



គណៈកម្មាធិការដើម្បីការបោះឆ្នោតដោយសេរី និងយុត្តិធម៌ នៅកម្ពុជា

Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia

គណៈកម្មាធិការដើម្បីការបោះឆ្នោតដោយសេរី និងយុត្តិធម៌ នៅកម្ពុជា COMFREL

Press Release

International Day of Democracy (15 Sept 2011):

A chance to celebrate and reflect

**Phnom Penh, 14 September 2011**-On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) is celebrating the efforts made to realize democracy in Cambodia but is also advocating for further reforms to enhance previous efforts.

This day is a chance for Cambodia to show its full support for the universal value of democracy. COMFREL is taking this opportunity to encourage the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to make greater efforts to enact reforms in the interest of democracy promotion. Mr. Sok Sam Oeun, Director of the Cambodian Defenders Project (CDP) and Vice Chairman of COMFREL’s Board of Directors, said, “The process of true democracy in Cambodia is reliant on freedom of expression and the rule of law”.

As Cambodia’s foremost independent authority on electoral issues, COMFREL advocates for reforms to enhance Cambodia’s democratic process. Efforts being made by COMFREL are resulting in significant successes and international recognition with its Executive Director, Mr. Koul Panha receiving the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award.

Mr. Koul Panha states, “This success results from the diligent efforts being made by civil society organizations, COMFREL members, its board of directors, executive committee, activist networks, volunteers, organization partners and other stakeholders who are determined to act for the cause of free, fair and meaningful elections. These activities are supported by a number of donors and development partners. This award has reinvigorated our cause.”

Nevertheless, democracy in Cambodia still faces many challenges particularly on the issue of freedom of expression. Opposition party members, journalists, human rights activists and some non-government organizations (NGOs) have been sentenced to jail or had their activities suspended because they have expressed views that criticize the RGC and its officials.

**ទីស្នាក់ការកណ្តាល** ៖ ផ្ទះលេខ ១៣៨ ផ្លូវ ១២២ សង្កាត់ ទឹកល្អក់ ១ ខណ្ឌ ទួលគោក រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា

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Vision : A democratic society that democratization in particular democratic elections are promoted and qualified to bring benefits to people.

On this International Day of Democracy, COMFREL is calling on the RGC to drop charges against these individuals in the interest of setting up Cambodia as a good model of democracy. COMFREL is also advocating for reforms to the electoral process to build confidence among citizens and the political parties in the National Election Committee.

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