KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

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**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia**

**to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva**

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**RIGHTS OF REPLY**

**Statement of H.E. Mr. NEY SAM OL, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations Office at Geneva**

**In Response to the Statement delivered by Bulgaria on behalf of the European Union and their cohorts against Cambodia**

(38th Session of the Human Rights Council, 27 June 2018, Geneva)

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**Mr. President,**

My delegation wishes to execute Rights of Reply in response to the fallacious statement of the European Union delivered by Bulgaria and those of Belgium, Finland, Ireland and some NGOs against Cambodia.

The statements are made at wrong time blatantly ignoring the existing rules and practices of the Human Rights Council, politicizing and weaponizing it as a tool to meddle in Cambodian domestic affairs particularly to discredit and deny the upcoming July 29 Election.

The Item 4 of this 38th Session of the Council is dedicated to human rights issues of five countries such as Belarus, Eritrea, Syria, Burundi and Myanmar, not of Cambodia. The Cambodia’s human rights issues will be taken up in September under Item 10 as mandated by last year Resolution 36/32.

Then, why are they so rush to raise Cambodia’s issue at this session?

Because they are motivated by political bias, not by human rights. And because they have their hidden agenda to discredit the outstanding achievements of the Royal Government in maintaining hard-earned peace, stability and steady economic growth, and specifically to stonewall the ruling party. Therefore, they have no hesitation to flagrantly violate the principles of Council and the Charter of the United Nations to undermine the sovereignty of Cambodia.

As far as the dissolution of the former Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) and the detention of its leader are concerned, my delegation would like to shed light on the factual and legal backgrounds of the issues as follows:

As democracy, human rights and the rule of law are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, prosecuting, convicting and sentencing the offenders in order to preserve law and order and to uphold the publics’ interest are the must do duties of legitimate authorities.

The same holds true when it comes to the Supreme Court’s judgment in dissolving the CNRP, against which there is no appeal, is purely a judicial matter. The Royal Government has no role to play in the Court’s decision. And the enforcement of the rule of law by legitimate authorities pertaining to the Party and persons in question has nothing to do with the upcoming Election.

Therefore, calling on the Royal Government to reinstate the CNRP or to release the detainees in question is no different from calling on the Government to interfere in the judicial power, which is completely independent from, and shall not be granted to, executive body, as stipulated by Articles 128 and 130 of the Constitution of Cambodia. As such, it is the matter of fact that the resuscitation of the corpse will not bring the dead body to life.

Lastly, my delegation observes that whilst some delegates selectively attempt to lecture Cambodia on human rights, their human rights records are seriously tainted with flaws ranging from racism to racial discrimination and to social grievances and so on.

I thank you.