

Date: _____

The Honorable Representative _____
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

I wish to bring to your attention regarding the legal rights and safety of a well respected Cambodian-American who happened to be an elected MP in Cambodia, Madame Mu Sochua.

Madame Mu Sochua has filed a defamation lawsuit against Prime Minister Hun Sen for verbally attacking her in public, not only by referring her as "strong legs" like a gangster in Cambodian, and as "a trouble maker, but also by twisting the facts in trying to encourage and protect an army general who committed an assault against Madame Mu Sochua during the trail of election campaign of 2008.

The government of Cambodia has now filed a counter lawsuit in an attempt to intimidate Madame Mu Sochua. We have learnt that there is a possibility that her immunity might be stripped and arrest could be made following the court decision, should the government has its way. The fact remain, Cambodian court system is highly corrupted and heavily controlled by the government.

As such, it is truly a concern for all of us Cambodian-American abroad who have seen democracy in Cambodia on a slippery slope toward dictatorship.

Please help ensure that democratic rights, freedom and security of Madame Mu Sochua are not being compromised. She is after all, an elected member of the National Assembly, and she represents all of our democratic values and principles, including women's rights.

Thank you so much for your precious time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Date: _____

The Honorable Senator _____
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

I wish to bring to your attention regarding the legal rights and safety of a well respected Cambodian-American who happened to be an elected MP in Cambodia, Madame Mu Sochua.

Madame Mu Sochua has filed a defamation lawsuit against Prime Minister Hun Sen for verbally attacking her in public, not only by referring her as "strong legs" like a gangster in Cambodian, and as "a trouble maker, but also by twisting the facts in trying to encourage and protect an army general who committed an assault against Madame Mu Sochua during the trail of election campaign of 2008.

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Please help ensure that democratic rights, freedom and security of Madame Mu Sochua are not being compromised. She is after all, an elected member of the National Assembly, and she represents all of our democratic values and principles, including women's rights.

Thank you so much for your precious time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Names and mailing address of US Senators sorted by State

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As I Walk to Prison



Between 1975-79, over 1.7 million Cambodian women, men and children were killed by the Khmer Rouge, among them my parents. The world community knew about it but watched from afar. Cambodia has come out of genocide and on the road to reconstruction but this stage of reconstruction is stuck and in many ways quickly falling back to point zero. 30 years after the genocide of the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia has made some progress but too small. Over 2,000 innocent Cambodian women die every year of childbirth, at least one million Cambodian children go to bed hungry every night, hundreds of thousands Cambodian children and female youth are ruined in brothels, over 200,000 families have been brutally forced of their land and homes, and over 75% of Cambodia's forests have now been destroyed. Innocent lives of my people could be

saved if justice were served, if top leaders of my broken nation were less greedy, if development were meant for all.

I left Cambodia as an innocent young adolescent because the Vietnam war was approaching and hundreds and thousands of sick, wounded and hungry families were already telling us that Cambodia was lost. I returned home 18 years later with two young children, to a nation in ruins. A new beginning gave us hope when the UN came to help Cambodia organize its first democratic election in 1993. It cost the world community 2 billion dollars. I became a leader in the women's movement, moving communities and walking the peace walk in city streets and dirt roads to pray for non-violence. I joined politics and became the first woman to lead the women's ministry that was lead by a man, campaigned nationwide to put an end to human trafficking, authored the draft law on domestic violence, signed treaties with neighboring countries to protect our women and children from being prosecuted as illegal migrants but to receive proper treatment as victims of sex slavery.

I witness violence not as a victim but I listen to hundreds and thousands of women and children speak of the shame, the violation, the soul that is taken away when violence is afflicted on their bodies and on their minds. As a politician I always try to take action, to walk to the villages where life seems to have stopped for centuries, I challenge the top leadership of the government - I question international aid.

Today, I am faced with the real possibility of going to jail because as self-defense I dare to sue the prime minister of Cambodia, a man who has ruled this nation for 30 years. Having been assaulted to the point where I stood half exposed in front of men, by a general I caught using a state car to campaign for the party of the prime minister, I found myself assaulted again, this time verbally by the prime minister who compares me to a woman hustler who grabbed men for attention.

Within days my parliamentary immunity will be lifted so the court can "investigate" my case. This is normal procedure for politicians from the opposition party or human rights activists or the poor who cannot bribe court officials. I will be detained in the notorious prison of "Prey Sar" for as long as the courts wish to take.

Many of my colleagues in the opposition, including my party leader have faced this fate for speaking out.

Cambodia receives close to a billion dollars in 2009 from the international community, the USA contributing close to 60 million. Is the world still watching in silence while Cambodia is now ruled by one man? Is the world afraid to say that its aid is actually taking Cambodia backwards?

Let no Cambodian children go to bed hungry anymore. Let no Cambodian woman be sold anymore.

We must walk tall despite being people bent from the trauma of the Khmer Rouge, which is still a part of us. Let us not let our leaders and the world-community use this trauma to give us justice by the teaspoon.

Let there be real justice.

Mu Sochua

Elected Member of Parliament
Sam Rainsy Party