

Nick Kauzlarich

From: Nick Kauzlarich
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 3:44 PM
To: Nick Kauzlarich
Subject: Cambodia's sham election | Opposition Leaders Avail

Hello,

Ahead of Cambodia's upcoming sham election on July 29, [Sam Rainsy](#), the longtime Cambodian opposition leader, [Mu Sochua](#), the Deputy President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), and global democracy experts are available to discuss the high stakes of this election. The Cambodian election is poised to consolidate the power of Prime Minister Hun Sen and comes during a year that has seen democracy in peril across the globe, with elections in countries from Venezuela to Turkey empowering authoritarian regimes.

Over the past year, Hun Sen, who has been in power for more than three decades, has advanced his egregious attacks on democracy and human rights in Cambodia with one goal in mind: to run unopposed in the July election and solidify his rule for years to come. In the lead up to the election, Hun Sen [dissolved](#) the CNRP (the only viable opposition party), [imprisoned and exiled](#) its leaders, [presided](#) over the murders of landowners protesting his illegal grabs of their land, and [shut down](#) the largest independent newspaper in the country as well as over a dozen independent radio stations. With the election less than a month away, the CNRP has called for a boycott of what will inevitably be a sham election.

As it stands, Cambodia is on the verge of becoming an illegitimate government—at great cost to its people. With the EU [threatening to revoke](#) Cambodian exports' tax-free status, and the [U.S. considering sanctions](#), Cambodia's illegitimate government will face tremendous consequences, which could spell economic disaster for Cambodia, including tariffs, losing major trading partners, and a reduced credit rating.

Best,
Nick

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