

Universal Periodic Review 18

UPR of Cambodia

Intervention by Ireland

28 January 2014

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Cambodia and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland is deeply concerned by reports, including from the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Cambodia, that Cambodian authorities used excessive force against demonstrators early this month, resulting in multiple fatalities. We strongly urge Cambodia to ensure respect for the right of peaceful assembly, and we reiterate the Special Rapporteur's call for a clarification of the legal basis for the current ban on demonstrations.

Ireland welcomes the release of human rights defender Mam Sonando. However, we are seriously concerned by reports that human rights defenders and civil society representatives continue to face harassment, intimidation, persecution, and restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly. Ireland **recommends** that Cambodia ensure that the right of human rights defenders to conduct their work without hindrance, intimidation or harassment is respected and protected, as recommended in the previous cycle and accepted by Cambodia. We look forward to receiving information from Cambodia on measures taken to implement this recommendation.

While noting that freedom of expression is enshrined in the Constitution, we regret that restrictions on freedom of expression persist. We echo the concerns expressed by the Special Rapporteur with respect to the government's near monopoly on television and radio. Accordingly, **Ireland recommends** that Cambodia take steps to bring Cambodia's laws and practices into line with existing international human rights standards in relation to freedom of expression, including press freedom.