



មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលអប់រំច្បាប់សម្រាប់សហគមន៍

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION CENTER

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលអប់រំច្បាប់សម្រាប់សហគមន៍ ភ្នំពេញ ផ្លូវលេខ ២៣៧ ភូមិថ្មី សង្កាត់ដង្កោ ខណ្ឌដង្កោ រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ ទូរស័ព្ទ: ០៩៣ ២១៥ ៥៩០ ទូរស័ព្ទ/ទូរសារ: ០៩៣ ២១១ ៧២៣ ប្រអប់ប៊្រែសម្រាប់ ១១២០ ភ្នំពេញ
#237, Plov Lom, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Tel: (855)23 215 590, Tel/Fax: (855)23 211 723, P.O.Box 1120; e-mail: admin@clec.org.kh; www.clec.org.kh



Does the De-Facto Government Think It Can Afford to Lose Cambodia’s Largest Buyers?

Phnom Penh – May 29, 2014

This week high level discussions took place between representatives of the de-facto government and major international brands sourcing Cambodian garments. As the trial of the 23 approaches, the message communicated was clear: “due to [the] reaction of consumers and the disruption to production and shipping caused by continued unrest, Cambodia [is] at risk of losing its status as a strategic sourcing market, with an impact on future investment and growth.” (Brand and union statement issued May 27, 2014)

Brands expressed their immediate concern that “the outcome of the judicial process for the detainees must be based on evidence and stands up to international scrutiny to build trust and confidence.” (As above)

Cambodian civil society, including the United Nations, is unanimous in its assessment that there is no evidence to support the charges against the 23.

The brands present at this week’s meeting were a delegation of the 30 signatories to letters delivered earlier this year. Based on consignee data, conservative estimates would place the purchasing power of these signatory brands at least 60% of the garment industry. This equates to approximately US\$3.3 billion dollars annually, equal to almost one quarter of Cambodia’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

As IndustriALL Global Union noted “one major clothing brand revealed that it had cut its sourcing from Cambodia by 50% in the past year due to concerns about political instability and human rights violations in the country.” With such high stakes, the de-facto government cannot continue to play games with the lives and rights of garment workers, particularly those currently detained.

We demand the release of the 23 without charge, to begin the process of restoring justice and stability in the garment sector.

Further, we encourage international consumers to continue to react to the injustice endured by Cambodian garment workers, to ensure brands continue to hold Cambodia accountable for the treatment of its workers.

Please see the link to CLEC’s latest video depicting workers struggles: <http://youtu.be/sJ9frTUC42k>.

For more information please contact: Mr. Tola Moeun, Head of Labor Program, +855 66 777 056; or Mr. Joel Preston, Consultant, +855 66 777 037