



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

The Cambodian competent authorities, with the purpose to assure the strict implementation and the effectiveness of the country's laws, thus strengthening the Rule of Law and the respect for Cambodia's sovereignty, and after the thorough consideration and discussions in their successive meetings, have reached the decision to stop the operation of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Cambodia and to expel its foreign staff from the Kingdom within seven days after the official notification of this decision.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in order to shed light on this decision making, would like to keep the national and international public opinions abreast of the decision's legal bases, particularly Law on the Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations and Law on Taxation as follows:

- The Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations was adopted by the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia on 13 July 2015 and promulgated by His Majesty the King on 12 August 2015.
- Since this Law came into force in August 2015, NDI has operated in Cambodia without being registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation until the organization filed a request for the registration on 21 June 2016. Pending the Ministry's decision on its application, NDI has continued carrying out its activities with total contempt.
- Article 34 of the Law on the Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations provides that: "The competent authorities shall take measures to immediately stop any foreign association or non-governmental organization that conducts its activities without registration or which validity of memorandum of understanding is terminated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Additional measures related to the expulsion under the law on

immigration may be undertaken against any foreigner who works for a foreign association or non-governmental organization for committing the above offense regardless other criminal punishments.”

- Article 101 of the Law on Taxation provides that “A person must register with the tax administration within 15 days after the person begins economic activity”.
- Articles 128 and 129 of this Law stipulate that “In the case where the person fails to register with the tax administration is considered obstructing the implementation of tax provisions” and “. . . a person who has obstructed the administration of the tax system as provided in article 128 of this law shall have committed a criminal violation of tax provisions” respectively.
- Moreover, the Ministry of Economy and Finance’s General-Department of Taxation has explained in details about this Law and the measures taken by the General-Department for its enforcement in its clarification issued on 16 August 2017.
- NDI has so far failed to comply with the above-referred legislations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to emphasize that while this decision has been made with NDI and its foreign staff, the competent authorities are geared up to take the same measures against any foreign association or non-governmental organization that fails to abide by the Law on the Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations as well as other laws of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Phnom Penh, 23 August 2017

