



September 7, 2020

U.S. House of Representative **ALAN LOWENTHAL**  
108 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lowenthal,

**“Cambodian people’s hearts see the United States of America as a liberator”**

Cambodian authorities recently detained Venerable **Koet Saray**, Mr. **Mean Prommony**, Mr. **Tha Lavy** and Miss. **Eng Malay** leaders of the Active Citizens for Justice who have organized the peaceful demonstration in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

On September 6, 2020 about 20 of the authority forces without police-uniform identification including monks rushed into the office of KSILA and, without showing warrant of arrests, forcefully grabbed Ven. **Koet Saray** and **Mean Prommony**, pushed them into unidentified vehicles and left in different directions. The arrest occurred after both leaders declared an unwavering stance to hold a peaceful rally at Freedom Park as planned on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, which is in compliance with the constitutional law, law on peaceful protest and universal declaration on human rights and international declaration on citizens’ rights and political rights. Immediately, Ven. **Koet Saray** has been defrocked. **Saray** and **Prommony** were sent to Prey Sar prison waiting for trials.

On September 7, 2020, Mr. **Tha Lavy** was arrested on his way to Freedom Park, leading the protest, while Miss. **Eng Malay** was missing and unofficially informed that she was arrested after she left the United Nations office in Phnom Penh where she was taken for her safety. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

In separate case, local Siem Reap province policemen, by using deceitful tactics, last week arrested Kea Sokun, the rap artist, for his songs about encouraging Cambodian youth to exercise their legal rights to advocate for strengthening nationalism spirits. His songs have been so far viewed over 1.3M on Youtube. Later, Sokun’s father reported that five of authority forces dressed in civil uniforms showed up at his home and told him that they hired his son to take photographs for a wedding ceremony, one of Sokun’s

him that they hired his son to take photographs for a wedding ceremony, one of Sokun's part-time jobs. Since then, Sokun never returns home, and was reportedly seized and detained in the Siem Reap police headquarter.

The authority's similar measurements have taken actions against three environmental activists including Mr. **Thun Rotha**, Miss **Phoun Keorasmey**, and Miss **Long Kunthea** on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, forcing them to face charges of the injustice system and prison. The arrest occurred when the three activists were in a campaign to demand the Royal Government of Cambodia to end the filling up of Boeung Tamok lake in an urban area of Phnom Penh City.

On September 4, 2020 a member of security forces in 7 Makara District of Phnom Penh City pushed in a violent force Mrs. **Seng Chanthan**, a peaceful advocate for freedom and justice, causing her to fell down and hit her head to concrete road that was a clearly attempted murder.

As mentioned above, we the Cambodian people consider the proclivity for employing authorities' aggressive tactics as unethically political strategies planning to violently suppress Cambodian people's legal freedom rights in which they are fully obligated to make decisions on their nation's destiny.

- Article 35, Section 1 of the Constitution states that Khmer citizens of both sexes have the rights to participate actively in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the nation. All requests from citizens shall be given full consideration and resolution by the State's organizations.
- Article 41, Section 1 of the Constitution states that Khmer citizens shall have the freedom to express their personal opinions, the freedom of press, of publication and of assembly. No one can take abusively advantage of these right to impinge on dignity of others, to affect the good mores and custom of society, public order and national security.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights on article 19 states that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impartial information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Cambodian people deserve justice and accountability for the Hun Sen regime's past and recent crimes. They deserve real democracy, not merely a facade. They deserve the engagement of an international community that respects its commitments under the Paris Peace Accord. Article 5(4) of the Paris Peace Agreement (1991) states that "In the event of serious violations of human rights in Cambodia, [the Parties] will call upon the competent organs of the United Nations to take such other steps as are appropriate for the prevention and suppression of such violations in accordance with the relevant international instruments."

Cambodian people's hearts see the United States of America as a liberator and have the most important roles to help and assist Cambodia. We call for the United States of America:

1. To arbitrate the Royal Government of Cambodia to release all activists unconditionally including Ven. Koet Saray, Mr. Mean Prommony, Mr. Tha Lavy, Miss. Eng Malay, Mr. Rong Chhun, Mrs. Chhoeun Daravy, Mr. Hun Vannak, Miss. Sor Kanika, Mr. Soung Sophorn, Mr. Thun Rotha, Miss. Phoun Keorasmey, Miss. Long Kunthea, and others; and
2. To initiate an establishment of **Cambodia Contact Group (CCG)** that is comprised of parties from the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement, which include the United States of America, Japan, Indonesia, Australia, France, and the United Kingdom, and from the potential partners such as Germany, and Sweden, to defend human rights, freedom of expressions, freedom of thoughts, and freedom of publication, and to push for democratic reforms.

Sincerely,



**Vibol Touch**  
Executive President