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THE KHMER KAMPUCHEA KROM COMMUNITY
LA COMMUNAUTÉ DU KHMER KAMPUCHEA KROM

The Statement

The Khmer Kampuchea Krom Community, KKC, strongly deplores the decision of the Takeo provincial court for convicting Mr. Thach Le, Mr. Thach Vannak, Mr. Leang SokJoeun, NGO LICADHO employee, to 2 years term and 2 million riels fine to each, and tried the Venerable Thach Kong Phuong in absentia to 3 years and 6 million riels fine (U.S. \$1,430) on August 30, 2010 for disinformation for their alleged roles in distributing leaflets opposing the January 7th.

According to the 1993 Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, article 41 stated as followed: *Khmer citizens shall have freedom of expression, press, publication and assembly. No one shall exercise this right to infringe upon the rights of others, to affect the good traditions of the society, to violate public law and order and national security. The regime of the media shall be determined by law.* The charges by the Takeo provincial court levied upon Thach Le, Thach Vannak, Leang SokJoeun, and Ven. Thach Kong Phuong are unjust and not acceptable. For those opposed the January 7th and marked as the day Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia, are the national and the international communities that led the international community to pressure Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Cambodia and armed resistance along the Khmer-Thai borders to oppose the January 7th and ultimately led to the October 23, 1991 Paris Peace Accord. Currently, the opposition party and media strongly criticize the January 7th day. Why are they not being penalized?

On the contrary, Thach Le, Thach Vannak, Leang SokJoeun and Ven. Thach Kong Phuong oppose the January 7th day to gain what benefit for they are not the opposition party and a struggle movement to topple the government?

Based on the investigation conducted by the Khmer Kampuchea Krom Community, all the accused are not related to the charges levied by the Takeo provincial court.

KKC appeals to the Appeals Court and Supreme Court to re-examine the decision of the Takeo provincial court and to dismiss the charges against Thach Le, Thach Vannak, Leang SokJoeun and Ven. Thach Kong Phuong.

Phnom Penh, August 31, 2010

[Sealed]

The Secretariat
The Khmer Kampuchea Krom Community

Original text in Khmer (Cambodian)