



គណៈកម្មាធិការកម្រិតកម្ពុជា នៃ អង្គការសហគមន៍ការពារសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា

CAMBODIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION COMMITTEE

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MEDIA RELEASE

CHRAC Welcomes Progress in Cambodia’s First UPR Process

Phnom Penh, 22 March 2010

At the occasion of the 13th United Nations Human Rights Council Session in Geneva, the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC), a coalition of 23 non-governmental organizations working in the fields of human rights, democracy and rule of law, welcomes the decision of the Royal Government of Cambodia to accept all 91 recommendations made by Human Rights Council member states in the framework of Cambodia’s first ever Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. The acceptance of all recommendations is an important sign of good faith, and we now urge the Royal Government of Cambodia to undertake credible steps to implement many of these recommendations within the next four years when the country will be again under the Human Rights Council’s review.

The UPR is a new human rights monitoring mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council which places UN member states under peer review every four years. CHRAC and other Cambodian civil society have supported this process by making submissions to the Human Rights Council in 2009. During a Working Group Session of the Council on December 1, 2009, member states of the Human Rights Council made 91 comprehensive, far-reaching, and often concrete recommendations to the Royal Government on how to improve the country’s human rights record. Being now accepted by the Government, these recommendations serve as significant benchmarks to monitor the progress in the implementation of the Government’s commitments.

As next steps, the Royal Government of Cambodia should consider creating a working plan or a plan of action to begin with the implementation of these recommendations. Urgent priorities are recommendations made in relation to land rights, legal and judicial reform and the freedom of expression. CHRAC and other civil society organizations are ready to support the implementation through active participation and watchful monitoring of the process. Accepting the recommendations is a first important step, and we hope that the Royal Government will now stand to its commitments and work hard to progressively improve the human rights situation in Cambodia in accordance with our Constitution that recognizes and promotes the respect for human rights.

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