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KHMERS KAMPUCHEA-KROM FEDERATION

P.O. Box 193, Pennsauken, NJ 08110 • <https://khmerkrom.org> • info@khmerkrom.org

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Vietnamese Police Confiscate T-shirt Celebrating International Women’s Day

Pennsauken, NJ, 4 March 2021 -- The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) condemns the actions of Vietnamese police of Phong Phu village, Cau Ke district, Tra Vinh province, in confiscating T-Shirts that Khmer-Krom printed to celebrate International Women's Day.

On March 4, 2021, a Khmer-Krom man, Chanh Sang, testified via a Facebook live post, stating that the Vietnamese police of Phong Phu village confiscated the T-shirt he made for his customer. The T-shirt design has the wording "Khmer-Krom Celebrate International Women's Day":

“I am just the business owner, if a customer wants a design, I will do it. I can provide the details of the customer.” He was questioned initially about the design and when he left to do filming, the police confiscated the T-shirts in his absence. “It’s like stealing,” he added, worried that he did not have the product for his customer.



T-shirt design promoted by Chanh Sang on March 4th 2021 via Facebook.

Just a couple of weeks earlier at the 46th regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, announced that Vietnam, as an ASEAN candidate, will be running for a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2023-2025. If Vietnam is truly committed to promoting human rights within its borders, then such acts of intimidation by local police should be condemned.

In this regard, the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) urgently calls on the international community to urge Vietnam to allow the Khmer-Krom to celebrate International Women's Day freely without fear or intimidation. Likewise, KKF calls for returning of the confiscated T-shirts so the Khmer-Krom people could celebrate the upcoming International Women’s Day on March 8th, 2021.

