UNPO and the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation to Hold a Conference on the Political & Economic Situation in Southeast Asia: the Case of the Indigenous Khmer-Krom People, Hosted by French Senator Mr André Gattolin

The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) together with the Unrepresented Nations and Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) organise a one-day international conference on the conference on the 'Political & Economic Situation in Southeast Asia: the Case of the Indigenous Khmer-Krom People' in Paris on 2 June 2018 from 9am to 5pm to raise awareness about human rights violations perpetrated against the Khmer-Krom in the Mekong Delta, Kampuchea-Krom. The conference will be hosted by French Senator Mr André Gattolin and will take place in Palais du Luxembourg, salle Clémenceau, 15ter rue Vaugirard, 75006 Paris.

Nowadays, the indigenous Khmer-Krom communities suffer under the lack of a fair and uncorrupted judiciary system to deal with land claims but also under the excessive use of force by the authorities particularly towards Theravada Buddhist monks, the poor implementation of their rights to freedom of religion, expression and self-determination, as well as tactics of coercion based on intimidation, imprisonment without a fair trial and torture. Although the authorities have incorporated key human rights standards in the national Constitution and ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the implementation of these human rights is severely lacking.

The conference will gather members of the Khmer community, scholars, elected officials and members of the civil society. While the morning session will feature panels focussing on contemporary human rights abuses in the Mekong Delta and Kampuchea-Krom, the afternoon session will focus on the international human rights system meant to protect and promote the fundamental rights for the Khmer-Krom. The event will be held in English.

Contact: f.delemer@unpo.org, info@khmerkrom.org.
Registration: Send your full name and ID number at: a.gattolin@senat.fr.

Provisional programme available on page 2.
Poster available on page 3.
Press release
16 April 2018

Provisional programme:

8:30am — 9:00am Guests welcomed by Mr Vien Thach, Chairman, KKF
9:00am — 9:30am Buddhist monks blessing

Introduction: United in the struggle for human rights
- French Senator Mr André Gattolin
- Mr Kim Thong To, former Chairman, KKF
- Representative, UNPO

9:30am — 10:00am Sharing experiences about the Khmer-Krom
- Mr Philip Taylor, Professor and Researcher, Australian National University
- Ms Roshane Saidnattar, Filmmaker

Panel I - Contemporary Human Rights Abuses in Kampuchea-Krom
10:00am — 11:00am The State of the Four Freedoms in Vietnam: Freedom of Speech and Worship: Freedom from Fear and Want
- Mr Phil Robertson, Deputy Director, Human Rights Watch Asia Division
- Mr Sereivuth Prak, Executive President, KKF
- Speaker to be confirmed

Q&A session

11:00am — 12:00pm Religious Freedom in Vietnam: A Fundamental Right or a Privilege Granted by the Government?
- Ms Tina L. Mufford, Senior Policy Analyst, US Commission on International Religious Freedom
- Ms Laura Harth, Representative to the United Nations, Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty

Q&A session

12:00pm — 2:00pm Lunch break

Panel II - Ways Forward: Putting the International Human Rights System to the Service of the Khmer-Krom
2:00pm — 3:00pm Putting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to the Service of the Indigenous of the Mekong
- Professor Joshua Cooper, Lecturer, Hawai’i Institute for Human Rights ; Program Director, International Human and Peoples Rights Law Program - INNES Institute Vienna
- Ms Irène Bellier, Anthropologist, School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) ; Vice President, International Work Group on Indigenous Peoples (GITPA)

Q&A session

3:00pm — 4:00pm The EU and its Member States’ Engagement for Human Rights
- Ms Olivia Geymond, Executive Committee Member EU-ASEAN Perspectives Impact Group, IFAIR - Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs and International Relations
- French Senator Mr André Gattolin

Q&A session

Closing remarks by Senator Mr André Gattolin and the KKF.
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | 2 JUNE 2018, 9:00 — 17:00

THE CASE OF THE INDIGENOUS KHMER-KROM PEOPLE

POLITICAL & ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

CO-ORGANISED BY SENATOR ANDRÉ GATTOLIN

PALAIS DU LUXEMBOURG
15TER RUE VAUGIRARD 75006, PARIS, FRANCE

REGISTRATION | SEND FULL NAME AND ID NUMBER AT : A.GATTOLIN@SENAT.FR