

Leslie Patterson

From: Lindsey Giostra
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 5:23 PM
To: Lindsey Giostra
Subject: Cambodia's Illegitimate Elections and Facebook's Role

Good afternoon,

I wanted to share recent news around Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's human rights violations and authoritarian actions and the ongoing efforts of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) to restore democracy in the country. Leaders with the CNRP are available to discuss developments.

Next week, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg will testify before the US Senate on Tuesday and the House on Wednesday.

- Given Zuckerberg will address Facebook's handling of user information and data privacy, it's worth noting that the company actually began using Cambodia and five other countries as guinea pigs to test news feed changes. This ultimately led to a drastic decline in engagement for independent news publishers, demonstrating one way by which Facebook is playing a role in the deterioration of democracy in the region.

On Tuesday, attendees of the World Khmer Conference in Australia released a statement criticizing Hun Sen's government as "constitutionally illegitimate" and urging a boycott of the upcoming national elections in July.

- As Hun Sen continues his crackdown on dissenters and independent media and investigations, the conference was attended by prominent Cambodian civil society and opposition figures, including Mu Sochua, Vice President of CNRP.

A recently released report from Voice of America uncovered Hun Sen government's politically-motivated voter registrations across northern Siem Reap province.

- The investigation found that "multiple communes in northern Siem Reap saw large spikes in voter registration, far exceeding the national average, that cannot be explained by any known settlement patterns," ultimately making the case that this is a defensive move to retain the appearance of electoral legitimacy in the July election.

Please let me know if you're interested in speaking with leaders of 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.*

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