

The latest report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Cambodia is released

PHNOM PENH (22 August 2014) –The latest report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Cambodia, Professor Surya P. Subedi, has been publicly released by the United Nations Secretariat in Geneva*. The report covers the period from 1 July 2013 to 24 July 2014, during which, according to the Special Rapporteur, "Cambodia witnessed major political events". The report focuses on the possibility establishing an independent national human rights institution that reflects the UN Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his previous four reports dealing with judicial, parliamentary, electoral and land reform in Cambodia. The Special Rapporteur focused his last two missions to the country in January and in June 2014 on those two objectives, while continuing to monitor the overall situation of human rights in Cambodia.

In his report, the Special Rapporteur recognized that action to implement some of his earlier recommendations had been initiated, while others remained to be acted upon. In particular, he emphasized the need to ensure the independence of several key institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. In a chapter on "Emerging issues", he highlighted human rights concerns about racism, the Cambodian migrant workers in Thailand that were repatriated in July, and the possible relocation of refugees to Cambodia.

The Special Rapporteur will present his report at 27th regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva at the end of September 2014, whereupon he will engage in an interactive dialogue with the Council. The Council is comprised of 47 UN Member States; however, others may also take the floor as Observer States.

The Special Rapporteur will undertake his final mission to Cambodia in January 2015. On 31 March, he will complete the maximum term limit of six years and will thus turn over the position to a new Rapporteur.

*Read the report at: <http://cambodia.ohchr.org/EN/PagesFiles/Reports/SR-SRSG-Reports.htm>

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Professor Surya P. Subedi (Nepal) was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council as the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Cambodia in March 2009. As Special

Rapporteur, he is independent from any government or organisation, and serves in his individual capacity. He is currently Professor of International Law at the University of Leeds and a practising Barrister in the United Kingdom. He also is the editor of the Asian Journal of International Law (published by Cambridge University Press) and the Vice-President of the Asian Society of International Law.

UN Human Rights in Cambodia: <http://cambodia.ohchr.org/>

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