Resolution on Cambodia, notably the case of Kem Sokha

2017/2829(RSP) - 14/09/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Cambodia, notably the case of Kem Sokha.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, and Greens/EFA groups.

Members called for the **immediate release of Cambodian opposition leader Kem Sokha** of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), who was arrested on 3 September 2017on charges that appear to be politically motivated. They wanted all charges against him to be dropped, and for an end to threats of arrest against other opposition lawmakers.

Parliament noted that the arrest of Kem Sokha took place against a backdrop of increasing restrictions on NGOs, human rights organisations and civil society, including tax and regulatory probes, intimidation and threats of violence. It urged the Cambodian Government to guarantee the freedoms of expression and the media in the country, stressing that a credible democratic process leading up to the **National Assembly election in July 2018** requires an environment in which political parties, civil society and the media are able to carry out their legitimate roles without fear and without being subjected to threats or arbitrary restrictions.

Members highlighted the importance of EU and international election observation missions and their contribution to fair and free elections, and also reminded the Cambodian Government that it has to fulfil its obligations and commitments regarding democratic principles and fundamental human rights, which are an essential element of the **Cooperation Agreement.**

Lastly, Parliament expressed its serious concern at ongoing **land-grabbing**, and the recent launch by the Cambodian Government of a limited and partial compensation scheme, calling for the resumption of dialogue with partners, including the European Union and civil society, with a view to establishing comprehensive compensation.