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KHMERS KAMPUCHEA-KROM FEDERATION

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Happy New Year 2021: Message from KKF Executive President

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

Dear KKF Members, Supporters, and Friends:

We all have experienced that 2020 has been a challenging year for many of us. During this holiday season and as this year is ending, on behalf of the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federations (KKF), I wish all crises, hardship, and challenges also end with this year and 2021 bring peace, happiness, and prosperity to you and your families.

As this unpredictable year comes to an end, let us reflect on what KKF has done to advocate for the voiceless Khmer-Krom's fundamental rights in Kampuchea-Krom. First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude for your valuable time and financial support to help KKF fulfill its mission during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regardless of the challenges due to the pandemic's impact, working as a team, KKF has continued to advocate virtually for the Khmer-Krom's rights effectively. Below is the summary of the activities that KKF had done in 2020.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic has surged, the representatives of KKF has participated in the following activities:

- From January 16-17, Mr. Sereivuth Prak, Mr. Ricky Tran, and Ms. Juliete Tran met the representatives of the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Mr. Sereivuth Prak also interviewed Radio Free Asia and Voice of America Radio in the Khmer language.
- On January 22, Mr. Moni Mau went to the United Nations in New York to participate in the NGO committee session for reviewing KKF's application for the consultation status with ECOSOC. KKF's application had been deferred. If the session is not canceled due to the pandemic's impact, KKF's application will be reviewed again in January 2021.
- From February 14-18, representatives of the KKF chapter in San Jose, led by Mr. Toan Thach and Mr. Chune Thach, went to Hawaii to help Dr. Joshua Cooper build an outdoor surprise gift for his mother. The San Jose chapter's generous action showed that the KKF members appreciate what Dr. Cooper has helped the Khmer-Krom for more than a decade.
- From February 16-20, Mr. Moni Mau went to the Office of Hawaii Affairs to study a form of implementing self-determination for Native Hawaiian. Mr. Moni Mau went to West Oahu University to speak at Dr. Cooper's class. Mr. Moni Mau also delivered a speech at the human rights conference at the Hawaii Legislature.
- On February 26, Mr. Ricky Tran and Dr. Joshua Cooper met the U.S. Department of State.



When the COVID-19 has surged, it has disrupted KKF's travel activities to advocate for Khmer-Krom's rights. KKF had to cancel a conference in Australia. KKF had virtually organized the following activities:

- On May 30, KKF and Hawaii Institute for Human Rights (HIHR) organized a virtual conference: *"Self-Determination & Sustainable Development with Social Distancing."*
- On June 3 (June 4 in Kampuchea-Krom), KKF organized a virtual conference to commemorate the June 4 event.
- On June 20, Mr. Sereivuth Prak was interviewed by Voice of America Radio on World Refugee Day commemoration. There are more than sixty Khmer-Krom families seeking refugee status in Thailand. The KKF has urged members and supporters to donate to the Khmer-Krom refugees facing hardship during the pandemic.
- From June 26 – 27, KKF, HIHR, and other NGOs organized a virtual conference to commemorate the UN Charter: *"Reaffirming Our Faith in Fundamental Human Rights & Forging Sustainable Development in Larger Freedom."*
- On September 12 (September 13 in Kampuchea-Krom), KKF organized a virtual event to commemorate the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIP)
- On December 9 (December in Kampuchea-Krom), KKF organized a virtual event to commemorate the 72nd International Human Rights Days.

While facing hardship by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the voiceless Khmer-Krom have continued to face the human rights violations committed by the Vietnamese communist government. KKF had sent numerous reports to inform the United Nations, donor countries to Vietnam, and NGOs advocating for human rights, to condemn Vietnam for violating the Khmer-Krom's rights, such as land rights, freedom of expression, and religious rights.

The impact of the COVID-19 has changed the ways for KKF to advocate for the Khmer-Krom's rights and interact with members. KKF has leveraged social media and virtual meetings to share information. The Voice of Kampuchea-Krom (VOKK) team has grown and done a marvelous job to update the members and supporters about KKF's activities and human rights violations against the Khmer-Krom in Kampuchea-Krom. Moreover, in recent months, representing the KKF Youth Committee (KKFYC), Ms. Virginia Thach has hosted a video series in English online to *"rediscover and preserve the Khmer-Krom identity in Kampuchea-Krom and abroad."*

As the New Year dawns. Keep our determination unshaken to seek justice for our voiceless Khmer-Krom in Kampuchea-Krom. Happy New Year 2021!

Sincerely yours,



Sereivuth Prak
Executive President
Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation

