

## Lindsey Giostra

---

**From:** Lindsey Giostra  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2018 1:27 PM  
**To:** Lindsey Giostra  
**Subject:** Cambodia Roundup: Int'l Pressure Builds Against Hun Sen & Gov't

Good afternoon,

I wanted to share a roundup of some recent news related to Prime Minister Hun Sen's human rights violations and threats to democracy in Cambodia. These egregious actions by Hun Sen come at a time when there is a growing global uptick in authoritarianism, as oppressive leaders rise and maintain power from Russia to Egypt, China and Turkey. As the Cambodian government continues to threaten the lives, land, and livelihoods of the Cambodian people and the international community calls for democracy, **leaders of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP)** are available to discuss ongoing developments.

- **The Human Rights Council of the United Nations discussed the human rights conditions in Cambodia at its 37<sup>th</sup> Session:**
  - The United States, Australia, Finland, Canada, France, and Sweden expressed deep concerns about the repression of human rights and democracy, while China reaffirmed support for Prime Minister Hun Sen.
  - 45 countries signed a joint statement urging the Cambodian government to reinstate the CNRP, to release CNRP leader Kem Sokha, and to allow the participation of all opposition parties in the nation's upcoming election. The Hun Sen government rejected the statement, calling it "politically motivated."
  - Mu Sochua, Vice President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, spoke out in support of the 45 countries' joint statement during a Facebook Live.
- **Worker associations expressed concerns over Hun Sen's actions and urged the government to address worker rights violations in Cambodia:**
  - Organizations representing major US, European, and other international brands including Gap, H&M, and ASOS issued a letter to Hun Sen raising concerns about the erosion of worker rights.
  - VF Corporation, representing lifestyle brands like Vans, North Face, and Timberland, held a closed-door meeting with the government and later rebuked the Labour Ministry's false portrayal of VF's support for Hun Sen's actions during that meeting, stating they are, in fact, concerned with the government's weakening of worker rights and human rights.
- **Australia hosted the ASEAN Special Summit where leaders from across southeast Asia, including Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, gathered to discuss economic cooperation, regional security, and opportunities for business.**
  - Hun Sen threatened to beat up protesters ahead of his visit to Australia, but protests erupted outside of the summit as almost 600 Cambodians and Australians alike demand the international community condemn Hun Sen's attacks on human rights.
  - International pressure mounted for Australian Prime Minister Turnbull to call out Hun Sen and the two reportedly conversed during a closed door meeting.
  - The Sydney Morning Herald featured Mu Sochua in a piece sharing her story as an opposition leader and calls for more action from Australia.
- **Cambodian soldiers attacked innocent villagers in a land dispute, resulting in at least six people killed.**
  - Witnesses shared videos of the carnage on social media as villagers were forced off their land that they have occupied for years.

- This is the most recent attack on a brutal cycle of the Cambodian government attacking their own people who are merely exercising their basic rights to land and livelihood. Authorities continually deny these deaths and injuries.
- CNRP condemned this attack in a statement covered by Channel News Asia.

Please let me know if you're interested in speaking with leaders with the CNRP.

Thanks,  
Lindsey

*\*\*This 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*

Lindsey Giostra

O. 646.992.8303

C. 973.224.9138

[lindsey.giostra@berlinrosen.com](mailto:lindsey.giostra@berlinrosen.com)

**berlinrosen**

New York • Washington D.C. • Los Angeles

[berlinrosen.com](http://berlinrosen.com)

@berlinrosen