Human Rights & Obligations in the Paris Peace Agreements

Both the Agreement on a Comprehensive Political Settlement for Cambodia (ACPS, Art. 15 (1)) & the Agreement on Sovereignty, Independence, Territorial Integrity and Inviolability, Neutrality and National Unity of Cambodia (ASIT, Art. 3(1)), provide that:

“All persons in Cambodia shall enjoy the rights and freedoms embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments.”

These include:

- The right to freedom of expression (UDHR, Art. 19)
- The right to freedom of peaceful assembly (UDHR, Art. 20)
- The right to form and join trade unions (UDHR, Art. 23)
- The right to freedom of association (UDHR, Art. 20)

The Cambodian people shall have the right to determine their own political future through the free and fair election of a constituent assembly (ACPS, Art. 12)

Cambodian refugees and displaced persons shall have the right to return to Cambodia and to live in safety, security and dignity (ACPS, Art. 20)

Obligations of Cambodia

- Ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms (ACPS, Art. 15(2)(a))
- Support the right of citizens to undertake activities that promote human rights & fundamental freedoms (ACPS, Art. 15(2)(a))
- Take measures to ensure that practices of the past shall never return (ACPS, Art. 15(2)(a))
- Adhere to international human rights instruments (ACPS, Art. 15(2)(a))
- Follow a system of liberal democracy, on the basis of pluralism (ACPS, Anx 5, Art. 4)
- Provide a full and fair opportunity to organize and participate in the electoral process (ACPS, Annex 5, Art. 4)

Obligations of other signatories

- Promote respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms (ACPS, Art. 15(2)(b))
- In the event of serious violations, call upon the United Nations (ASIT, Art. 5(4))

Obligations of the United Nations

- Monitor the human rights situation (ACPS, Art. 17)
- Address situations of violations of human rights (UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251)

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