



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
Nation - Religion - King  
ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

April 9, 1999

Mr Anders B Johnsson,  
Secretary General of the  
Inter-Parliamentary Union,  
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Mr. Secretary General,

On the occasion of the 101st Inter-Parliamentary Conference to be held in Brussels from April 10 to 16, 1999, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all parliamentarians around the world, especially those sitting in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, as well as to the dedicated staff of the IPU, for taking up and following my case since my expulsion from Cambodia's National Assembly in 1995.

Their support has helped me endure this abuse of my human rights as a parliamentarian and this violation of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Unfortunately, the competent authorities in Cambodia have not taken into account the successive resolutions adopted by the IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

Even though I was re-elected Member of Parliament at the July 26, 1998 elections, I request the IPU to continue to raise my case and to urge the Cambodian authorities to render justice to me by acknowledging their wrongdoing. This position is based on principles and is aimed at preserving the human rights of other Cambodian MPs in the future. Human rights for all Cambodian citizens remain a serious source of concern, as evidenced by the continuous killings of political opponents, the absence of any serious investigation and the impunity enjoyed by the most notorious criminals.

The Cambodian delegation to the IPU upcoming meeting will be led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh in his capacity as President of the National Assembly. In 1995, it was him who engineered my expulsion from the National Assembly in his capacity as President of the FUNCINPEC party (which I was a member of) and "First" Prime Minister in a country where the National Assembly is only a rubber-stamp parliament. The IPU will have a good opportunity to ask for a clarification from the Cambodian delegation about their conception of the rule of law and about their willingness to take into account views expressed by other parliamentarians who uphold democratic principles and human rights.

I wish the IPU a very successful conference.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Rainsy, MP