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KHMERS KAMPUCHEA-KROM FEDERATION



**Proudly Member of the United Nations Department of
Public Information (UN DPI) and Unrepresented Nations
and Peoples Organization (UNPO)**



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KKF Activities in 2017



KKF Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, 13-15 January 2017



KKF Chairman, Mr. Vien Thach, attended the XXIII UNPO Presidency in Brussels on Monday, 23rd January 2017



KKF Delegation met US Department of States in Washington DC, 26 January 2017



**KKF Delegation met U.S. Commission on the International Religious Freedom
In Washington DC, 26 January 2017**



Mr. Tran Mannrinh and Ven. Ly Chanhda (before re-ordained) were interviewed by RFA in Washington DC, 27 January 2017

EAST ASIA

and Pacific
Division

Burmese
Cantonese
Indonesian
Khmer
Korean
Lao
Mandarin
Thai
Tibetan
Vietnamese



KKF Delegation were interviewed by VOA in Washington DC, 27 January 2017



Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization

The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) is an international, nonviolent, and democratic membership organisation. Its members are indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognised or occupied territories that have joined together to protect and promote their human and cultural rights, to preserve their environments, and to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts which affect them.

With the support of the [Khmer Kampuchea-Krom Federation](#)

KKF provided info about human rights violations against Khmer-Krom in Mekong Delta to UNPO to include in the UNPO Midterm Report , 1 February 2017

Contact information:

Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)

www.unpo.org; unpo.brussels@unpo.org

Avenue Louise 52

1050 Brussels

Belgium



Mr. Matthew Torn (left), Documentary Film Director and Producer from England, came to interview Mr. Chau Reap in San Jose, 4-5 February 2017



KKF members organized a Buddhist Ceremony to commemorate the 10th year passed away of Mr. Son Tuon, former KKF President, in San Jose, 19 February 2017



Mrs. Son T. Nit, KKF Women Director, organized an event to commemorate the International Women's Days in Philadelphia, 4 March 2017



KKF members organized a Buddhist Ceremony to re-ordain Venerable Ly Chanhda, who was arrested, defrocked, and imprisoned by the Vietnamese Authority in Kampuchea-Krom, at Soryarangsey Khmer Buddhist temple in Philadelphia, 10 April 2017



Thach Xuan Hien, a Khmer-Krom refugee in Thailand, and his family were granted a political asylum to live in California, 8 March 2017

Open Letter to the President of Vietnam – Mr. Tran Dai Quang Appeal to Return the Sacred Land to the Temple

Published on 18 April 2017



Open Letter to the President of Vietnam – Mr. Tran Dai Quang Appeal to Return the Sacred Land to the Temple

Pennsauken, 17 April 2017

Embassy of Vietnam

Att.: Mr. Tran Dai Quang, President of Vietnam

1233 20th St NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. President:

Recently, there was disturbing news on the social media regarding a land dispute between a Khmer-Krom temple and local Vietnamese families who built their houses illegally on the Khmer-Krom temple's lands. The Khmer-Krom Buddhist followers in the Mekong Delta anonymously contacted our Internet Radio, Voice of Kampuchea-Krom, to express their concern and to ask for help in appealing to your government to return the sacred land that has been confiscated from the Khmer-Krom temple.

The confiscated land belongs to the Khmer-Krom temple, named "Me Pang", located at the 4th commune, Phong Phu village, Cau Ke district, Tra Vinh province (Ấp 4, Xã Phong Phú, Huyện Cầu Kè, Tỉnh Trà Vinh). The temple was built on this land before 1975 and later moved to a new location where currently the temple is located. Even though the temple is not located on this land, the Khmer-Krom Buddhist monks and villagers in this commune have continued to organize Buddhist ceremonies every year on this land.

