

Kayla Ermanni

From: Kayla Ermanni
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2018 12:28 PM
To: Kayla Ermanni
Subject: Int'l orgs call on ASEAN govts. to intervene in Cambodia ahead of election

Hello,

Below is a summary of 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.

- Hun Sen departed Cambodia to attend the [32nd ASEAN Summit](#) in Singapore amid calls from international political organizations for ASEAN governments to intervene in "the severe deterioration in the state of human rights and democracy in Cambodia." The [letter](#), co-signed by Human Rights Watch and other groups, called on ASEAN members to urge Cambodia to reinstate the CNRP and allow its leaders to return from exile. The ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) also released an [open letter](#) calling on Asian leaders to urgently address pressing regional human rights concerns, including rampant human rights violations in Cambodia.
- The [US government condemned](#) Cambodia's human rights abuses in the State Department's annual report on human rights across the globe, describing overcrowded prisons and "arbitrary arrests" of opposition leaders, including former CNRP President Kem Sokha. The report also highlighted Cambodia's repeated efforts to restrict freedom of the press by closing over a dozen independent newspapers and radio stations. You can read the full report [here](#).
- Thailand [detained](#) the leader of a Cambodian opposition group and the Cambodian government submitted a formal request for his extradition. Human rights experts [claim](#) Sam Serey, head of the opposition Khmer National Liberation Front (KNLF), was arrested because he had been "blacklisted" by Cambodia for plotting terrorist attacks, despite scant evidence.
- The Cambodian government [released a propaganda film](#) depicting Sam Rainsy of the CNRP and other opposition leaders as violent "terrorists" conspiring to overthrow Hun Sen's regime. The film, titled "The Movement Bringing Danger to the Country," is just the latest example of Hun Sen's labeling his political opponents "terrorists" as part of his [growing effort](#) to silence the opposition and project legitimacy ahead of July's election.

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

Thanks,
Kayla

Kayla Ermanni

O. 202-800-7408

kayla.ermanni@berlinrosen.com

berlinrosen

New York • Washington D.C. • Los Angeles

berlinrosen.com

@berlinrosen

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