

សហជីពសេរីកម្មករនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា

FREE TRADE UNION OF WORKERS OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

អាសយដ្ឋាន: ផ្ទះលេខ១៣B ផ្លូវលេខ ២៤០ ,សង្កាត់ជ័យជំនះ, ខណ្ឌបឹងកេងកង, រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ, ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា

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“យុត្តិធម៌សង្គមជាគ្រឹះនៃសន្តិភាព”

“Social justice the foundation for peace”

1 May 1999

POLICE BLOCK MAY DAY DEMONSTRATORS

Police blocked trucks of demonstrators planning to attend the Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia May Day demonstration early this morning. The trucks were on their way to Olympic Stadium from factories in southern Phnom Penh.

The demonstration will continue as planned.

For more information please call Katja Hemmerich (in English) at 012 863 727.

From: FTU <camftu@bigpond.com.kh>
To: THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS
Date: Thursday, April 29, 1999 2:47 PM
Subject: May 1 demonstration banned

GOVERNMENT BANS MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION BY FREE TRADE UNION

The Cambodian government has refused the Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia's request to organize a peaceful demonstration in honor of Labor Day on May 1. On April 27, 1999 we had requested permission to march peacefully from the Olympic Stadium to the National Assembly. Today we were informed that the government would not grant us permission for such a march. The government sent us a copy of an April 28 letter from the Phnom Penh Deputy Governor to the co-Ministers of Interior, which stated: "The Phnom Penh Municipality is in the opinion that [we] should not allow the demonstration to take place because it would affect security and order in the city but [we] could allow a meeting to be held on the premises of the Olympic Stadium, provided prior authorization is given by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports".

- ✓ The Cambodian government's decision violates fundamental freedoms of opinion, association and assembly stated in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia urges all democratic countries and labor organizations around the world to help effectively promote democracy, human rights and workers' rights in Cambodia. This is the kind of Kafkaesque situation that an authoritarian state creates to stunt the development of any democratic movement.

On the occasion of International Labor Day, our union will raise the following demands:

- 1- an increase in the minimum wage from US\$ 40 to US\$ 60 per month;
- 2- a reduction in working hours from 48 to 44 hours per week;
- 3- an end to arbitrary and wrongful dismissals;
- 4- special protection for democratically elected workers' representatives;
- 5- effective implementation of workers' right to paid vacations (18 days per year);
- 6- the same amount of paid holidays for workers as for civil servants (any other decision is unconstitutional);
- 7- prohibition of impromptu lay-offs or salary cuts because of a "lack of orders" at firms
- 8- full respect of all provisions of the labor law;
- 9- creation of a special and independent court to deal with labor disputes;
- 10- implementation of adequate measures to curb corruption in order to promote social justice.

Chea Vichea
President