During 1993 and 1994, there were some Vietnamese families asking the temple if they could temporary build shelters to live on the temple's land. They promised that they would move out when the temple needed the land back. Since the temple did not need to use the land yet they agreed for them to living there temporarily. One of those families is the family of Mr. Phan Van Cua who later secretly bribed the local government to get the land title without the consent of the temple. The temple has been filing complaints with the court of Cau Ke district for almost a decade, but the court keeps denying justice for the temple. The court keeps using tactics saying that the

KKF wrote an open letter to Vietnam's President regarding to the confiscation of the sacred land of the Khmer-Krom Temple in Preah Trapeang



Division for Social Policy and Development Indigenous Peoples

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UNPFII Sixteenth Session 24 April to 5 May 2017



24 April to 5 May 2017

UN Headquarters, New York

Special Theme: **“Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration”**

KKF Youths representing for KKF attending the UNPFII



Dr. Joshua Cooper and KKF Youths from the US and Canada at UNPFII



Khmer-Krom Buddhist Monks and Ly Hoang, Ly Suong from Holland at UNPIL

Ly Hoang, Ly Suong, Thach Thuong, Ven. Tol, and Ven. Moul, who participated in a protest to demand for religious freedom, were arrested, defrocked and imprisoned in Khleang in 2007



KKF delegation met with the U.S. Department of States, regarding the human rights violations against Khmer-Krom in Mekong Delta, in Washington DC, 27 April 2017



**Ven. TT Dhammo and Ven. Son Yoeng Ratana were interviewed by RFA
in Washington DC, 27 April 2017**



KKF Leaders met Mr. Kem Sockha at the CNRP Party in Philadelphia, 27 April 2017

KKFCG invites you to

10th World Youth Conference

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សន្និបាតសកល នៃយុវជនសហព័ន្ធខ្មែរកម្ពុជាក្រោមលើកទី ១០



Revitalization of our Khmer-Krom Identity



Saturday, April 29th - 30th

9AM - 5PM



KKF Leaders attended the KKF Youth Conference in Philadelphia, 29 April 2017



KKFYC members introduced themselves and their activities at the KKF Youth Conference in Philadelphia, 29 April 2017



**KKF Youths – Work Hard & Having Fun - to Seek Justice for the Voiceless Khmer-Krom
KKF Youth Conference in Philadelphia, 29 April 2017**



KKF Youth Conference designed a T-Shirt logo to promote protecting Khmer-Krom Identity through the UNDRIP at the KKF Youth Conference in Philadelphia, 29 April 2017



KKFYC members attended the Second Week of the UNPII in 2017



KKF Youth team had a privilege to give "*The Khmer Land of Vietnam*" book to Mrs. Miriam Wallet Aboubakrine, a Chairwoman of the UNPFII, 2 May 2017



Representing for KKF, Miss Connie Hang, from Philadelphia, delivered a KKF's first speech on the Opening Day of the UNPFII this year



Representing for KKF, Miss Thida Chau, from Philadelphia, delivered a second speech at UNPFII



Representing for KKF, Miss Connie Hang, raised her hand to delivered an intervention at the UNPFII



Representing for KKF, Miss Heng Vichea Om, from Montreal - Canada, raised her hand to delivered an intervention at the UNPFII



