

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. RES. 353

Expressing concern with the deliberate undermining of democratic freedoms and justice in Cambodia by Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 25, 2006

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing concern with the deliberate undermining of democratic freedoms and justice in Cambodia by Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia.

Whereas the United States affirms its support and respect for the welfare, human rights and dignity of the people of Cambodia;

Whereas, under the leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen, the Government of Cambodia has engaged in a systematic campaign to undermine the democratic opposition, stifle critics of the Government, and silence and intimidate civil society in Cambodia;

Whereas, despite constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression and association in Cambodia, Prime Minister

Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia have consistently and blatantly violated basic democratic principles, the rule of law, and human rights in Cambodia;

Whereas the United States, the United Nations, and other international donors have publicly expressed concern with Prime Minister Hun Sen's authoritarian conduct (including inappropriate influence and control over the judiciary) and the official corruption and climate of impunity that exist in Cambodia today;

Whereas evidence of the campaign to undermine the democratic opposition in Cambodia is found in the revocation of parliamentary immunity of opposition leaders Sam Rainsy, Chea Poch, and Cheam Channy, and the 7-year prison sentence of Cheam Channy for allegedly forming "a secret army to overthrow the government" and 18-month sentence in absentia of Sam Rainsy on charges of allegedly defaming Prime Minister Hun Sen;

Whereas evidence of the campaign to stifle critics of the Government of Cambodia is found in the detention and charges of criminal defamation of radio journalist Mom Sonando and Rong Chhum, president of the Cambodian Independent Teachers Association;

Whereas the decision by Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia on January 25, 2006, to drop all charges against Mom Sonando, Rong Chhum, Kem Sokha, and Pa Nguon is a welcome step, but does little to alleviate the underlying climate of intimidation in Cambodia;

Whereas evidence of the campaign to silence and intimidate civil society is found in the arrest and detention of

human rights activist Kem Sokha, Yeng Virak, and Pa Nguon on charges of criminal defamation;

Whereas other champions of democracy in Cambodia, including former parliamentarian Om Radsady and labor leader Chea Vichea, were brutally murdered in Cambodia, and no one has been brought to justice for committing these heinous crimes;

Whereas Cambodia is a donor dependant country, and more than \$2,000,000,000 has been invested by donors in the democratic development of that country; and

Whereas the current atmosphere of intimidation and fear calls into question the viability of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) affirms the support and respect of the  
3       United States for the welfare, human rights, and  
4       dignity of the people of Cambodia;

5               (2) calls on Prime Minister Hun Sen and the  
6       Government of Cambodia to immediately cease and  
7       desist from its systematic campaign to undermine  
8       democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in  
9       Cambodia;

10              (3) calls on Prime Minister Hun Sen and the  
11       Government of Cambodia to immediately release all  
12       political prisoners and drop all politically motivated  
13       charges against opponents of the government;

14              (4) calls on Prime Minister Hun Sen and the  
15       Government of Cambodia to demonstrate through

1 words and deed the government's commitment to de-  
2 mocracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Cam-  
3 bodia;

4 (5) calls upon the King of Cambodia to play a  
5 more active and constructive role in protecting the  
6 constitutional rights of all Cambodian citizens; and

7 (6) urges international donors and multilateral  
8 organizations, including the World Bank, the Asian  
9 Development Bank, and the United Nations, to hold  
10 Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of  
11 Cambodia fully accountable for actions that under-  
12 mine the investment of international donors in the  
13 democratic and economic development of Cambodia.

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