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KHMERS KAMPUCHEA-KROM FEDERATION

P.O. Box 193, Pennsauken, NJ 08110 • <https://khmerkrom.org> • [info@khmerkrom.org](mailto:info@khmerkrom.org)

## Happy New Year 2022: Message from KKF Executive President

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Dear KKF Members, Supporters, and Friends:

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to cause 2021 another extremely challenging year. As 2021 comes to an end, on behalf of the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federations (KKF), I wish the upcoming new year 2022 would bring peace, health, happiness, and prosperity to you and your families.

2021 was a challenging year, and especially we lost uncounted numbers of the Khmer-Krom's life in Kampuchea-Krom during the surge of the Delta variant. As an organization advocating for the voiceless Khmer-Krom's fundamental rights in Kampuchea-Krom, let's reflect on what KKF has done to seek justice for the Khmer-Krom in 2021. First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude for your valuable time and financial support to assist KKF continuously.

Due to the travel restriction because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the KKF's advocacies to seek justice for the Khmer-Krom had been done virtually and effectively. Below is the summary of some main activities:

- Created an internship program to provide the opportunity for the students from the University to learn doing advocacy works with the United Nations. Priscilla Kim Ong from the University of San Francisco interned for KKF. Priscilla had a chance to work with the KKF Youth Committee team to write a deliver speeches virtually at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UN PFII) and Expert Mechanism on the Rights of the Indigenous (EMRIP).



- Submitted a report to the UN CCA (United Nations Common Country Analysis) about the situation of the Khmer-Krom, especially human rights violations, and ensured the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) do not leave Khmer-Krom behind.
- Submitted a report to EMRIP about the right to self-determination of the Khmer-Krom.
- Submitted a report to the Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom or Belief about violating the religious freedom against the Khmer-Krom.
- Collaborated with UNPO to submit a detailed report to the UN Special Procedures concerning ongoing violations against the Khmer-Krom. Also submitted a specific report to the UN Special Procedure regarding the detention of Duong Khai because he was distributing the UN documents, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIP).
- Attended the UN Conference on the Climate Change in Glasgow, Scotland, by Joshua Cooper, KKF Senior Advisor.
- Organized a virtual conference to celebrate International Women Day.
- Organized a virtual side event during the PFII. For the first time, a Khmer-Krom youth in the Kampuchea-Krom and Bangkok participated as speakers to raise the human rights violations against the Khmer-Krom.
- Organized a virtual side event during Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Summit for Democracy, and International Human Rights Day to raise awareness of the human rights violations and concerning issues that Khmer-Krom faced during the pandemic.
- Organized Workshop to educate the Khmer-Krom youths to learn about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so they can help advocate for the Khmer-Krom to be included during the implementation of the SDGs in their homeland in Kampuchea-Krom.
- Attended virtual meeting with US Department of State, Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to update about the human rights violations against the Khmer-Krom before the human rights dialogue with Vietnam.
- Collaborated with UNPO to participate in a virtual meeting with EU-Vietnam Civil Society Dialogue regarding EU-Vietnam Trade Agreement.
- Participated in various virtual meetings organized by the UN Agencies and NGOs in Asia.
- Published Press Released when the Khmer-Krom faced detention, imprisonment, such as the cases of Huynh Van Dep, Tien Dam, Tien Nam, Duong Khai, Thach Rine, etc.



- Continued to improve the VOKK's broadcasting programs in both Khmer and English so that the Khmer-Krom in Kampuchea-Krom could learn and stand up for their fundamental rights.
- Urged members and supporters to fundraise in their local communities to support the Khmer-Krom impacted by the pandemic.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic causing the Khmer-Krom in Kampuchea-Krom to live in vulnerable conditions, the Khmer-Krom youths still want to learn about their rights. They printed and distributed the UN documents and printed T-shirts to celebrate International Women Days and implement SDGs to include Khmer-Krom. Even though they were oppressed, the Khmer-Krom Youths are still brave and show to the world that the Khmer-Krom in Kampuchea-Krom don't even have the fundamental right to learn about Human Rights enshrined in the UN documents.

As the New Year dawns. Despite the obstacles and uncertainties that we might face in 2022 due to the impact of the pandemic, let's continue to focus on the journey to seek justice for the voiceless Khmer-Krom in Kampuchea-Krom. Happy New Year 2022!

Sincerely yours,



Sereivuth Prak  
Executive President  
Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation