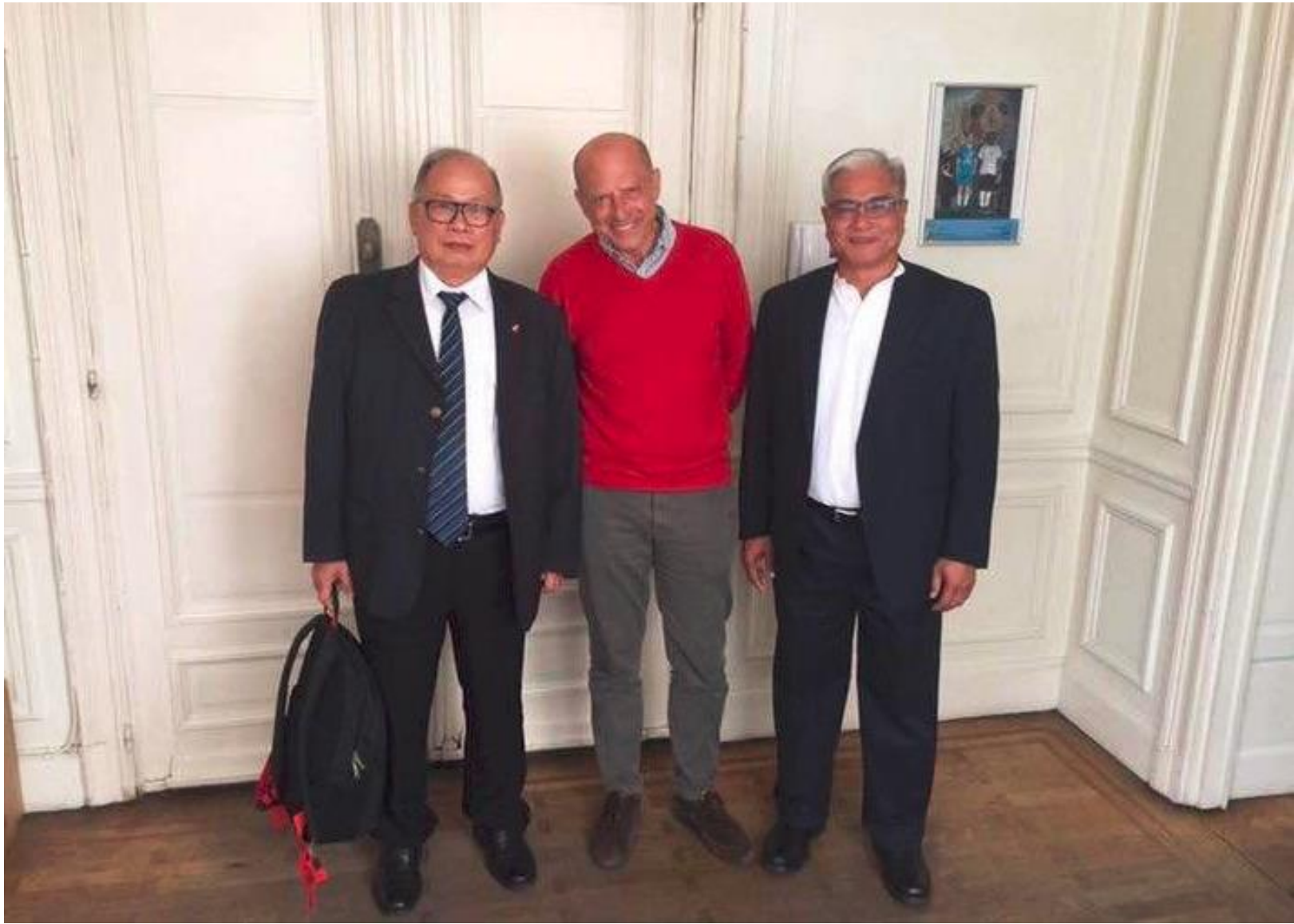
Representing for KKF, Mr. Minh Dung Tran, from Montreal - Canada, delivered an intervention at the UNPFII



KKF BoD members voted to elect Mr. Prak Sereivuth to be the KKF Executive President in Philadelphia, 30 April 2017



Mr. Thach Vien, KKF Chairman and Mr. Tran Giap, KKF Administrative Director, attended the UNPO Presidency Meeting in Brussels, 13 May 2017



Mr. Thach Vien, Mr. Tran Giap, Mr. Marino Busdachin, UNPO General Secretary at UNPO Presidency Meeting in Brussels, 13 May 2017



Venerable Lieu Ny was released from prison in Kampuchea -Krom, 21 May 2017



**Ven. Son Yoeng Ratana, KKF Director of Information, and Mr. Moni Mau, KKF Vice-President, visited KKF members in Sydney, Australia, 19-20 May 2017
Picture took at Wat Ratanaram, a Khmer-Krom temple, in Sydney**



