



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**His Excellency Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn Briefs  
Head of Diplomatic Missions on Mr. Kem Sokha's Arrest**

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H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, briefed the Ambassadors / Chargé d'affaires a.i and Military Attachés of all Diplomatic Missions to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 3 September 2017 at 10:00 am on the arrest of Mr. Kem Sokha, President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party.

H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn thanked Head of Diplomatic Missions for answering to his invitation for this important meeting despite of short notice.

H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn, after underlining that Mr. Kem Sokha was arrested by the judiciary police with the presence of Prosecutor in the early morning of 03 September 2017 at 00:35 am, started the briefing by presenting a video clip of Mr. Kem Sokha talking about the strategy to topple the current government, produced by Australia-based Cambodian Broadcasting Network (CBN) and widely broadcasted on 2 September 2017.

In his detailed explanation following the presentation of this video clip, H.E. Senior Minister emphasized that "The strategy to gain power is common to every political party and doesn't constitute an offence, but it is **how this strategy is built and who is behind it** that constitute an offence" and raised the following facts and legal basis for Mr. Kem Sokha's arrest:

- The video revealed the conspiracy Mr. Kem Sokha has with foreign power(s), which harms Cambodia.

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- Article 443 of the Cambodia's Criminal Code provides that: "Conspiracy with a foreign power is the act of having secret agreement with a foreign state or its agents, with a view to fomenting hostilities or acts of aggression against the Kingdom of Cambodia. It shall be punishable by imprisonment from fifteen to thirty years."
- Mr. Kem Sokha confessed clearly in the video that the United States has told him what to do from the beginning. He talked about his links with the U.S. since 1993. He stepped down from politics when they told him to do so. He took the model from Yugoslavia when the U.S. told him to do so. That explained all the strikes, violence, demonstrations . . . in 2013 and 2014. He even said: "No one knew about this". "I do not do anything at my own will, I have experts, university professors in Washington, D.C., Montreal, Canada hired by the Americans in order to advise me on the strategy to change the leaders . . ."

"The competent authorities - **the judiciary police along with the Prosecutor** - taking into account of the **continued broadcasting of the clip** (it is still circulated until now) and the **content** of that video clip, **came to the conclusion that this constitutes an offence of flagrante delicto,**" stressed H.E. Senior Minister, adding that "Flagrante delicto allows the judiciary police to arrest a person, regardless of his parliamentary immunity, the time and the location of his arrest," and that "However, he retained the rights to have a lawyer, to lodge complaint."

H.E. Senior Minister highlighted that "What you have seen is the short version. There is a longer version that reveals more and would surely constitute more weight on Kem Sokha's guilt."

As a conclusion, H.E. Senior Minister affirmed that "For us, for me this is **a clear act of treason. But let the court decide.**"

In order to shed more light on his explanation, H.E. Senior Minister referred to the swearing-in by all members of the National Assembly and the Senate and read the main paragraph in the oath as follows:



"We would like to determine to always retain, now and in the future, the neutrality and the non-alignment for Cambodia, and will never allow any person, whoever wishes to interfere the internal affairs of Cambodia or gives order over the national and international policies of Cambodia. We will absolutely not serve the foreign interests and which cause harm to the interests of the people, nation and Cambodian motherland."

H.E. Senior Minister availed himself of this opportunity to touch on democracy and human rights and to remind the diplomatic corps about the respect for independence, sovereignty, neutrality, Cambodian laws and the non-interference in internal affairs of Cambodia by stressing that:

- "NGOs are welcome. Hundreds and thousands of NGOs have helped my country building socio-economic development, education, culture, religion, **democracy and human rights**, rights of expression, and many other forms of development.
- "Shall I remind you how many sacrifices we did since 1979, after the liberation from Pol Pot regime ?
- We built from ashes. We protected the country from the return of the Khmer Rouge. We fought the Khmer Rouge. 12 years of embargo (no development assistance), we have achieved Peace and National Reconciliation and more than 7% of average GDP growth for 23 consecutive years.
- "What do we ask from them? From you? Mutual respect, respect for our independence, sovereignty, neutrality. Let our people decide freely on who to lead them: do not interfere and respect our law."

Phnom Penh, 6 September 2017

