



NEWSLETTER



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KAS CAMBODIA OFFICE

SINAH STERRY

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The following articles are a composition of last two weeks' (01.11.-15.11.) press releases in Cambodia. They give a review on current developments in the country.

59th ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE



Source: [thecambodiaherald](http://www.thecambodiaherald.com)¹

On Friday, the 9th of November, Cambodia marked the 59th anniversary of its independence from France. Around 10,000 Cambodians gathered around the Independence Monument in Phnom Penh to celebrate the occasion. The ceremony was chaired by National Assembly President Heng Samrin. King Norodom Sihamoni, who attended the event in the previous years, skipped the ceremony as he is still in mourning for the late King

Father Norodom Sihanouk who died in Beijing last month. The death of the King cast a somber mood on the whole celebration. The independence from France, who ruled the country from 1863-1953, is widely seen as one of the greatest achievements of the former King Sihanouk. The victory flame was kept burning for three days. Moreover, doves and balloons were released into the sky as a sign for freedom.

Further Reading:

Cambodians Somberly Mark Independence Day:

<http://www.voacambodia.com/content/cambodians-somberly-mark-independence-day/1542846.html>

Cambodia marks 59th anniversary of independence:

<http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=15&token=ZjJlMjMwNDMzYTA4MzcZyZmZTVlNzZmZjZjYmJj>

Cambodian Independence Day celebrated:

<http://en.vietnamplus.vn/Home/Cambodian-Independence-Day-celebrated/201211/29769.vnplus>

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Further Reading:

Sovereigns Ratings List:

<http://www.standardandpoors.com/ratings/sovereigns/ratings-list/en/us/>

Cambodia ratings affirmed, outlook remains stable:

<http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=13&token=N2U2ZjgxYWI5YzBjMjE5OGQ1Y2IxMmJmMDMzODZk>

Hun Sen: remove ASEAN trade barriers:

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2012103159497/Business/hun-sen-remove-asean-trade-barriers.html>

Insight: Land conflict, impunity dim Cambodia's awakening:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/12/us-cambodia-protests-idUSBRE8AB17J20121112>

KHMER ROUGE TRIAL: IENG SARY BACK IN DETENTION



Source: [thecambodiaherald](http://www.thecambodiaherald.com)⁴

On Thursday, 8th of November, the 88 year old Ieng Sary returned back to detention as the geriatric specialist Professor John Campbell considers him to be able to follow the proceedings. Ieng Sary was the Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs during the Khmer Rouge Regime between 1975 and 1979 under which about 1.7 million people came to death. In 2007, he was arrested by the ECCC and charged of genocide, crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Ieng Sary was admitted to hospital in September as he was suffering from heart and back problems. But after an examination on the 4th and 5th of November, the medical expert came to the conclusion, that the defendant would not benefit

from a further stay in hospital. Ieng Sary's defense team finds the "methodology of the diagnosis unacceptable" and is seeking discredit.

His wife, Ieng Thirith, was released from tribunal detention in September after she was found mentally unfit to stand trial due to her dementia. Her release and the subsequent hospitalization of Ieng Sary promoted the fear among the Cambodians that the leaders of the Khmer Rouge will not be brought to justice.

Further Reading:

ECCC – Ieng Sary:

<http://www.eccc.gov.kh/en/indicted-person/ieng-sary>

Khmer Rouge suspect back in detention after hospital stay:

<http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=15&token=NjhIMzc0ZjM5NDM2Yjc5YWZlNTUzYzQyOGJmMjBm>

Ieng Sary severance casts a shadow:

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/KRTalk/ieng-sary-severance-casts-a-shadow.html>

⁴http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/images/upload/cambodia/NjhIMzc0ZjM5NDM2Yjc5YWZlNTUzYzQyOGJmMjBm/760_450/images.jpg

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OPPOSITION GETTING READY FOR NEXT YEARS ELECTION



Source: KAS⁵

As the elections are coming up next year in July 2013, the opposition parties work hard to join forces in order to compete with the ruling Cambodian Peoples Party (CPP). But there are still many difficulties to be faced. The merger of the two major opposition parties Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) and Human Rights Party (HRP) to the newly created Cambodia National Salvation Party – also known as Rescue Party – is of critical importance. Sam Rainsy has therefore passed on his position as the president of the SRP to Kong Korm during the SRP Congress on the 2nd of November. But only shortly after, the National Election Committee has removed Sam Rainsy from the voter rolls on the grounds that he is a convicted criminal. His defense lawyer has already filed a complaint with the Constitutional Council appealing the decision. According to the procedure, the verdict will be made, at the earliest, 10 days following the submission of the complaint.

Further Reading:

Sam Rainsy Quits Party:

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/cambodia/quit-10032012181510.html>

Sam Rainsy deleted from Voter List for Election:

<http://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/sam-rainsy-deleted-from-voter-list-for-election-5229/>

Australian Senate Pushes for Fair Elections in Cambodia:

<http://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/australian-senate-pushes-for-fair-elections-in-cambodia-4930/>

'Unacceptable' Insult Leads to Opposition Walkout at National Assembly Session:

<http://www.voacambodia.com/content/unacceptable-insult-leads-to-opposition-walkout-at-national-assembly-session/1546042.html>

⁵http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_8086-1442-1-30.pdf?121102110848