

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 163

Calling for more accountable foreign assistance for Cambodia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7, 2013

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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 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; and

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: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

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

10 (2) the United States Department of State and
11 the United States Agency for International Development should refrain from supporting national or
12 local elections in Cambodia, or deploying election
13 monitors to the July 2013 parliamentary elections,
14 if such United Nations recommendations are ignored, and if political parties and opposition leaders
15 are excluded or otherwise hampered from fully and
16 freely participating in electoral processes, including
17 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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