

Joint Statement

The Senate Election Process Not Follow Democratic Election Process with Pluralism

The Associations and Civil Society Organizations in Cambodia are greatly depressed about fourth-term senate election, which was taking place in February 2018. After having reviewed the process of the election, we have found that the election for the fourth-term of the Senate was conducted in a manner inconsistent with the processes and principles of democratic elections.

The 2018 senate election has been held without a competitive political environment which based on liberal pluralism which would allow for representation of the people's political will by electoral colleagues participating in the ballot. Most of the electoral colleagues are from the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) since it was given more commune councilor seats which serve as electoral colleagues for the senate election, from the redistribution of commune seats that occurred after a forced dissolution of the main opposition Cambodia National Recue Party (CNRP). This election has taken place following the deprivation of the political rights of the major opposition party politicians, and the disenfranchising 44% equal to 5,065 of 11,695 electoral colleagues by the removal of commune councilors elected by about 3 million voters in the general elections of 2017 and 2013.

The outcome of the Senate election on 25 February 2018 has resulted in 58 candidates (100% of the seats in competition which were elected as Senators are from only the ruling party. This will result a lack of multi-party democratic process since it is without a check and balance by the opposition.

Moreover, the election did not comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Constitution of Cambodia. The Cambodian Associations of Civil Society Associations (CSOs) of Cambodia call upon the Royal Government of Cambodia and all concerned parties to re-establish a multi-party democratic election with political competition based on the participation of all political parties and politicians for the 2018 parliamentary elections.

CSOs supporting the joint statement:

1. Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL)
2. Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Election in Cambodia (NICFEC)
3. Community Peace-Building Network (CPN)
4. Coalition of Cambodia Farmers Community (CCFC)
5. Kem Ley Foundation Association (KLFA)
6. Youth Resource Development Program (YRDP)
7. Cambodian Food and Service Workers Federation (CFSWF)
8. Cambodian Youth Network (CYN)

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