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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Vietnamese Authority Confiscated Cambodian Passport of Venerable Seun Ty

Pennsauken, NJ, 9 February 2020 -- The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) condemns the inhuman acts of the Vietnamese authority of Soc Trang province for confiscating the Cambodian Passport of Venerable Seun Ty who has been visiting his hometown in Soc Trang province since January 24, 2020.

Venerable Seun Ty, who is a Khmer-Krom Buddhist monk, was born on June 18, 1984, in Kach Chrung (King Ngang) commune, Ang-Dong-Tuk (Long Phu) village, Ang-Dong-Tuk (Long Phu) district, Khleang (Soc Trang) province. He went to live in Cambodia since 2003 and became a Cambodian citizen, having Cambodian Passport number N01803511.

On February 2, Venerable Seun Ty was summoned to see to the Vietnamese authority of Long Phu village. He was being interrogated and accused of sharing the information about the Khmer-Krom abroad on his Facebook, which violates the Vietnam Cybersecurity Law (Luat An Ninh Mang). The Vietnamese authority forced him to sign the confession letter of violating the Vietnamese law. Venerable Seun Ty refused to sign because the Vietnam Cybersecurity Law cannot be used against him as a tourist visiting Vietnam. He has a right to share whatever info he likes on his Facebook page. The Vietnamese authority has no legitimated reason to force him to sign and then confiscated his Cambodian passport.

Venerable Seun Ty has been staying at a Khmer-Krom temple (Wat Peam Boun) in Tran Thoi district, Soc Trang province, to waiting for the Vietnamese authority to return his Cambodian passport. As of today, the Vietnamese authority has not returned his passport yet. Without a passport, Venerable Seun Ty becomes stateless because he cannot go back to his country, Cambodia.

In this regard, the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation urgently calls on the international community to urge Vietnam to return the Cambodian passport of Venerable Seun Ty. Vietnam must respect Venerable Seun Ty's right to going back to Cambodia as enshrined in Article 12.4 (*No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country*) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that Vietnam signed.

