



# សហព័ន្ធខ្មែរកម្ពុជាក្រោម

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## **Vietnam's Kangaroo Court Order to Demolish a Religious Hall of the Khmer-Krom**

**Pennsauken, NJ, 14 October 2022** – The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) condemns Vietnam's kangaroo court order to demolish the Religious Hall of the Khmer-Krom at the Tong Hung hamlet, Loan My village, Tam Binh district, Vinh Long province.

On October 12, 2022, the representatives of the Vietnamese authorities came to the religious hall at Tong Hung hamlet that the Khmer-Krom Buddhist followers have tried to build and about ninety percent completed. One of the Vietnamese authorities' representatives read a court order to demolish the religious hall with the accusation that the religious hall was built illegally.

Mrs. Thach Thi Sa Bach, who donated her land to build this religious hall, along with the Buddhist followers in this hamlet, stood up to defend their rights to preserve this religious hall for practicing their Theravada Buddhism and also using this religious hall to teach the Khmer language for the Khmer-Krom children in this remote hamlet. Facing resistance from the Khmer-Krom Buddhist followers, the representatives of the Vietnamese authorities left the religious hall.

The villagers of Tong Hung hamlet shared a video on social media about a traditional religious ceremony to start the construction of this religious hall on November 19, 2020. In that video, representatives of local authorities, Mr. Huynh Van Toa, hamlet chief, and Mr. Thach Thia, deputy of hamlet chief, also attended the ceremony. Mr. Huynh Van Toa thanked Mrs. Thach Thi Sa Bach for donating her land and promised that the authorities would try their best to support finishing this religious hall. Unfortunately, after the religious hall has started building, the Khmer-Krom Buddhist followers in this hamlet faced oppression from the authorities to ask them to stop building and now facing the kangaroo court order to demolish it.

In this regard, the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) urgently calls on the international community to ask Vietnam to genuinely keep its voluntary pledges to run for a seat at the Human Rights Council for the 2023-2025 term to allow the Khmer-Krom freely practice their religion and stop using the Kangaroo Court to order demolishing the religious hall of the Khmer-Krom in Vinh Long province.