Ven. Son Yoeng Ratana visited KKF members in Adelaide, Australia, 24 May 2017



Ven. Son Yoeng Ratana Mr. Moni Mau, and Dr. Joshua Cooper visited the members of the Law Council of Australia, in Canberra, 26 May 2017



Ven. Son Yoeng Ratana Mr. Moni Mau, and Dr. Joshua Cooper chatted with Christopher Dyer, Policy Lawyer of the Law Council of Australia, in Canberra, 26 May 2017



Ven. Son Yoeng Ratana Mr. Moni Mau, and Dr. Joshua Cooper had a meeting with the representatives of DFAT of Australia, in Canberra, 26 May 2017



Ven. Son Yoeng Ratana Mr. Moni Mau, and Dr. Joshua Cooper, Mr. Kimben Lim (Reprentative of KKF Youth from Melbourne) visited the Parliament House of Australia, in Canberra, 26 May 2017



Ven. Son Yoeng Ratana Mr. Moni Mau, and Dr. Joshua Cooper, had a meeting with KKF members in Melbourne, Australia, 27 May 2017



Ven. Son Yoeng Ratana visited Khmer-Krom communities in both Auckland and Wellington cities, New Zealand, 30 May 2017 to 4 June 2017



Inspiring by the T-Shirt of KKF Youths, the Khmer-Krom Youths in Preah Trapeang bravely printed that T-shirt to wear. Consequently, they were summoned and intimidated by the Vietnamese local authority in Preah Trapeang



KKFYC CONDEMNS THE INTIMIDATION OF KHMER-KROM YOUTHS BY VIETNAMESE POLICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

"Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature." - Article 11, UNDRIP

2 June 2017

In response to the recent intimidation and second summon of indigenous Khmer-Krom youths by local Vietnamese authority in Preah Trapeang (Travinh) province, Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation Youth Committee (KKFYC) condemns this outright violation of Khmer-Krom rights by the local Vietnamese government at Srok Merong Thmey, Travinh province.

We ask that the Vietnamese government take appropriate measure to educate and share with the local government the constitution of Vietnam with regards to rights of indigenous and ethnic minorities to self-identify, express, and preserve their unique cultural identity.

Reminding also that Vietnam has moral obligation under its adoption of the UNDRIP to help protect indigenous people, their culture and identity. Recall that in the UNPFII 16th session, the theme of the forum which Vietnam had its presence in, was the 10 years anniversary of the adoption of UNDRIP and its implementations. Out of that forum the KKFYC, an international youth advocacy association for the promotion of indigenous rights, had designed a t-shirt to promote the declaration of UNDRIP - in line with the goals of the 16th session UNPFII and in the spirit of UNDRIP which Vietnam has adopted.

The Khmer-Krom youths from Vietnam, having seen the t-shirt that promote their indigenous identity, took it to print and distribute amongst themselves. Instead of applauding the initiatives of indigenous youths to promote and share the UNDRIP, which the government has moral obligation to do own its own, it has instead chosen to punish these youths through police summons and intimidations.

KKFYC asked that the Vietnamese government address these local intimidations and begin to take part in helping to promote and share the UNDRIP for all its indigenous people, to help translate and share the UNDRIP in all their native languages.

KKFYC will continue to closely monitor the situation and demand for prompt resolution through the respect and recognition of indigenous rights by all levels of government within Vietnam.

KKFYC,
North America - Europe - Australia - Asia

contact: kkfyc_group@gmail.com | info@kkfyc.org



Mr. Thach Vien, Mr. Prak Sereivuth, Mr. Son Samranch (KKF Advisor) and his wife, and KKF members in Europe organized a historical event to commemorate the June 4th event in Paris, France, 4 June 2017



KKF Delegation took picture with KKF Youths at the June 4th Commemoration Event in Italy, 10 June 2017



Mr. Son Samrach, Mr. Prak Sereivuth, Mr. Thach Vien met the members of the European Union (EU) Parliament in Brussels, 7 June 2017



