

# Working Together for Justice, Lasting Peace and Stability An Appeal by International NGOs to the Royal Government of Cambodia

08 June 2016

To: His Excellency Prak Sokhonn,  
Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation Royal Government of the Kingdom of  
Cambodia

We, the undersigned international NGOs, recognise the Royal Government of Cambodia's commitment to global agreements and frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We note that the quest for sustainable development is reflected in policy documents such as the 2014 - 2018 National Strategic Development Plan and the "Rectangular Strategy" of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

We share the commitment and belief that progress in achieving SDGs and other social, economic, environmental or political goals requires strong social systems through which citizens interact with each other and with their government.

Recent events, however, lead us to believe that a number of civil society organisations that promote accountability and transparency have been considered by the government as a threat to the stability of Cambodia.

We believe these organisations make important contributions to human development, and a stable society ready for growth and prosperity. We believe that the international charters to which Cambodia is a signatory (such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) recognise democratic values including the freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial. We also believe that the Constitution of Cambodia similarly provides a framework for protection and respect of rights.

While maintaining a spirit of partnership and cooperation, we appeal to the Royal Government of Cambodia to:

- Promote, protect, and respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of Cambodian people enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenants to which Cambodia is a party.
- Ensure Cambodian citizens are not arrested where their actions have not contravened law and where their actions are the expression of their rights.
- Ensure there is no judicial harassment against Cambodian citizens who are working to protect people's rights.
- Ensure there is space for democratic participation, advancement of human rights and development processes.

*This statement is endorsed by:*

1. ACT Alliance
2. ActionAid International

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**act:onaid**  
**Aide et Action**

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 **ASIAN LEGAL RESOURCE CENTRE**

 **Union Aid Abroad**  
APHEDA

**Brot für die Welt** **CAFOD**  
Just one world

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 **CWS**  **CIVICUS**

**Cord** **DCA**  
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 **THE FINNISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MISSION**  **FINN CHURCH AID**  
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**FORUM-ASIA**

 **FORUMSYD**



3. Aide et Action Cambodia
4. Asian Legal Resource Center (AHRC - Asia)
5. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA
6. Bread for the World
7. CAFOD
8. Christian Aid
9. Church World Service
10. CIVICUS
11. Cord
12. DanChurchAid
13. Danmission
14. Diakonia
15. The Finish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM)
16. Fin Church Aid
17. Forum Asia
18. Forum Syd
19. Franciscans International
20. HEKS/EPER
21. Henrich Boll Foundation
22. ICCO Cooperation
23. International Relief and Development Cambodia
24. Johanniter International Assistance
25. Kepa
26. Mekong Plus Cambodia
27. Mennonite Central Committee
28. MISEREOR
29. Mission Alliance
30. MARYKNOLL
31. Norwegian People’s Aid
32. OT Watch Mongolia
33. Oxfam
34. Pact
35. People in Need
36. Southeast Asia Development Program
37. TROCAIRE
38. Welthungerhilfe
39. World Renew
40. WWF
41. Zo Indigenous Forum