

S 2009

47, - 75002

: (33) 1 44 83 84 84 - : (33) 1 45 23 11 51

REPORTERS

WI

enough land to bury you". Piseth fled across the border into Thailand.

This kind of threat has to be taken seriously. Filipino journalist Joey Estriber, a radio host in Aurora province (northeast of Manila), has been missing since March 2006. He was kidnapped by four men and never seen again. In his programme "Pag-usapan Natin" (Let's talk about that) on a local radio, he often criticised the intensive logging in Aurora by companies with allies inside the government and he had participated in a campaign to have the permits of nine of these companies withdrawn.

correspondent in Bissora, in northern Guinea-Bissau, took up the same cause. The day after the station broadcast a long report by him on illegal logging, he got an anonymous call offering advice: "Hey, brother! Why are you making such a big deal about this? We know that these people are doing something bad. But we have no choice. Don't talk about this again. Be nice."

In Burma, the question is dealt with in a more radical fashion. The military government's censorship board has suppressed all references to illegal logging, making things easier for the Chinese companies that are logging on a large scale.

Cambodia has lost half of its primary forest in the past 15 years although millions of dollars in foreign aid have been spent on protecting the Cardamom Mountains. Three journalists received death threats when they tried to follow up reports on deforestation by the NGO Global Witness that implicated associates of Prime Minister Hun Sen in large-scale illegal logging. Hun Sen's brother Hun Neng said that, if any Global Witness representatives came to Cambodia, he would "hit them until their heads are broken."

Radi F ee A ia, one of the few media to cover this story in detail, was threatened by a man who went to the station's bureau in Phnom Penh. And one of its reporters, Lem Piseth, had this conversation with an anonymous caller: "Is that you, Lem Piseth?" "Yes. Who are you?" "You are insolent, do you want to die?" "Why are you insulting me like this?" "Because of the business of the forest and you should know that there will not be

The Indonesian island of Sumatra is being deforested as fast as almost anywhere in the world. One of the logging companies responsible, PT Lontar Pulp and Paper, is a subsidiary of Asia Pulp & Paper, itself a subsidiary of the p.0001 Te

There is no shortage of examples. In 2008 in the Republic of the Congo, residents of the village of Mbodji (60 km from Pointe-Noire) complained about the build-up of drilling waste at a nearby oilfield where the Italian company Eni Congo is drilling. After going there and doing a report, *Télé Presse Tropicale (TPT)* immediately found itself being pressured and threatened by the local authorities. But this time, the local population demonstrated in support of the journalists and samples of the drilling waste were finally taken for laboratory



