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KHMERS KAMPUCHEA-KROM FEDERATION

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Happy New Year 2023: Message from KKF Executive President

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Dear KKF Members, Supporters, and Friends:

As we are just a few days into a promising new year 2023, on behalf of the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federations (KKF), I wish you and your families a fantastic holiday. May the New Year bring you happiness, peace, and prosperity!

Despite all the challenges due to the impact of the post-COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainties of the economy around the world, as an NGO advocating for the Khmer-Krom's fundamental rights, KKF successfully implemented its advocacy plans in 2022. The KKF's success is only possible with the contribution of your valuable time and financial support. I am genuinely express my gratitude for your continuous support.

Let's reflect on what KKF had done to seek justice for our voiceless Khmer-Krom in 2022. Below is the summary of some main activities:

- Organized the KKF World Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. to elect new members of the Board of Directors to lead KKF for the 2022-2026 term.
- Organized a virtual conference to celebrate International Women's Day. Khmer-Krom girls from Kampuchea-Krom, Cambodia, and Thailand also participated as speakers at this important event.
- Represented the KKF, the members of the KKF Youth Committee delivered speeches at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UN PFII) in New York and Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) in Geneva.
- Submitted an alternative report and participated in the review of Vietnam by the committee of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Geneva.



- Collaborated with the UNPO to submit a report to the UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights.
- Researched and assisted UNPO in writing a report on the impacts of the Mekong River Hydropower Dams on the Khmer-Krom in the Mekong Delta.
- Attended virtual meetings with the US Department of State and Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to update about the human rights violations against the Khmer-Krom before having the human rights dialogue with Vietnam.
- Participated in the UNPO General Assembly in Washington, D.C. KKF was elected as a member of the Presidency.
- Collaborated with UNPO to submit a detailed report to the UN Special Procedures concerning ongoing violations against the Khmer-Krom.
On October 18, 2022, six Special Rapporteur and a Vice-chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention sent a Joint Allegation Letter (JAL) to the government of Vietnam. The JAL was published on the OCHCR website at:
<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=27586>
- Registered and assisted two Khmer-Krom youths from Cambodia to participate in the UNPO's "Unrepresented Diplomats Asia-Pacific Training Program". Sent one Khmer-Krom youth from Holland to participate in a one-week training organized by UNPO in partnership with the European Free Alliance Youth (EFAY) and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe (CoE) on the topic of "Agent of Change: Empowering European minority youth to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable change."
- Organized virtual side events during the Asia Pacific Social Forum, World Social Forum, and Climate Change Conference (COP 27) in Egypt to raise awareness of the human rights violations and concerning issues that Khmer-Krom indigenous peoples face in their ancestral homeland.
- 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.
- Participated in various virtual meetings organized by the UN Agencies and NGOs in Asia.
- Organized a campaign to raise concerns about Vietnam's candidacy for a seat at Human Rights Councils.
- Organized the event to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at different KKF chapters worldwide.
- Published Press Released when the Khmer-Krom faced detention, imprisonment, reprisals, or religious freedom violation.



- 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 post-pandemic or help the Khmer-Krom refugees in Bangkok.

After many hardworking years that KKF has leveraged social media to educate the Khmer-Krom about their rights as indigenous peoples remotely, the Khmer-Krom has gradually learned about their rights and publicly demanded the government of Vietnam to respect the rights as enshrined in the international laws and treaties that Vietnam signed with the United Nations. 2022 marked a historic year when the Khmer-Krom in Kampuchea-Krom successfully organized crucial events by themselves to celebrate the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights despite the Vietnamese authorities trying to stop them.

With the new year on the horizon and despite the challenges we might encounter in 2023, let's continue to focus on the journey to seek justice for the voiceless Khmer-Krom in Kampuchea-Krom. Happy New Year 2023!

Sincerely yours,



Sereivuth Prak
Executive President
Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation

