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KHMERS KAMPUCHEA-KROM FEDERATION

4315 50th Street NW, Suite 100, PMB 7005, Washington, DC 20016 – <https://khmerkrom.org> - info@khmerkrom.org - (202) 280-7362

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Khmer-Krom Women Face Triple Discrimination and Oppression by Vietnamese Authorities: A Call to Action for Human Rights Council Members

WASHINGTON, D.C., 24 March 2023 – The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) condemns the recent actions taken by the Vietnamese authorities to oppress the Khmer-Krom people and their right to celebrate the International Women's Day in Tra Vinh province. As members of the Human Rights Council, we call on the Vietnamese government to respect the rights of the Khmer-Krom people, including their rights as indigenous peoples and women.

On March 8, 2023, the Vietnamese authorities came to disrupt the event organized by the Khmer-Krom to celebrate International Women's Day in Tra Vinh province. The Khmer-Krom women, who have been facing triple discrimination due to their gender, indigenous status, and economic status, organized this event to raise awareness about their rights as women and indigenous peoples.

Despite the disruption, the Khmer-Krom people stood up to defend their rights and continued with the event successfully. However, after the event, the Police of Soc Trang province has summoned nine Khmer-Krom individuals, including Mr. Lâm Vong (born 1972), Mrs. Châu Thị Thiên (born 1954), Mrs. Đinh Thị Huỳnh (born 1980), Mr. Danh Minh Quang (born 1987), Mr. Triệu Ly (born 1942), Mr. Châu Thanh Hồng (born 1977), Mr. Lý Hoàng Thân (1983), Mr. Thạch Mười (born 1985), and Mr. Thạch Vân (born 1983), to the police station to intimidate and threaten them to stop involving with their advocacy.

This behavior by the Vietnamese authorities is unacceptable, and we call on them to fulfill their duty as a member of the Human Rights Council to stop abusing the rights of the Khmer-Krom people. We urge the Vietnamese government to take immediate action to:

- Stop using reprisal against the Khmer-Krom who merely just participated in the event celebrating International Women's Day.
- Respect and protect the rights of the Khmer-Krom people, including their rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly.

We call on the international community to take notice of the ongoing human rights violations and to join us in our efforts to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples in Vietnam.

