



Human Rights Now

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30th Human Rights Council

ITEM 10: ID with SR on Cambodia

Speaker: Ms. Wipada Panichpathom

The Deteriorating Human Rights Situation in Cambodia

Thank you Mr. /Ms. President,

Human Rights Now expresses its deep concern about the escalation of human rights violations in Cambodia over the last two years. In particular, we are troubled by the tightened government control over the judiciary and the absence of fair trial standards. This has allowed numerous politically motivated cases of arbitrary detention, and judicial harassment of human rights defenders and other activists, including Ny Chakrya, a member of ADHOC(), who has been wrongfully charged with “discrediting a judicial decision” after criticizing the arbitrary detention of villagers involved in a land dispute. Between July 20 and August 20 this year, 21 activists and opposition supporters have been convicted or detained on politically motivated charges aimed at silencing criticism. The series of arbitrary prosecutions and judicial harassment seriously undermines the efforts to develop a democratic society in Cambodia. We are also concerned about the Law on Associations and Non-Government Organizations, known as the “LANGO”, which severely restricts activities of both domestic and international civil society organizations and is inconsistent with Cambodia’s obligations under international and domestic laws, including constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of association and expression.

Human Rights Now urges the Cambodian government to revise the LANGO in accordance with international human rights standards. We also urge the authorities to fully respect the freedoms of expression, and association, and cease judicial harassment of human rights defenders.

Human Rights Now supports the extension of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia. Further, it asks the Special Rapporteur to play a more proactive role to prevent further deterioration of the situation.

Thank you.