

Nick Kauzlarich

From: Nick Kauzlarich
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 2:42 PM
To: Nick Kauzlarich
Subject: 'Staggering blow' to free press in Cambodia

Hello,

Below is a summary of recent news around the rapidly deteriorating state of democracy and human rights in Cambodia under the rule of Prime Minister Hun Sen's regime, the response of the international community, 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.

- U.S. Congressman Ted Yoho, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, introduced the "Cambodia Democracy Act of 2018," which would "impose financial sanctions, in addition to visa restrictions that Washington placed last year, on Cambodian officials for 'undermining democracy' with a crackdown on critics ahead of a July general election," according to Reuters—the Cambodian government condemned the proposal.
- Cambodia's last independent newspaper, The Phnom Penh Post, was sold to a Malaysian investor with close ties to Hun Sen. Soon after the takeover, the new owner fired the Post's editor and several reporters, while 13 other journalists resigned in protest. Human Rights Watch described the sale as a "staggering blow" to press freedom in Cambodia, as Hun Sen has already shut down the largest independent newspaper in the country and over a dozen independent radio stations.
- A United Nations body declared the detention of CNRP leader Kem Sokha as "politically motivated" and "arbitrary" and demanded his immediate release, as Hun Sen defended the arrest as the "right thing to do." Meanwhile, a Cambodian judge upheld the convictions of 11 members of the CNRP for protesting.
- The CNRM launched FreeCambodia.org and a campaign video to raise awareness around the crisis in Cambodia and serve as a meeting point for the global community to take action. The site will mobilize supporters to learn more and participate in upcoming actions ahead of Cambodia's July election.

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

Thanks,
Nick

Nick Kauzlarich
O. 200.800.9010
nick.kauzlarich@berlinrosen.com
Pronouns: He/Him/His

berlinrosen
New York • Washington D.C. • Los Angeles
berlinrosen.com
[@berlinrosen](https://twitter.com/berlinrosen)

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