

Leslie Patterson

From: Leslie Patterson
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 10:02 AM
To: Leslie Patterson
Subject: Briefing: UN Sec. General's Report on Cambodia at UNHRC Convening

To: Reporters, Editors, Producers
From: Cambodia National Rescue Movement (CNRM)
Re: The 37th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and Discussion of Cambodia

At the 37th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva this Wednesday, March 21, 2018, the Council will address deteriorating democratic institutions and human rights violations in Cambodia. This follows a resolution adopted unanimously at the last session in September 2017, based on the Report of the Secretary General, that raised grave concerns about the actions of the Prime Minister Hun Sen to persecute and prosecute political opponents, and extended by two years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to continue to monitor the declining situation of human rights in Cambodia and regularly report back to the UN.

The Secretary General's September 2017 report was released before Hun Sen arrested and prosecuted Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) opposition leader Kem Sokha and then dissolved the CNRP. The Secretary General is expected to report to the Council this Wednesday on the role and achievements of the UN Human Rights Office in Cambodia, which will yield further discussion on additional concerns about Hun Sen's dismantling of democracy in Cambodia.

We expect the following findings in the Secretary General's report:

- Unequivocal confirmation of further attacks by Hun Sen and his government on the open political and civic space in Cambodia and a clear definition that the escalation of the political tensions is continuously increasing.
- An alarming report on the dissolution of the main opposition party CNRP, the arrest of its leader Kem Sokha, and Hun Sen's harassment, intimidation and persecution of party leadership and membership, including exile and death threats.
- Confirmation that Hun Sen's government has turned Cambodia into a one-party state.
- Evidence of the Hun Sen government's attack on free press.
- A summary of the many cases in which Hun Sen banned civil society organizations and NGOs from Cambodia, weakening human rights, land and environmental rights, and labor rights.
- Confirmation of systematic intimidation of civic society activists by the police, including undercover police, at the order of the Hun Sen government.
- A recap of Hun Sen-ordered land grabs, many of which disproportionately displace indigenous people.
- A declaration of the lack of implementation of international human rights standards, cases of impunity, and an overwhelming loss of faith in the justice system among Cambodians and the international community.
- A statement on Hun Sen's lack of cooperation with UN authorities on human rights efforts, including declining to invite a meeting and cooperate with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia.
- A reiteration of the position of the UN Secretary General that democratic dialogue among all stakeholders is essential ahead of the 2018 national elections.

The UNHRC Convening comes on the heels of the European Union's release of conclusions reiterating concerns about recent developments regarding democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law in Cambodia and threatening to revoke trade partnerships if Hun Sen does not allow opposition parties, civil society and media to operate freely, especially leading up to the national elections this July. **Please let us know if you are interested in speaking with CNRP leaders about the Secretary General's report and the UNHRC Convening.**

###

This briefing note is distributed by BerlinRosen Ltd. on behalf of the Cambodia National Rescue Movement. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Leslie Patterson

O. [646.200.5326](tel:6462005326)

C. [561.801.5963](tel:5618015963)

leslie@berlinrosen.com

berlinrosen

New York • Washington D.C. • Los Angeles

berlinrosen.com

@berlinrosen