

OPEN LETTER OF SENATOR KONG KORM

As a former member of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) between 1985-1992, former Ambassador of the People's Republic of Kampuchea to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi between 1980-82, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Cambodia between 1986-88, I, Kong Korm, Vice-President of the Sam Rainsy Party and Senator of the Kingdom of Cambodia, would like to express my position on the current Cambodian politics to the national and international opinion as follows:

After 7 January 1979, there were two controversial sides in Cambodian politics. The first side was the People's Republic of China and the Khmer Rouge (KR) faction of Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan; and the second was the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Khmer Rouge faction of Heng Samrin, Chea Sim and Hun Sen. Vietnam and her KR faction were all using the official documents and rhetoric alleging that the then hegemonic, expansionist China including her puppet Pol Pot was the mastermind and responsible for the genocide in Cambodia. On the contrary, the undermining Vietnamese enemies were strengthening and enlarging the Cambodian People's Party originated from the Indochinese Communist Party led by Ho Chi Minh in order to reach the plan integrating Cambodia and Laos into the Indochinese Federation under the constant influence of Vietnam. At the end, they successfully overthrew the opposition KR faction and took control of Cambodia by sending military forces into the Country; and then they put their associate KR faction in power until now.

As a prisoner of the prison without wall under the "17 April" Pol Pot regime, a hostage of the "7 January" Vietnamese occupation, and possibly a would-be voluntary witness for the forthcoming Khmer Rouge trial, I agree with the general public's lawsuits which alleged that Communist China with the Khmer Rouge of Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan, and Communist Vietnam with the Khmer Rouge of Heng Samrin, Chea Sim and Hun Sen are the joint architects of the Cambodian killing field, that is, the constant "Buried Bodies of 17 April, and Discovered Skeletons of 7 January". But, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Cambodian People's Party founded on 28 June 1951 are truly the direct and longtime responsible for the war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in Cambodia.

Up to now, the strategy and policy of the so-called strongman, Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Cambodian People's Party, is clearly consolidating his power and ruling Cambodia under the one-party system. Instead of merging together with the CPP, FUNCINPEC has lowered its status from a ruling partner to a loyal Spokesman for the CPP. The adoption of the Constitutional Additional Law in order to establish the package Government and the National Assembly (NA) combining with the efforts to create a bicameral parliament in which the Senate yields no power and has no role as well as the sideline of the sole and principal opposition party from all the National Assembly commissions, the lifting of Parliamentary Immunity, the arrest of Opposition Parliamentarians, and the recent reduction of NA meeting quorum. All these are the signs that Democracy is dramatically sliding backward in Cambodia.

The most Popular rival politicians have not just been killed or jailed, but were also predicted to accidentally suffer adverse incidents like thunder strike, robbery, car accident and so on. Mr. Hun Sen often recalls that his opponents successively have succumbed

without any success, and he dared Mr. Ruom Ritt to pass away and be re-born to challenge him again.

The culture of impunity implies that the killers can always escape justice, especially, the pardon and the delivery of new positions to former Comrades of the actual KR rulers along with the multi-pretexs using to deny any international standards to the tribunal to try the KR leaders. This has proven that the 7 January KR and 17 April KR are the same. Nevertheless, the territorial integrity and Socio-Economic issues are really the kind of make-up.

The Hero King Norodom Sihanouk who leads the Supreme National Council on Border Affairs has clearly stated that under the Sangkum Reastr Niyum time when he ruled Cambodia, there was no unclear boundary existed between Cambodia and her neighbors, and the border demarcation that recognizes the existence of the white zone is tantamount to giving away the Khmer territory to foreign Countries.

Under the influences of the powerful politicians, the Court and the armed forces are used to persecute those who protest against land grabbing, to suppress people's political rights, and to blackmail the government employees and teachers who demand for an increase in wages. In short, the Government ignores the people's poverty which becomes worse due to the soaring prices of oil and other commodities, and other fees collection.

Facing with the culture of impunity, bad governance, corruption and various social injustice, I and the Cambodian people would like to insist the supreme national institutions including the King, Parliament and Government to urgently double their efforts in restoring the rule of law, good governance and the practical and effective poverty reduction measures.

In line with the efforts of the national institutions and the proceeding of the KR trial process, I would like to appeal to the Cambodian victims of the 17 April and 7 January regimes to adopt a self-help approach by uniting each other to forge a change of the dictatorship and corrupted leaders who have caused disasters to our nation through democratic elections.

The challenging Liberal Democratic Party with human right respect and its new leaders are willing and qualified to quickly protect and construct the prosperous Cambodia. They are challenging the ruling party for the purpose of salvaging the Country and people.

May beloved Cambodia and respected Cambodian people be exempt from severe losses or adverse incidences, but meet the immediate, lasting happiness and prosperity.

Phnom Penh, 27 June 2005

Signed

Kong Korm

Senator,

Vice-President of the
Sam Rainsy Party