

Statement by Mr. Kan Sophal



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Speaker: Kan Sophal

Madam Chairman and distinguished members of the Forum,

I am Venerable Kan Sophal. As a Buddhist nation Khmer Kampuchea Krom always love peace. We are making every effort to protect and support lives, caring, respect freedom of other and human right.

For almost 56 years under Vietnamese Colony, Khmer Krom Buddhist monks have suffered a great deal of endless suffering from injustice and abuse of human right by the Vietnamese authorities. There are not hundred but thousand of cases that our Buddhist monks have bitterly suffered ranged from falsely accused, arrest, imprisonment and torture to death. Up until now these kinds of inhumane practices still continue without any sign of relief.

Witnessing by our world friend communities today, who are loving peace and freedom I am denouncing on behalf of 25,000 Khmer Krom Buddhist monks abroad and in Kampuchea Krom, that.... "Enough is enough!"

1. The Vietnamese Government must stop their manipulated policies to disadvantage Khmer Krom people. They must stop their heartless deceits Khmer Krom communities. They must stop their embellished plan to destroy Khmer Krom roots, identities, culture, religion and tradition. In the whole province of Chau Doc in 1978 they forced Khmer Krom out of towns and out of Buddhist temples and turn the place into their military camp. Now the previous 700 Khmer Krom Buddhist temples of which 140 were destroyed and only about 560 temples remained and under serious threats. Where these temples used to be peaceful and secured for Khmer Krom children to learn, to love, to live and to grow knowledge and wisdom now sadly became a place to punish our Khmer Krom monks and people. The temples are no longer safe and secure. Some temples have been used to hide Vietnamese secret agents to closely watch over Khmer Krom Buddhist Monks and work to deter our will through either placing new laws enforcement or inappropriate rules against Buddhist practice such as forcing monks to grow their own rice field, digging wells to raise fish and animals.

2. The Vietnamese government must stop treating Khmer Krom as an ethnic minority and secretly work against our right as human being and our right as an indigenous owner of this land. Khmer Krom monks are forbidden to travel free from one place to another in or out of the country. We were labeled and separated from the

Vietnamese. We have lost all the privileges and the eligibilities. Having access to higher education, business support, social securities, Medicare, health and hospital are very limited.

Today this meeting is the most historic event for both Khmer Krom monks and Khmer Krom Buddhist people. Thank you to UN and the world communities, especially UNPO and many other organization here to witness the truth about the prolong conflicts between Vietnamese and Khmer Krom people. I am now humbly asking for your cooperative help to find justice, freedom and to end this suffering in Kampuchea Krom.

Some 56 years ago, and it is still fresh like yesterday when this Khmer Krom land was illegally transferred by French Colonialists to Vietnamese Bao Dai government in June 1949. And to my knowledge this Khmer Krom land is still under the name of Khmer Krom people. Today Khmer Krom people all over the world are crying out, seeking help, do what they could, to let the world know about the truth and to help to bring back our right to self-determination that have been lost over the years and in according to international law, article 11,12 and13 the United Nation is to administer the process of creating new environment for Khmer Krom to have freedom, justice and right to self-determination.

Thank you very much for your valuable times.