

Kayla Ermanni

From: Kayla Ermanni
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 7:14 PM
To: Kayla Ermanni
Subject: Cambodians Call on Japan to Withdraw Funding for Election

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Cambodians Call on Japan to Withdraw Funding for Cambodian Election

Over 500 Cambodians rallied in NYC to demand action from Japan and will deliver petition with 3,000 signatures today

NEW YORK – This weekend, over 500 Cambodians in New York City joined leaders of the Cambodia National Rescue Party of America (CNRPA) at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations in New York City to strongly urge Japan to immediately withdraw all assistance to the Cambodian electoral process. The protesters also demanded the immediate release of Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) president Kem Sokha who was unjustly imprisoned by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. The rally coincides with an event in Tokyo where more than [1,000 Cambodians](#) gathered to demand Japan revoke support of the national elections. This comes as the Cambodian government continues to [refuse to reinstate](#) the CNRP, the only viable opposition party, ahead of the national elections in July.

In addition to dissolving and banning the CNRP, and exiling and imprisoning its leaders, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen held illegitimate Senate elections, and recently deployed more than 100,000 security personnel to polling stations across the country. Japan is the [main international funder](#) of Cambodia's electoral process. The CNRP is calling on its supporters, which includes roughly half of the voting population, to boycott the national elections on July 29.

"The international community helped Cambodians to have a free and fair election in 1993 and should do the same now," said **Rithy Uong, president of CNRPA**. "The country is in jeopardy and the rights that the community helped to restore have been taken away."

Today, leaders of the CNRPA marched to the Japanese embassy in New York City to deliver a petition with over 3,000 signatures strongly urging Japan to immediately withdraw all assistance to the Cambodia electoral process.

"Democracy in Cambodia has been taken away little by little by the party in power," said **Rithy Uong**. "Now, Mr. Hun Sen has taken Cambodia back to the years before 1991. The people in Cambodia are hungry for real democracy and for a leader who can lead them to a better future."

To find out more, please visit <https://freecambodia.org>. Here is a link to [high-resolution images](#) of the event.

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