



# CAMBODIA-AMERICA ALLIANCE

សម្ព័ន្ធមិត្តខ្មែរ - អាមេរិកាំង

P.O. Box 16338 | High Point | NC 27261  
t: 1-202-780-5299 | e: Info@CambodiaAmerica.Org  
w: www.CambodiaAmerica.org | page: Cambodia-America-Alliance

N<sup>o</sup> : 001/2017

Date: February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

## *Press Release*

### **Political Parties Law: Path Toward One-Party State**

An amendment to the Political Parties Law was passed by Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) today without participation from Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) is the latest attempt by Prime Minister Hun Sen to eliminate opposition parties and bringing this regime within the sphere of a one-party state. The amendment gives the Supreme Court the power to dissolve a political party if its leader and members has a criminal conviction. This should not be difficult given the countless lawsuits Prime Minister Hun Sen and his politburos had filed against former CNRP President, Sam Rainsy. Having nearly lost the election to CNRP in 2013, the CPP is now using its influence of the court to swiftly arrest and convict dissenters, NGO members, activists, and CNRP members with ruthless efficiency.

CAA condemns the passing of the Political Parties Law in the strongest term. The move demonstrates Prime Minister Hun Sen’s lack of commitment and disregard to a plural democracy. His actions and this law show complete disrespect to democratic ideals and principles described in the Paris Peace Agreement, U.N. Conventions and the Kingdom’s own constitution. We applaud Congressman Alan Lowenthal, U.S. Ambassador William Heidt and numerous NGOs for voicing against the passing of this law. However, it is incumbent on the international community to take responsible action needed to reverse Cambodia’s dangerous path towards a totalitarian state. If history serves as a lesson, Prime Minister Hun Sen has been applying similar tactics to intimidate opposition while donor countries continue to provide foreign aid.

Former CNRP President Sam Rainsy’s resignation from his post last week in lieu of CPP passing this law will not shield CNRP from future trumped-up charges and conviction by CPP controlled court. CAA calls on the international communities, specifically donors, to take immediate and meaningful actions to not only pressure Prime Minister Hun Sen to repeal this law, but to also ensure he and his party respect and maintain a plural democracy at all times.

###