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Phnom Penh, January 5, 2009

Statement

On January 2, 2009, the three HRP members of parliament, accompanied by HRP delegation and working group, had a visit to Prah Vihea Temple to give aid to soldiers based in the mountain of Prah Vihea Temple; however, the trip was blocked by soldiers at the mountain base. Despite the fact that the mission letter signed by the National Assembly president was shown to them by members of parliament, those armed forces still refused to allow the delegation to continue the trip to the temple. This is a reflection of the ineffectiveness of the National Assembly president's mission letter, which was dismissed.

We, HRP, sees that this mirrors that Cambodian government is intended to prevent HRP members of parliament from meeting with and giving charity aid to the soldiers and that the government does not have any will to find solutions for its nation. In contrast, what the government has been doing is just to thrust themselves into the spotlight. The land and the temple are the property of Cambodia; they do not belong only to a particular group. Therefore, anyone who is willing to go to the place must be allowed by the government. As an independent party, Human Rights Party does intend to meet with, encourage and bring aid to the Buddhist monks, the soldiers and the Cambodian people at the temple area, but what HRP would like to is not allowed.

HRP members of parliament would like to express great sorrow for the government who is always making its attempt to prohibit opposition parties. In the sessions of the National Assembly, only members of parliament from parties holding at least ten parliamentary seats are allowed to speak or express their opinion. What is about going to Prah Vihea Temple? Does it require at least ten members of parliament to go to the temple?

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