



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations Office and other
International Organizations at Geneva**

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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the Joint Communication No. AL KHM 8/2021 dated 17 August 2021, has the honour to transmit to the latter herewith clarification from the Ministry of Environment of the Kingdom of Cambodia as to the alleged case of purported six members of the Mother Nature Cambodia.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia would be greatly appreciated if the said detail could be conveyed to its high destinations.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 27 September 2021



Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights
Geneva

**Responses from the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia
over Concerns Raised by Six Special Procedures Mandate-Holders over
Arrests of Six Mother Nature Cambodia's Activists**

The Ministry of Environment of the Royal Government of Cambodia has responded to the allegations and requests for responses made by six Special Procedures Mandate-Holders, who had voiced their concerns over the arrests and legal charges against six activists from the Mother Nature Cambodia. MoE would like to respond as follows:

1. Competent authorities do not regard the Mother Nature Cambodia (MNC) a legal organization because it has been legally deregistered after its founder [REDACTED] voluntarily requested its removal from the Ministry of Interior's Organization List in 2017 following its general assembly's resolution. Concrete evidence shows that MNC movement led by Spaniard Alejandro Gonzalez Davidson, who was deported from Cambodia in 2015 and granted a status of persona non grata, has not purely contributed to the protection of environment and natural resources, but was "more than the environmental cause" and "resort to all measures" to overthrow the current state.
2. Competent authorities have enforced the laws based on legal procedures and concrete evidences. The legal actions against the outlawed MNC were based on strong evidence, which showed that it was an illegal organization and was suspected to "pump" terrorist-sourced fund, aiming to terrorize Cambodia's peace. Cambodia has firmly and irreversibly determined to fight all forms of international terrorism. Therefore, the legal process taken by the Cambodian authorities against this illegitimate Mother Nature Cambodia which has been receiving the illicit-funding from foreign sources is a clear-cut indication of Cambodia's tangible contribution to fight terrorism.
3. According to Cambodia's laws, if the competent authorities have "enough" evidence, they would press charge. Three main related evidences shown by the authorities include A) the group is an illegal organization and acted on orders from Spaniard Alejandro Gonzalez Davidson; B) all of their activities deemed to bode under the protection of environment, but instead were intended to gather environmental information, which were used as a "stepping stone" and a cause to incite Cambodian people to rise up against the

government; and C) the group “survived” with the expatriate, terrorist fund from their foreign boss. The authorities claimed that all of their activities were well-planned and were under the commands from their foreign masterminds. *(Please refer to the attached press release issued by the National Police General Secretariat.)*

4. It is regret that the national and international public have been confused by a group of civil societies and bias, unprofessional media, who exaggerated the truth and advocated to support and protect the outlawed culprits disguised as the environment activists. Moreover, they pretended and ignored their crimes and sabotage aimed at Cambodia, including incitement to unrest, harming the public security and peacefulness, insulting the most-reveled King and treason. Though the MNC’s founder, voluntarily and based on the resolution of the general assembly, requested for its removal from MoI’s Organization List in 2017, illegal leader Alejandro Gonzalez Davidson continued to take advantage over the movement up until the presence.
5. The illegal leader of MCN, Alejandro Gonzalez Davidson, has publicly confessed that his agenda was “more than the environmental cause” and [they] must “resort all measures” to overthrow the current state. In an interview with The Cambodia Daily on 26 April 2021, Alejandro Gonzalez Davidson said, “we shall fully participate in all political activities to push for state’s leadership changes. If there is no change in the government, current negative thinking, illiteracy, gang-like, ... makes hope for the forest slim.” Such a message - full of incitement to topple the government in an undemocratic way - was not meant to protect the environment. The illegal leader has used racial discrimination rhetoric in an interview with a Khmer-language foreign broadcasting radio, as well as revealing documents deemed to insult the Cambodia’s nation, religion and King which contrary to the Cambodia’s Constitution. On 6 February 2019, Alejandro Gonzalez Davidson made a presentation in front of a number of overseas Cambodians in Long Beach, the U.S., raising that *“I don’t use my time to make a living; I will use it to harm Samdach Techo Hun Sen and co by peaceful mean, and this is my biggest dream.”* This is neither freedom of expression nor the protection of environment and natural resources; it is instead a direct threat to the peace and development that Cambodia fought hard to attain during the last 400 years in its history.

6. Cambodia highly regards civil societies and non-government organizations which had formally registered and operated by the laws. The Royal Government of Cambodia, through MoE as its implementor, has encouraged and is in close cooperation with domestic and international civil societies and non-government organizations and environmentalists and natural resource protectionists who have sincere and true willing to abide by the laws and value true partnership for the sake of environment and natural resources. Officials from MoE, relevant authorities and “true” civil societies, non-government organizations and natural protection communities have worked together for Environmental Protection, Natural Resource Management, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development while the illegal MNC and co used environment and natural resources as an accuse to terrorize security with explicit agenda.
7. Such activities of the “fake” environmentalists, like MNC, that always used environmental issues as an accuse to incite people and harm public order in a bid to topple the legitimate government were not meant to protect environment and natural resources that deserved protection and encouragement, but it is a crime that must be punished by the laws. Any attempts to protect, encourage and support the criminals to carry on such violations of laws, as well as victimization of the criminals, were unprofessional, immoral, promoting immunity and harmful to the foundation of rule of laws in Cambodia.
8. Implementation of rights, including freedom of expression, rights to establish civil society and peaceful assembly, come with duties, responsibilities and special restrictions under the laws, as prescribed in the International Covenant on Civic and Political Rights. Any civil societies and non-government organizations that claimed themselves to be environmentalists are claiming to be main actors in human rights and democracy and champion of environment and forest, and wanted to have a common laws, but on the other end, they were the ones who violated the existing laws. Any failure to correct the wrongdoings are promoting and encouraging criminals to exaggerate the truth, incite the violence and harm the national solidarity - all of which may lead Cambodia to fall in unrest situations. They should stop advocating to protect the outlawed movement, but instead consider legal advocacy and find

evidence to defend in front of the court to show their cleanliness if they had not committed any wrongdoings. If they were innocent, they should dare to confront the laws and should not exercise any actions against the law procedures.

9. A number of civil societies and non-government organizations frequently demanded the authorities to fully enforce laws; however, they should ask themselves whether they have implemented and fulfilled any requirements required by Cambodia's laws? Who fund their operation? Some donor countries should work and support any civil societies and non-government organizations that obeyed the laws and had clear agenda to assist the environmental and natural resources sector; such is truly to help the sector. Human rights activists should protect the true environmentalists, not the fake ones whose activities were intended to terrorize security, public orders and peace in Cambodia.
10. Cambodia obeys human rights, freedom and democracy; however, it does not tolerate anarchy-like freedom and democracy as wanted by some civil societies and non-government organizations. The government has no benefit from curbing the natural resources protectionists, but requires them to abide by the existing laws and to make them partners to serve common national and people's interests and to work together to preserve Cambodia's natural resources for our next generations. Cambodia happily entertain whatever is lawful and unharmed to its nation and people. Cambodia would not tolerate any law violations and would never allow the illegal movement used environment as an accuse to terrorize nation and affect government's measures in protecting environment and natural resources.

MoE wishes to reconfirm its reservation of Cambodia's constitution and laws, as well as other existing legal instruments, for the sake of environment and natural resources and the protection of security and safety of Cambodia. MoE is delightfully welcomed any participation from any organizations and individuals that have abided by the regulations and laws including LANGO and Law on Protected Areas, been highly responsible and been sincere in the campaign to preserve our natural resources and biodiversity in the natural protection areas and biodiversity reservation corridors.s