



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Statement of the Spokesperson
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation expresses great disappointment over the comments made on 12 March 2020 by H.E Mr. W. Patrick Murphy, U.S Ambassador to Cambodia, with regards to the on-going trial of Kem Sokha at the Phnom Penh Municipality Court.
2. Such statements are deemed as exerting undue influence on the judiciary, an independent and separate organ duly enshrined in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and are perceived as undiplomatic and disrespectful gesture for the sovereignty of the host country.
3. As per the norms of international relations, such an expression constituted a violation of article 41 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and article 2(7) of the UN Charter, to which any diplomat, irrespective of the size or might of its country, is bound to its full adherence.
4. Moreover, such statements ran counter to the renewed spirit of its leaders to revitalize the mutual understanding and respect between the two countries as well as reset a fresh chapter of across the board practical cooperation all the while we are celebrating the 70-year-long friendship this year. ៦.

Phnom Penh, 13 March 2020.