**Mr. Thach Vien, KKF Chairman, attended the UNPO General Assembly to elect new Presidencies, in Edinburgh, Scotland, 26-28 June 2017
KKF was once again elected to be an UNPO Presidency**



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KHMERS KAMPUCHEA-KROM FEDERATION

Asia – Australia – Europe – North America

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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Vietnamese Authority Disrupted Venerable Lieu Ny's Re-ordain Ceremony

Pennsauken, NJ, 10 July 2017 -- The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) condemns the inhuman acts of the Vietnamese local authority of the Tra Set commune, Vinh Hai village, Vinh Chau district, Soc Trang province, for disrupting the Buddhist re-ordain ceremony of Venerable Lieu Ny.

In 2013, Venerable Lieu Ny, the former Abbot of the Tra Set temple, had been arrested, disrobed, and imprisoned for four years because he refused to obey the Vietnamese local authority to disrobe Venerable Thach Thuol who did not violate any Buddhist rules but bravely stood up to demand for freely teaching Khmer language, culture, and history in his temple. Ven. Lieu Ny has been released on May 21, 2017, after serving his 4 years imprisonment. Ven. Thach Thuol is still being imprisoned because he was sentenced injustice for 6 years.

While being imprisoned, Ven. Lieu Ny received a sad news that his father passed away. He was not allowed to attending his father's funeral. He prayed to his father's soul that when he is released, he will re-ordain to pay respect to his father.

KKF Released a Press Release condemning the Vietnamese Authority's forbidding Ven. Lieu Ny to re-ordain as a Buddhist Monk



Tenth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The dates for the Expert Mechanism's tenth session are 10 to 14 July 2017. The session will take place in Room XX of the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

Provisional agenda

- [Provisional programme of work](#)
- [Annotated provisional agenda](#)

Documentation for the tenth session

- [EMRIP methods of work for Reports to the Human Rights Council and country engagement](#)
- [Draft study and advice on Good Practices and challenges, including discrimination, in business and in access to financial services by indigenous peoples](#)
- [Avis n°10 du Mécanisme d'experts : Les activités commerciales des peuples autochtones et leur accès aux services financiers \(traduction non-officielle\)](#)
- [Opinión N°10 del Mecanismo de Expertos: el ámbito empresarial y el acceso a servicios financieros para](#)

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

[Indigenous peoples homepage](#)

[Expert Mechanism Introduction](#)

[Experts](#)

[Expert Mechanism Documentation](#)

[Expert Mechanism Advice](#)

[Mandate Review](#)

[Selection and Appointment of Experts](#)

[Academic Friends of the](#)



**KKF Youths attended the EMRIP in Geneva, Switzerland, 10-14 July 2017
(from Left, Connie Hang from Philadelphia, Licia Bopha Tran from Italy, Ricky Tran
from Philadelphia, Venerable Veasna Thach from France)**



KKF Youths and Dr. Joshua Cooper at the meeting room of EMRIP



On 2nd day of the EMRIP, 11 July 2017, Mr. Ricky Tran delivered a speech on the item 4: *“Study and advice on good practices and challenges in business and in access to financial services by indigenous peoples.”*



KKF Delegation from Sydney attended the Civil Society Organization Consultations meeting with DFAT prior to the 14th Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue, in Canberra, Australia, 12 July 2017



KKF organized a Capacity Building Workshop to educate members on UN System and SDGs in San Jose, 30 July 2017



**KKF Delegation met the officials of the US Department of States
in Washington DC, 30 August 2017**



KKF Delegation met the official of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom in Washington DC, 30 August 2017



**Mr. Prak Sereivuth, KKF President, was interviewed by VOA
in Washington DC, 31 August 2017**



**Mr. Prak Sereivuth, KKF President, was interviewed by RFA
in Washington DC, 31 August 2017**



KKF Delegation from Sydney attended the follow-up meeting with DFAT on the 14th Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue in Canberra, Australia, 1 September 2017



KKF Delegation with Dr. Lachlan Strahan, First Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Policy Division, who was the Australia's head of the delegation of the Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue