



# NEWSLETTER



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KAS CAMBODIA OFFICE  
SPECIAL EDITION

## Opposition's protests will be continued

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA

LENA RUGE

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### Electoral Reform Alliance publishes Joint-Report on the Conduct of the 2013 Cambodian Elections



Source: Heng Chivoan, [www.phnompenhpost.com](http://www.phnompenhpost.com)

In November 2013 the Electoral Reform Alliance (ERA) published its Joint-Report on the Conduct of the 2013 Cambodian Elections.

Among others the report highlights problems of election administration and voter registration as well as media coverage. There is no transparency in how many eligible citizens were left off the registry, but there is an estimated number of 1.25 Million evaluated by the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in

Cambodia (COMFREL). Furthermore, the report comes to the conclusion that estimated 19.3% of the names of the voter registry were not valid. Even though a National Election Commission (NEC) was established in 1997 to monitor the election process as an independent agency, the Commission has close relations to the CPP and confirmed the election's result eventually.

The opposition, which demanded an independent investigation on the irregularities, refuses to attend the National Assembly.

Further reading:

"Transparency Int. calls for probe of irregularities":

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/transparency-intl-calls-probe-irregularities>

"Wahl in Kambodscha weder frei noch fair":

<http://www.dw.de/wahl-in-kambodscha-weder-frei-noch-fair/a-16987340>

ERA Joint-Report:

[http://www.comfrel.org/eng/components/com\\_mypublications/files/684510eERA\\_Joint\\_Report\\_on\\_Cambodian\\_Elections\\_2013\\_Final.pdf](http://www.comfrel.org/eng/components/com_mypublications/files/684510eERA_Joint_Report_on_Cambodian_Elections_2013_Final.pdf)

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[www.kas.de](http://www.kas.de)

[www.kas.de/kambodscha](http://www.kas.de/kambodscha)

### Mass demonstrations in Phnom Penh



Source: Sreng Meng Srun, [www.phnom-penhpost.com](http://www.phnom-penhpost.com)

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2013 Sam Rainsy and his deputy Kem Sokha marched among estimated 70,000 CNRP supporters through the center of Phnom Penh. The demonstration's addressee was Prime Minister Hun Sen with the demand to resign from office. Motivations for going onto the street were various: sale of land and cultural heritage as well as natural resources and forests, no appropriate minimum wage, high unemployment rate in the country or the gap between the opportunities of rich and poor people.

After the mass demonstrations CPP and CNRP decided to meet and discuss the current situation. Opposition leader Sam Rainsy cancelled the appointment one day before the actual meeting and thus showing objection to the violent actions of the military against monks and demonstrators during the recent garment strikes. Workers on the garment sector are demanding to raise the minimum wage to 160 USD. In December 2013 the government increased the minimum wage to 95 USD, meanwhile 100 USD. Starting peacefully, protests turned violent with the result that four people were shot and several were injured. By the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2014, after about two weeks of strike, the majority of workers returned to work. On January 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 Sam Rainsy and Kem Sokha are called to attend a questioning before Phnom Penh Municipal Court regarding their alleged incitement of striking garment workers to commit criminal actions.

Further reading:

"CNRP Holds Biggest Demonstration in Decades":

<http://www.cambodiadaily.com/featured-stories/cnrp-holds-biggest-demonstration-in-decades-49558/>

"CNRP cites assaults in nixing talks":

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/cnrp-cites-assaults-nixing-talks>

"Cambodian police fire on striking garment workers":

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/cambodian-police-fire-on-striking-garment-workers-killing-4-1.2482724>

"Garment workers end strike":

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/08/world/asia/cambodia-garment-workers-end-strike.html?ref=cambodia&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/08/world/asia/cambodia-garment-workers-end-strike.html?ref=cambodia&_r=0)

"Leadership of CNRP digging in":

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/leadership-cnrp-digging>

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**Opposition will proceed with protesting marches.**



Source: Siv Channa, [www.cambodiadaily.com](http://www.cambodiadaily.com)

On Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2014, the opposition leader Sam Rainsy announced that the CNRP is planning new demonstrations in Phnom Penh. He and his deputy are going to visit several provinces such as Siem Reap and Battambang to gather political support before launching new protests in the capital.

The United Nations human rights office (OHCHR) in Geneva is also addressing the Cambodian Officials to initiate an investigation regarding disproportionate use of force against demonstrators. The OHCHR spokesman, Rupert Colville, stated that they are seriously concerned about the situation in Cambodia.

The current situation between the ruling CPP and the opposition is tense. On January 7<sup>th</sup> the CPP stated that the opposition's actions would not have any effect, but dishonoring the country by disrespecting the constitution and existing laws as well as denying the achievements of the CPP. The next weeks will reveal the further steps of the CNRP and how Prime Minister Hun Sen and the CPP will respond to it.

Further reading:

"Opposition preps plans for demos":

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/opposition-preps-plans-demos>

"UN Calls for Investigation of Violent Cambodian Crackdown":

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/cambodia/un-01072014184340.html>

"CPP swings back hard":

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/cpp-swings-back-hard>



**Impressum**

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