



Khmer National Liberation Front

Statement

Monday 16 May 2022

Dear Honorable President,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Diplomats and Friends

May I take the opportunity to thank the United Nations for giving me the opportunity to join 23rd session of working group on right to development. It is my great honor to the participate the meeting today.

My name is Serey Sam. I am a President for Khmer National Liberation Front (KNLF) which is located in Denmark and I have worked for peace, freedom and democracy in Cambodia. I hope that our voices have been heard today when KNLF have been left behind, losing our rights and freedom in the country.

Many decades, Cambodian people are facing genocide, human rights violation and living with fear and losing their rights and freedom. The ruling party continue to violate human rights and crack down democracy that is contrary to the Paris Peace Agreement 1991. Therefore, we have established KNLF in Denmark on 12 December 2012 to work at the international community for peace, freedom and democracy as said in the Paris Peace Agreements. I would like to appreciate and be grateful to UNHCR and Denmark that help protect me and give me opportunity to stand up for human rights and democracy in Cambodia.

Especially I would like to thank United Nations, European Union, United States of America and International Community express their concerns regarding human rights violation and backsliding of democracy in Cambodia; Even if the international community raised concerns, the Cambodian ruling parties have not yet restored the human rights and democracy; they continue to restrict freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and political rights and ban opposition parties and non-government organizations (NGOs). The development affects the people due to the force eviction and land grab and no proper remedies. That means the ruling party exercise double standard for the development in Cambodia, and they did not give the rights to everyone or development for everyone especially they have banned KNLF and leave us behind that is contrary to the sustainable development goals of the United Nations.

Many members of KNLF have been arrested and imprisoned and some have fled the country and become refugees and asylum seekers in Thailand. Members of KNLF have been continuously persecuted and followed to arrest in Cambodia such as case of my colleague Mrs. Pov Savan who have been hunted and just fled the country on March 8,2022. The case of Mr. Phuvarin Sengsorin Thorng who is refugee and he has been now detained in IDC, Bangkok for two years because they have worked with KNLF.

KNLF has worked peacefully at the international community and UN based on the international law and Paris Peace Agreement 1991. However, KNLF is still banned in Cambodia.

Therefore, to achieve the sustainable development goals and to gains rights to development, I would like to call for the United Nations and International community to help and support us with everything that would be possible to bring peace, freedom and democracy to Cambodia as said in the Paris Peace Agreement 1991.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration and attention.