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KHMERS KAMPUCHEA-KROM FEDERATION

Asia – Australia – Europe – North America

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Press Release

An Appeal for a Peaceful Demonstration to Demand Religious Freedom for Khmer-Krom in Kampuchea Krom on April 20, 2007

Belief in a religion is a foundation of the human beings and also a human being heritage. The United Nations has recognized the freedom of belief as a fundamental right of human beings and none of the authorities are allowed to use force to oppress and violate that right.

The Khmer-Krom people have been living in a suffered condition because of the Vietnamese government has intentionally planned to abolish The Theravada Buddhism that Khmer-Krom is practicing in Kampuchea Krom. The peaceful demonstration on February 8th, 2007 in Kleang (Soc Trang) province by the Khmer-Krom Buddhist monks from the Pali language school to demand for religious freedom was cracked down by the Vietnamese Communist (VC) government. The Khmer-Krom Buddhist monks who were involved with that peaceful demonstration were arrested, defrosted, and imprisoned by the VC government. Currently, three of them were still imprisoned.

The Khmer-Krom people around the world have protested to demand the VC government to stop persecuting Khmer-Krom Buddhist monks and release them without any conditions. Unfortunately, the VC government has no attempted to stop persecuting and releasing the three Khmer-Krom Buddhist monks.

We would like to appeal the world community to help solving this urgent issue because the victims are living in the endangered situation. The Human Rights violations toward Khmer-Krom and Khmer-Krom Buddhist monk and other religions by the VC government is an inhumanity, disrespected, and totally violated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that Vietnam signed with the United Nations. The VC government must stop and be responsible for its evil acts for violating the Khmer-Krom's Human Rights.

We would like to appeal the Asian Nations and World community to find a proper solution to stop the Human Rights violations committed by the VC government and pressure on the VC government to respect the fundamental Human Rights of the Khmer-Krom in Kampuchea Krom as follows:

- Release Khmer-Krom Buddhist monks without any conditions
- Stop confiscating Khmer-Krom's lands
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of religion and belief of their own culture
- Freedom of assembly

To demand for the requests above, we would like to appeal to all Venerable, Khmer-Krom, and Khmer, to come and join the universal peaceful demonstration on April 20th, 2007 in front of Vietnamese Embassy in your country. For more information, please contact our local KKF representatives in your country.

Respectfully Yours,

Thach N. Thach
KKF President

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