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HUMAN RIGHTS PARTY

លេខ 0236/09 គ.ស.ម

បំរើ ការពារ កសាង

Phnom Penh, November 13, 2009

STATEMENT

HRP VIEWPOINT AROUND CAMBODIAN-THAI DIPLOMATIC TENSION

Human Rights Party calls on both Cambodian government and Thai government to cease the increase of new disputes by returning to a politically diplomatic negotiation so that the relation between the two countries can be restored.

Human Rights Party finds that diplomatic tension between the countries can make innocents of both countries concerned about their safety, economy and their living. Also, if tension is still going on without any bilateral mechanism to solve or intervention of the regional countries or powerful countries, the two countries, especially their people, will inevitably lose their benefits.

Human Rights Party sees that so far, Cambodia-Thai diplomatic tension, in addition to the behind-the-back reason, is caused by internal political crisis between current Thai government, supported by yellow shirt group, and Mr. Thak Sin, supported by red shirt group. The popularity competition between these two groups is the first reason why Thai military that backs the current Thai government involves itself in armed conflict at Prah Vihea, which is recognized by international law as Cambodia's ownership. For second reason, to solve the military tension at Preah Vihea Temple between the two nations, Cambodian government chose bilateral negotiation without seeking an international resolution. However, despite the government's attempt, the negotiations always failed. Recently Cambodian government has appointed Mr. Thak Sin, the current Thai government's opponent, as personal adviser to Mr. Hun Sen and to Cambodian government and allowed this fugitive former Thai prime minister, who was sentenced by Thai court, to enter Cambodia without extradition. The head of Cambodian government has pointed out that Mr. Thak Sin is his good friend, and good friends help one other when one is in need. If this is true, it is precise that the head of our government allows his personal affair to interfere in the national affairs. Currently, Thak Sin plays a most important role in Thai political conflict.

Human Rights Party sees that if all parties, the head of current Thai government, Mr. Thak Sin and the head of current Cambodian government, do not prioritize their personal gain or their political elites and want to end the conflict to avoid any suffering for their people, they all should hold an effective negotiation to ease the tension by addressing the root cause. That is Thai military should bring their operation at Prah Vihea area to an end, and Thailand should accept that by international law, Prah Vihea Temple is Cambodia's property. Besides, the head of Cambodian government should not involve his friendship or his political party into the national affair since the government is not his, but it belongs to the whole nation as well as all Khmer people. If Thak Sin is an important person needed to be the economic adviser, the appointment

should be delayed until the problem related to the current Thai government and Mr. Thak Sin ends.

In short, Human Rights Party sees that:

1. According to the international law, Thai government must accept that Prah Vihea Temple is Cambodia's property, and Thai armed forces must discontinue their operation on Cambodian territory as soon as possible;
2. Cambodian government should allow the internal conflict between the current Thai government and Mr. Thak Sin to be sold by both parties so that the conflict will not have any effect on Cambodia;
3. Anyway, in response to the tension with this foreign country, all Cambodian people, regardless of their political tendency, must contribute to the protection of national interest and the interest of Cambodian people through national solidarity and prioritizing national affair rather than personal gain and their political parties.

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