



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

N° *228* . MFA-IC/CL1

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in Phnom Penh and, with reference to the Ministry's Notes No 2671 MFA-IC/LC1 dated 28 October 2016, No. 2148 dated 31 August 2017 and the Embassy's Note No. 0703 dated 12 September 2017, has the honour to communicate to the latter as follows:

1. Cambodia regrets that the Government of the United States decided to place Cambodia on its list of 'non-cooperative' country, to discontinue granting B1/B2 visas for Cambodians and intends to impose visa restrictions against Cambodia without taking into consideration the Ministry's Note No 2148 MFA-IC/CL1 dated 31 August 2017 regarding the operation of repatriation program.
2. This decision taken by the United States Government is not in conformity with the spirit of good cooperation on the repatriation program between the two countries. As stated in the Ministry Note 2671 MFA-IC/LC1 dated 28 October 2016, the Ministry clearly made a proposal to "suspend temporarily the implementation of the Memorandum and its Addendum" with a view to addressing the humanitarian and rights concerns of the returnees raised by some members of Cambodian community in the US and the US congress. The Ministry wishes to underline that the said proposal does **not mean to terminate** the implementation of the said MoU and its Addendum. This demonstrates Cambodian government's good will to continue its cooperation with the United States on this issue.

3. Moreover, in light of the spirit of the meetings between His Excellency Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and His Excellency Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly held on 04 May 2017, and the Cambodia-United States Joint Meeting in Phnom Penh held on 07 July 2017, the Ministry through its Note No2148 MFA-IC/CL1 dated 31 August 2017 underscores Cambodia's readiness to dispatch a delegation from the Ministry of Interior of Cambodia to interview the 26 remaining individuals as requested by the United States in accordance with the term of the 2002 Memorandum and its Addendum for the Establishment and Operation of a Cambodia-United States Joint Commission on Repatriation.
4. In this regard, the Ministry anticipates that the Government of the United States would reconsider its above-said decision in order to promote friendly relations and good cooperation between the two countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

Phnom Penh, 13 September 2017



Embassy of the United States of America
Phnom Penh