

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2015

Prime Minister Hun Sen
Kingdom of Cambodia
c/o Royal Embassy of Cambodia to the United States
4530 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Dear Prime Minister Hun Sen,

We write to you as friends of Cambodia with deep concerns about efforts to disrupt the development of democracy in your country. The decision of the standing committee of the National Assembly on November 16 to expel opposition leader Sam Rainsy and revoke his parliamentary immunity is of gravest concern. We echo the statement of the United States Embassy in Cambodia, which has called on the government to revoke the arrest warrant issued against Mr. Rainsy, allow all opposition lawmakers to “return to Cambodia without fear of arrest and persecution,” and end the “harassment and intimidation of Cambodia’s opposition.”

While we have been profoundly disappointed by widespread irregularities and fraud reported by national and international observers in the 2013 national elections that left the Cambodian People’s Party in power, we have been encouraged by negotiations between the ruling party and the opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) that resulted in opposition parliamentarians taking their seats.

However, a number of recent developments have highlighted the shrinking space for democracy and civil society in your country. Earlier this year, the government passed the “Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations” which severely restricts the development of civil society by requiring registration and government approval of NGOs. We were also concerned to hear that last month protestors violently attacked two elected lawmakers from the CNRP in Phnom Penh. One of the lawmakers who was attacked, Mr. Nhay Chamreoun, is also a United States citizen.

These actions are detrimental to the development of democratic institutions in Cambodia; they further harm both Cambodia’s international standing and efforts to deepen ties between our countries. The people of Cambodia deserve to have their voices heard in a society that welcomes open debate and respects democratic values. We call on you to immediately cease the harassment and persecution of Cambodia’s opposition, revoke Mr. Rainsy’s arrest warrant and reinstate him to the National Assembly, renounce all forms of political violence, and foster an environment where democracy can thrive and flourish.

Sincerely,



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



MATT SALMON
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



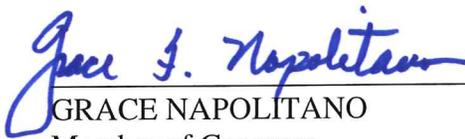
EDWARD R. ROYCE
Member of Congress



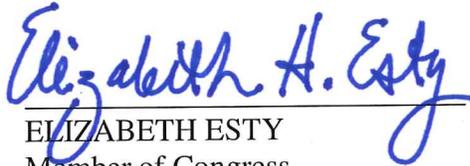
JANICE HAHN
Member of Congress



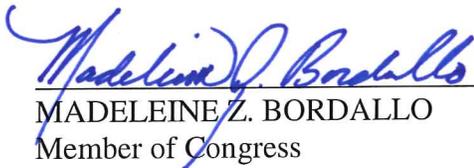
STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress



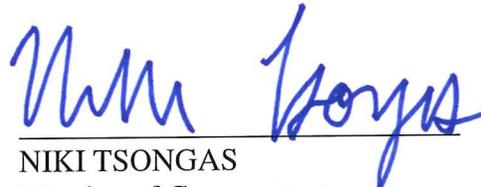
GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



ELIZABETH ESTY
Member of Congress



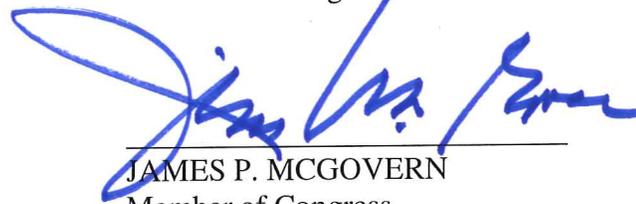
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
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NIKI TSONGAS
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SETH MOULTON
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SCOTT DESJARLAIS
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DAVID CICILLINE
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ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress