



គណៈកម្មការជាតិសម្រាប់សិទ្ធិបោះឆ្នោតរបស់ខ្មែរនៅក្រៅប្រទេស

COMMISSION FOR ELECTION RIGHTS OF OVERSEAS CAMBODIANS (THE CEROC)

Email: petition@khmeroversea.info, www.khmeroversea.info

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H.E. Sam Rainsy;
Minority Leader of the Assembly
President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party

MR. SOPHOAN P. SENG
Team Leader

MR. ARTHUR S. SUN
Member

MR. KOVID HO
Member

MR. SAMRACH CHHIM
Member

MRS. JANET SENG
Member

MR. CHANVEASNA OU
Member

The CEROC is keeping close scrutiny on the latest development of drafting laws for the Reform of National Election Committee (NEC) of Cambodia. According to official document was recently released, the provision to allow Khmers overseas or at least the Khmer workers working abroad to vote, has not been endorsed within this drafting law. Cambodian leadership has been seen so narrow-minded in developing democracy in Cambodia. They have claimed to lead Cambodia through democratic system but the right to vote of Cambodian citizens has been selective and prejudice. Furthering to tremendous contributions of Khmers overseas towards economic, social and political development, Cambodian national constitution and its abiding to the international stipulations such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, these laws have fully recognized the unalienable rights of all Khmer citizens to participate in elections and democratic processes in Cambodia.

As the matter of fact, opposition party CNRP has ever been reported about their attempt to open voter registration offices and polling stations in Thailand and South Korea that have many Khmer workers working there to be able to vote. But their attempt was later disappeared. Further more, this party continued to propose to install polling stations along the Cambodia-Thailand border line in order to facilitate easy accessibility for all Cambodian workers in Thailand to vote. But this proposal was later also disappeared.

According to the new drafting law that will be tabled for public workshop this Monday, March 9, 2015 at the national assembly before it shall be ratified by law-makers in the Parliament, in chapter 5 on "polling stations", this latest drafting law is the same with the old law, it is different only maximum voters numbers changed to 750 from former 700 voters. The jurisdiction for voter has been narrowly underlined by permanent residence and vote registering site, the voter must be present there to be eligible to cast the vote. No long distance vote or absentee ballot vote scenario is allowed to facilitate easiness and cost efficiency for voters at all.

CC:

- UNs in Cambodia
- Cabinet of CNRP
- Cabinet of CPP
- ERA Office & NGOs
- Filing

We are, the Committee for Election Rights of Overseas Cambodians (The CEROC), has signed and gathered thousands of petition around the world to demand for the inclusiveness of Cambodia electoral system by not to alienate and deprive any Cambodian citizen in their political participation to vote in choosing their representative to develop democracy in Cambodia. While the Cambodian People's Party has full power to exercise ultimate authority to include all Khmers overseas to vote, this party is negligent about it and the government-led party has likely been operating pseudo-democracy* in Cambodia. Thus, we wish all democrats especially Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) should renew best effort to include Khmers overseas to vote in all Cambodia elections or at least this party can state clearly within their political platform and policy to facilitate easiness and right for Khmers overseas to vote.

We greatly appreciate your time and effort regarding this matter and we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully yours,



SOPHOAN SENG

Team Leader

Tel: 1 (403) 455-8294

Email: petition@khmeroversea.info

Note:

**Pseudo-Democratic: describes a political system which calls itself democratic, but offers no real choice for the citizens. This lack of choice can come from limited amount of diverse parties eligible for a vote, limited framework on voters registration and polling stations, limited participation in elections towards civil societies, cemented power structures which are not really affected by any vote, no availability of a voting option "none of the above" for voters who favour change to the current political landscape, no direct democratic means, et cetera*