



## **Petition to Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo**

### **“Cambodian people have new hope and not alone”**

We, Cambodian-Americans, are today gathering to express our gratitudes to the United States of America who always stand with Cambodian people in the cause of social justice and democracy in Cambodia. We hope that the United States of America, one of signatories of the 1991 Paris Peace Accords, one of the Cambodia’s powerful donors and one of the Cambodia’s largest trade partners, continues its influential roles more actively to promote the respect of human rights and to restore democracy.

We thank Secretary **Michael R. Pompeo** for your potential statement, in response to the intervening needs of Cambodian people, following an open letter of the **Student Movement for Democracy**. We are so pleased with Secretary Pompeo’s comments to firmly validate America’s clear stance that *“we will not tolerate these actions against innocent people. We will always stand with the Cambodian people”*.

We also thank Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) **Robert A. Destro** reminded the Royal government of Cambodia that “Rights to free expression and association are enshrined in Cambodia’s Constitution, The US is deeply concerned about arrests of those exercising these freedoms and we urge the government to immediately release them, and allow all voices to be heard”.

We also thank Congressman **Alan Lowenthal** (CA-47) for his always caring and encouraging Cambodian victims with his latest statement that *“These activists should be celebrated, not imprisoned. They are the future of Cambodia”*.

We also thank Congresswoman **Lori Trahan** (MA-03) for issuing a strong statement that *“The Prime Minister has an obligation to uphold the Cambodian Constitution – a document guaranteeing the promises of democracy to the people of Cambodia that he signed and has vowed repeatedly to uphold. Fulfilling that obligation starts with ending these abuses and unconditionally releasing all political prisoners”*.

The meanings of the statements of Secretary **Pompeo**, that of Assistant Secretary **Destro**, that of Congressman **Lowenthal**, and that of Congresswoman **Lori Trahan** remind us the recommendations from **Walter Lohman**, Director of, and **Olivia Enos**, a Research Assistant in the Asian Studies Center at The Heritage Foundation on the America’s important roles for Cambodia. Their research, published on 31 March 2014 on the official website of The Heritage Foundation, explained that *“What happens in Cambodia matters to the U.S. ... From the Vietnam War through the Cold War to its prominent, co-equal role in ASEAN, Cambodia has long been an important factor in American foreign policy”*.

The United States of America had contributed in large with the United Nations, other nations, and all Khmer parties of conflicts to end civil war in Cambodia, to produce the 1991 Paris Peace Accords for Cambodia, to equip Cambodian people with the fundamental rights as masters of making country-destiny decisions based on the first democratic national election in 1993 under the UNTAC’s supervision, and to have the Cambodia have the rights of national sovereignty. These valuable assistances are the wishes of the Cambodian people, towards whom the United States of America, other nations, and the United Nations contribute invaluablely.

We Cambodian people know that the U.S. government and American people have contributed to Cambodia development, both for Cambodia government and the NGOs, worth nearly \$100 million dollars every year for the last 20 years since a new government of the 1993 election. The assistances have been provided to Cambodia, especially through USAID, in order to implement the programs of Cambodia Mine Clearing, Environment Protections, Natural Disaster Preventions, Education and Culture, Public Health, Justice System Strengthening, Human Rights and Democracy Enhancement, Labor Rights and Unions Enhancement, Infrastructures and Services, Agriculture and Rural Development ... and the offer of duty-free General System Preference (GSP).

In addition to Americans' generous physical assistances, your statements come at the right time when Cambodian people are desperate and need urgent interventions. It inspires Cambodian people with the high hope to continue their active advocacies for a positive change in Cambodia from the ONE MAN POWER. Your statements instill Cambodian people belief that they are not alone in their struggles, and the U.S. government, the Congress, and the American people always stand with them on the path to restore the youngest and fragile democracy in Cambodia.

Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, the U.S. government, the Congress, and the American people, please accept our wholehearted appreciation.

Done in Washington, D.C. September 28, 2020

Undersigned

Undersigned  
Nalandita Rujal  
Nalandita TR Rithy (MD)  
Overseas Khmer Summit (OKS)  
Saveth  
SAVETH KOET  
Chicago IL

TOUCH VIEOL  
North Carolina, USA  
Student Movement for Democracy  
TY YOK Chicago

WOOIE PHROM CHI, IL  
Jahn-Yih WU  
Jahn-Yih WU MD  
Tung K. Yat, VA

Lim Ross  
Lim Ross  
North Carolina  
Bophia So  
Bophia So  
Wisconsin