



CAMBODIA-AMERICA ALLIANCE

សម្ព័ន្ធមិត្តភាពកម្ពុជា-អាមេរិក

P.O. Box 16338 | High Point | NC 27261
t: 1-703-350-7911 | e: Info@CambodiaAmerica.Org
w: www.CambodiaAmerica.org | page: Cambodia-America-Alliance

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Press Release

Support for Mr. Hong Lim

Last week an Australian lawmaker, Hong Lim, from the state of Victoria made a comment labeling the CPP regime as a “beast,” during an interview with Radio Free Asia. This comment drew a firestorm from the CPP spokesman, Phay Siphon, who demanded an apology.

The Australian government promptly responded to Prime Minister Hun Sen and his CPP supporters with a diplomatic note, stating that Mr. Hong Lim's statement does not represent the federal government of Australia, and that it enjoys a good relation with the Cambodian government. In addition, Australia went out of its way to remind Cambodia, in the second paragraph of its response, that a democratic society, as Cambodia claims itself to be, ought to respect those with different views such as that of Mr. Hong Lim, which is protected under the Cambodian Constitution.

In short, Prime Minister Hun Sen regime and supporters did not receive an apology. Australia simply reminded Cambodia that it ought to live up to its Constitution by protecting freedom of expression, including those that are critical of the government. Any country with a strong sense of democracy with respect to the rules of law such as the United States of America would have done the same thing as Australia to protect its citizens of their constitutional rights.

Cambodia-America Alliance fully supports Mr. Hong Lim for his outspokenness. It is his constitutional right to freely express himself.

CPP and associates are afraid of freedom of expression because they fear of being exposed. The more people speak, the more people become aware that Hun Sen’s government is a corrupt and sadistic regime. Corruption within Hun Sen’s circle was well documented in the release of “Hostile Takeover” by Global Witness last month which exposed Huns family businesses of being able to thrive through conflict of interest, corruption, and abuse of power via their direct connection to Prime Minister Hun Sen.

This desperate action from Hun Sen’s beneficiary, Phay Siphon goes to show how desperate and afraid Hun Sen and associates are, to the extent that they will go out of their ways to suppress people beyond Cambodia’s borders. Cambodians inside the country and abroad, are not offended by Mr. Hong Lim’s remarks because his comments were directed solely at the CPP regime, who does not represent all Cambodian people, and only concerns about personal gains and interests, as reflected in the latest Global Witness report, “Hostile Takeover.”

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