over 100 international and domestic pressure groups told Prime Minister Hun Sen and Health Minister Mam Bunheng in a letter they were "deeply disturbed" by the government's treatment.

Over the past two months the government has evicted

the families from Phnom Penh to live in metal sheds without running water or adequate sanitation at Tuol Sambo, an area 25 kilometres from the capital, it said.

"By bundling people living with HIV together far from medical facilities, the government has created a de facto AIDS colony," said Shiba Phurailatpam, of the Asia-Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS. — AFP