

Nick Kauzlarich

From: Nick Kauzlarich
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 1:35 PM
To: Nick Kauzlarich
Subject: Statement from CNRP on Cambodia Election Boycott

Hello,

In response to the National Election Committee (NEC) announcing the close of political party registration for Cambodia's national election, Mu Sochua, Vice President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, issued the following statement:

"Today, it became even clearer that the will of the Cambodian people will not be represented in the upcoming July election. There is no longer hope for Cambodia's July elections to resemble anything close to legitimate, fair, or organized. Because of this, we're asking all Cambodians who hope for a better future to boycott the upcoming July 29 election.

"The Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) was not allowed to register for the election, and our party leaders have been targeted, exiled, beaten and imprisoned. These are dark days for democracy in Cambodia when the largest and most viable opposition party is blocked from the country, polls, and civil society.

"Earlier this year, 45-member states of the United Nations Human Rights Council released a joint statement expressing concerns regarding the Cambodian government's actions to undermine a free, fair and inclusive electoral process. Now, we're asking the international community to follow through and refuse to recognize the results of the July election in Cambodia.

"These developments make it abundantly clear the election is rigged to consolidate Hun Sen's power. The CNRP urges Japan, the main international funder of Cambodia's electoral process, to immediately withdraw its financial and technical assistance to the National Election Committee (NEC). Any country legitimizing sham elections that ignore the will of over 3 million people is complicit in the destruction of democracy and the trampling of human rights.

"Hun Sen's oppressive regime has set on ridding our beloved country of free speech, free assembly, and free choice. His reign will undoubtedly continue unless the world wakes up to the crisis in Cambodia. We urge all people who support peace, security, and fairness in Cambodia to visit FreeCambodia.org to act, boycott, and stand up for democracy."

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