



គណបក្ស សិទ្ធិ មនុស្ស HUMAN RIGHTS PARTY

លេខ 0241/09 គសម

បំរើ ការពារ កសាង

Phnom Penh, December 10, 2009

Statement

Today is the 61st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 10, 1948-December 10, 2009), and the 18th anniversary on which all Khmer parties who were involved in dispute accepted the principle of human rights to exercise in the Kingdom of Cambodia. For the period of eighteen years, the rights of Cambodian people should have been respected by the competent Cambodian authorities and the Royal Government of Cambodia; however, they [Cambodian people] still have been ill-treated by the powerful, the wealthy and some competent authorities. The basic human rights of Cambodian people, such as right to food, right to housing, right to health care, right to education, right to politics and right to the freedom of express, and the discrimination against Khmer-Kampuchea Kom citizens are ignored by the competent authorities, the powerful and the wealthy. In reality, the forced eviction in Phnom Penh's Dey Krahom and Beng Kok communities and in other provinces such as Bat Dambong, Kompong Thom, Kom Pot, etc. and the defrocking of monk Tim Sokhon to send to be sentenced in Vietnam made thousands of families encounter a shortage of food, shelters, education and health care service, which worsened their living condition, making them living without dignity. Worse, the right to freedom of express is being violated; groups of powerful leaders and the parties holding majority parliamentary seats enacted laws to prevent the members of National Assembly who hold fewer parliamentary seats from fulfilling their duties, which are guaranteed by Cambodian Constitution. The use of judicial system which lacks neutrality to silent the opposition, the unreasonably lifting of parliamentary immunity and the imprisonment of some journalists are a testimony to the gradual decrease of democracy in Cambodia, leading to dictatorship which the country used to adopt before 1991. The recent enactment of budget law, which reduces the expense on social affairs, is evident that the country leaders are unwilling to reduce poverty and to tackle since so far the anti-corruption law has not been approved yet. Based on scrutiny and observation, Human Rights Party sees that the government is always showing their concern about the anti-corruption law, by promising to do this and that when it is prepared to ask the donor countries for money. However, after receiving the money from the international community, the government does not keep its promise. For this situation, Human Rights Party would like all the donor countries, which are willing to help Cambodian people, to attach the aid to such conditions as:

- the government must respect for right to freedom of speech, by making an amendment to laws restricting the rights of members of parliament and its citizens, ending the unreasonably lifting of parliamentary immunity, and making a change to the judicial system to ensure that the system is independent;
- the government must enact the anti-corruption law as soon as possible, at least in the second quarter of the year 2010, and the law must be applied proactively;

- the government must cease the forced eviction that it has always done under the condition of unreal development, and suitable compensation must be given to the people who are affected by the development;
- the government must bring to an end the discrimination against Khmer Kampuchea Krom citizens living in Cambodia and give rights and freedom to all of them as it gives to Cambodian citizens.

Again, Human Rights Party calls on all the donor countries to keep a close watch on the money given to Cambodia if all the countries do have willingness to help Cambodian people otherwise the aid will not reach Cambodian people, and as a result they will continue to suffer.

For more information,
Please contact 011 777 750

