



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION - RELIGION - KING

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**Communiqué of the Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the European Union**  
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Since the beginning of its existence in 1979, the European Parliament, in a systematic way, has without fail adopted resolutions hostile to the Cambodian authorities, motivated by a political agenda driven either by foreign powers or opposition groups. The same spirit holds true for the resolution it adopts today, especially since, according to a notorious Cambodian opposition figure, this resolution was finalized with his assent.

The Cambodian Government wishes to bring to the vivid memories of the European Parliament the painful consequences of its tragedy of the 1970s, where the agony of its survivors had to be prolonged further due to the 12 year-long ban on development assistance by Western governments with the explicit endorsement of the European Parliament.

It bears highlighting that the countries, which for those twelve years, have deprived our people of the right to food, health, housing, education, work, and the right to peace are the same which today, insensitively, criticize the Cambodian authorities in the name of human rights. In the eyes of the Cambodian people, morally speaking, it is hard to give credence or legitimacy to such stance as related to the application of these fundamental rights of peoples.

Despite the constraints and burden of the recent past, Cambodia has undergone a remarkable development trajectory with an annual GDP growth rate of 7% for the last twenty years: the poverty rate was dramatically brought down to 10%; the school attendance rate has exceeded 90% for primary education and 85% for secondary education; millions of jobs were created; and a middle class was revived. All these developments would not have happened had it not be for the Cambodian Government's full adherence to political plurality, freedom of expression and economic liberalism.

Freedom of expression can't and shouldn't be equated with the freedom to insult, slander, defame, and attack the dignity of people. The freedom to oppose a government is not the same as the freedom to sow division in society, to call for racial hatred, to incite xenophobia. Political freedom stops short when such behaviours put peace and public security at risk. The multiple provocations of agitators treated by some Europeans as martyrs of democracy created a permanent tension between Cambodia and one of its big neighbours and hindered the solution of border problems. Yet the people that resorted to these methods and practices are those the European Parliament selectively chose to listen to and believe.

The Cambodian Government values democratic debates as an ongoing dialogue between national actors based on mutual respect, national unity and high regard for international cooperation. Regretfully, the notion of democracy with our Cambodian characteristics is not appreciated nor accepted in most of Western countries.

We have ample evidence to justify the legal actions we took with regard to an opposition political party, its president and its leaders. As it was the case in 1970, with the ensuing tragic consequences that the world fully knows, there was a conspiracy, financially and technically





supported by a great foreign power, to overthrow a legitimate government by means that go beyond any possible constitutional legality. For the Cambodian people, who have not forgotten the harm inflicted by this power, they ask that the lessons of the past serve to prevent the evil of the present.

No country in the world could nor should accept that a foreign power finances and advises a political party to help it overthrow a legitimate government. But for the European Parliament, when it comes to Cambodia, it has chosen to turn a blind eye to such practices.

That fact notwithstanding, the people of Cambodia have just given reason to those who have prevented them from the prospect of a new civil war.

The electoral campaign and the elections of July 29 have been exemplary and strongly underscored by thousands of national and international observers and thousands of representatives of the 20 competing political parties. That a party, banned for sedition and treason, could not participate in the election does not detract the electoral process from its pluralistic, free and fair character.

Of the 8,380,217 registered voters, 6,956,900 of them, representing an overwhelming 83.02 percent, went to cast their vote. This participation rate is very high when compared with the rates of the previous national and communal polls and with those in many European countries. It is the application of the seat allocation method adopted in 2014 with the validation of the former opposition which led to the CPP to win all the 125 seats with its 76,78 percent of the votes. Such a turnout gives undisputed legitimacy to the ballot and the result obtained by the ruling party confirms the massive support of the people for the CPP political choices.

As to be expected, the European Parliament's resolution passed today is based in part on the false and dishonest claims of the EU-protected Cambodian populists and in part on partial and biased reports whose sources are exclusively coming from political opponents and NGOs with a political agenda. The vocabulary and formulation used in these reports are often exactly the replicate of those used by these sources and regretfully they find their way into this present EP resolution.

The Cambodian Government begs a question. If this resolution sets out such a high human rights and democratic standards that couldn't be met even in several of the EU member states, how can the EP expects such a perfect and idealist performance from Cambodia?

With regard to the conditions to be met under the EBA, this resolution knowingly and recklessly ignores the considerable efforts made by the Cambodian Government to solve extremely complex problems such as land issues or the introduction of social provisions and industrial relations within a society that has never known one before.

This resolution calls unfairly for sanctions against Cambodia while mass crimes took place in other countries with which Europe have ongoing trade agreements with similar provisions on the respect of human rights and democratic principles.

With such bias and double standard treatment from the European Parliament, how could we possibly give credit to such a resolution?

