Hun Sen, Prime Minister,

Office of the Prime Minister,

41 Russian Federation Blvd,

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Email: info\_samdechhunsen@yahoo.com

Dear Prime Minister

Alerted by ACAT Italy (Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture – affiliated to FIACAT an NGO in Consultative Status with the United Nations) I wish to express my deep concern about the unjust conviction and arbitrary detention of opposition politician Kem Sokha. On 3 March, he was sentenced to 27 years in prison on exclusively political charges. This harshness is intended to punish his legitimate human rights activities and to hinder his electoral aspirations in the run-up to the elections. This is why I call for Kem Sokha's release.

He is certainly not the only one in this situation. I would also like to mention the lawyer Treary Sen, the trade unionist Chhim Sithar and the censorship of the main Cambodian newspapers.

Your country has ratified the Convention against Torture, and is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees the right to freedom of thought and to a fair trial.

I therefore urge you to:

- Annul the sentence of the opposition leader Kem Sokha and other arbitrarily imprisoned activists, and release them unconditionally,

- Guarantee the rights of all accused persons to a fair trial, including free access to their lawyers and families;

- Put an end to any acts of harassment - including at the judicial level - against these individuals, and ensure in all circumstances that they can carry out their legitimate activities without any hindrance or fear of reprisals;

- Guarantee in all circumstances the integrity of all human rights defenders, journalists and activists and ensure the respect of the formal prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment;

- Respect the right to freedom of association, as set out in particular in Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The repressive actions of Cambodian institutions, which are contrary to human rights and international law, seriously undermine Cambodia's democratic life and credibility in the international scene.

In the hope that this appeal will be taken into consideration

Kind regards.

* Copy of this letter has been sent to the Embassy of Cambodia in Paris