

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 310

Calling for more accountable foreign assistance for Cambodia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2013

Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. MESSER, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. PERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling for more accountable foreign assistance for
Cambodia.

Whereas, according to the United States Agency for International Development, from 1993 to 2011 the United States provided Cambodia with over \$1,247,000,000 in economic and military assistance;

Whereas Cambodia is ranked 138 (out of 187) in the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Report 2013, a rank shared by the Lao People's Democratic Republic;

Whereas Cambodia is ranked 157 (out of 174) in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2012, a rank below Yemen and one shared with Angola and Tajikistan;

Whereas Cambodia is ranked “Not Free” in Freedom House’s Freedom in the World 2013 report, which further states, “Cambodia is not an electoral democracy. Elections are conducted under often repressive conditions, and the opposition is hampered by serious legal and physical harassment.”;

Whereas the Department of State’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2011 notes that “a leading human rights problem” in Cambodia is “a weak judiciary . . . subject to corruption and political influence”;

Whereas Human Rights Watch noted in a May 31, 2012, New York Times op-ed that Prime Minister Hun Sen has remained in power in Cambodia for 10,000 days “through politically motivated violence, control of the security forces, massive corruption, and the tacit support of foreign powers”;

Whereas, on May 6, 2013, Prime Minister Hun Sen vowed to stay in power for more than a decade stating, “I will wait until 74 to leave politics just like they do in China.”;

Whereas the July 16, 2012, Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia (A/HRC/21/63) notes that “there are major flaws in the administration of elections in Cambodia and urgent and long-term reforms are needed to give Cambodians confidence in the electoral process and in the workings of the National Election Committee”;

Whereas the July 16, 2012, report includes 18 specific recommendations for improving the election framework and environment in Cambodia to ensure greater transparency, accountability, and political association and expression,

including the full participation of opposition leader Sam Rainsy in upcoming parliamentary elections;

Whereas Sam Rainsy and other opposition members and activists continue to be the target of official harassment through politically motivated accusations and charges, denied due process of law, and excluded from participating in upcoming national elections in Cambodia;

Whereas since April 2013, Prime Minister Hun Sen has warned during his reelection campaign that if voters defeat him and elect the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party, there will be a civil war and war with neighboring Vietnam;

Whereas, on June 6, 2013, the Cambodia's Parliament ruling party stripped all 28 opposition party members of their status as lawmakers and their salaries, which severely contradicts a healthy democratic process in the period before the July 28 elections;

Whereas, on June 7, 2013, Cambodia's Parliament passed a law after all opposition party members were expelled for forming a new party, the Cambodian National Rescue Party, making it illegal to deny that atrocities were committed by the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s;

Whereas this law is an act of intimidation by the ruling Cambodian People's Party which is likely aimed at denouncing and imprisoning opposition party members;

Whereas, on June 9, 2013, Prime Minister Hun Sen's Government organized a rally against opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party leader Kem Sokha by paying participants and using government vehicles to ferry people to and from the meeting sites; and

Whereas Prime Minister Hun Sen and the ruling Cambodian People's Party are responsible for ensuring the safety of all citizens and foreign residents in Cambodia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) in order to be considered credible and com-
3 petitive, the July 2013 parliamentary elections in
4 Cambodia must implement the recommendations
5 contained in the July 16, 2012, Report of the
6 United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation
7 of human rights in Cambodia (A/HRC/21/63), and
8 must include the full and unfettered participation of
9 all political parties leaders, specifically Sam Rainsy;

10 (2) the United States Department of State and
11 the United States Agency for International Develop-
12 ment should refrain from supporting national or
13 local elections in Cambodia, or deploying election
14 monitors to the July 2013 parliamentary elections,
15 if such United Nations recommendations are ig-
16 nored, and if political parties and opposition leaders
17 are excluded or otherwise hampered from fully and
18 freely participating in electoral processes, including
19 during the campaign period and on election day;

20 (3) any election in Cambodia that the Secretary
21 of State determines is not credible and competitive
22 should be deemed as an illegitimate expression of the

1 Cambodian peoples' will, and an impediment to the
2 democratic development of Cambodia; and

3 (4) a Cambodian government formed as a result
4 of such illegitimate elections should not be eligible
5 for direct United States Government assistance, in-
6 cluding for the military and police, and the Depart-
7 ment of State and United States Agency for Inter-
8 national Development should jointly reassess and re-
9 duce assistance for Cambodia in subsequent fiscal
10 years, and urge international financial institutions to
11 do the same.

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