Thou Char Mongkol / Tou Chom Mongkol / Tou Chhom Mongkol

Background:
Thou Char Mongkol was the editor-in-chief of the privately owned, bi-weekly Antarakum (Intervention) newspaper.

Prior to Mongkol’s death, Antarakum published a number of articles accusing government and military officials with corruption. Some reports suggest that Mongkol may have been killed by reason of these articles.

On 24 March 1994 two hand grenades were thrown into the Antarakum office in Phnom Penh, wounding five people. The assailants were never identified by the police.

Details of incident:
Mongkol was found unconscious with a head injury/fractured skull on a road in Phnom Penh on 10 June 1994. Reports suggested that this could have been caused by either an accident or a deliberate attack; however, due to lack of sufficient evidence this remains unclear. Mongkol was taken to hospital where he died the following day (11 June 1994).

Police initially claimed he was the victim of a traffic incident (one report maintains that the official police report stated the cause of death as a collision with a bicycle taxi). However, a more comprehensive post mortem investigation showed that this was not possible, as his body bore no other injuries and his motorcycle was unscathed.

Aftermath:
No one has been arrested in connection with Mongkol's death, thus the crime still remains unpunished.

Sources:
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