

# BERNARD KRISHER

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Japan

August 20, 2017

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Dear Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia:

I remember with gratitude that you pinned a gold medal on the lapel of my jacket some years ago at the ceremony commemorating the donation of a large number of schools through my organization, Japan Relief for Cambodia/World Assistance for Cambodia. I also remember with great pride attending your press conference in Tokyo when you spoke of press freedom in Cambodia and held up a copy of The Cambodia Daily as an example.

I am greatly concerned those days may be ending. On August 5, the General Tax Department first leaked on Fresh News and then sent us a letter claiming that The Cambodia Daily owed 25,756,015,695 Riel in back taxes for the operation of the paper. Since the launching of the paper in 1993, this was the first time I was told of any debts. There was no audit, no documentation, no due process nor transparency of process, only that I could accept or deny and that I had 30 days to reply.

I would like to assure you that neither I, nor The Cambodia Daily, nor my daughter, Deborah Krisher-Steele, are against your government.

It appears that the General Tax Department's actions are meant to close down The Cambodia Daily. Today the tax department leaked a second letter to Fresh News that states they will close it down on September 4 if we don't pay \$6.1 million. I think this is a mistake.

Only you, Your Excellency, can stop the tax department to take these measures. I implore you to intervene and stop the shut down of The Cambodia Daily.

I would like to request a meeting with you and my daughter Deborah, the new owner of The Cambodia Daily, to discuss a constructive solution to save The Cambodia Daily. She is available to fly in to Cambodia at any time given a 24 hour notice to meet you at any time at your convenience.

I thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Bernard Krisher

Cc: Deborah Krisher-Steele