

FIDH – ADHOC – LICADHO
Oral intervention at the Human Rights Council
on the occasion of the adoption of the UPR report on Cambodia
17 March 2010

Mr. President,

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and its affiliated leagues in Cambodia, the Cambodia Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC) and the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO), have already drawn the Council's attention to the continued, systematic human rights violations in Cambodia. Given the seriousness of the situation, our organisations deeply regret that several countries purposely made general and vague comments, instead of recommending specific, measurable actions based on recommendations from Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures.

Nevertheless, we share a number of serious concerns raised during the review.

First, many States expressed their concern at forced evictions and confiscations of land. We are extremely concerned by the fact that at least 150,000 Cambodians live under the threat of forced eviction. Therefore we support the recommendation repeatedly made to Cambodia to adopt a moratorium on evictions until fair and transparent mechanisms to resolve land disputes and issue land titles are put in place.

Second, human rights defenders and those who protest against abuses continue to face harassment and intimidation. Several States expressed their concern at the increasing restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and assembly imposed by the new Law on Demonstrations. We call upon the Senate of Cambodia to reject this law, or significantly amend it.

Third, our organisations share the concerns of many States about ongoing political interference and allegations of corruption in the judiciary. This lack of independence further erodes the access to justice. It perpetuates a culture of impunity in which abuses continue unabated.

To conclude, our organisations urge Cambodia to promptly take concrete measures to implement the recommendations of the UPR. We will be closely following Cambodia's efforts to improve its poor human rights record.

Thank you Mr. President