

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF CAMBODIA**

LAW ON DEMONSTRATIONS

*This law is passed by the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia
on December 27, 1991 during an extraordinary session of the first legislature.*

ARTICLE 1:

Group meetings and gatherings that turn into demonstrations may be held. Group meetings, gatherings in public places or public thoroughfares, and street demonstrations that might affect public peace, order, or security, however, are absolutely prohibited.

ARTICLE 2:

A street demonstration held to express an opinion on a specific problem may only be held under the following conditions:

1. If there is no violence, no arms, and it's not a case that might cause danger;
2. If it does not harm public peace, order, or security;
3. If written notification is made to the authorities in each *khum* and *sangkat* through which the demonstration will proceed at least three days in advance. This should include the family names, first names, addresses, and signatures of the organizers and declare the objective of the demonstration, its location, date, and time that it will be held, the streets it will go through, and the number of demonstrators.

If the demonstration will be held in a provincial seat or the capital, written notification must be made to the authorities in the provincial seat or the capital.

ARTICLE 3:

The authorities that receive the notification will issue a receipt in return. If the authorities concerned judge that the demonstration might cause chaos, they may disapprove the demonstration by issuing a decision within 48 hours and notifying the organizers of their decision. A copy of the decision will be forwarded to the higher authorities within 24 hours in case of refusal. The demonstration's organizers may lodge a protest with the higher authorities. The higher authorities will consider the protest and decide whether or not they will permit the demonstration to be held, and will inform the plaintiffs of their decision within 24 hours.

ARTICLE 4:

When a demonstration takes place without prior notification to the local authorities or without their permission, the local authorities will take steps to stop the demonstration on the spot. If the demonstrators persist and refuse to cease their activity after twice being ordered to desist, the local authorities will take steps to break up the demonstration by non-lethal means.

ARTICLE 5:

If the demonstrators have arms or wield dangerous tools, the security forces have the right to seize these arms and tools. If the demonstrators resist and refuse to surrender these arms and tools, the security forces have the right to temporarily detain the demonstrators and seize their arms and tools. When the demonstration dissolves, the detainees will be freed and their arms and tools returned, unless other offenses have been committed.

ARTICLE 6:

If a peaceful demonstration degenerates into a violent demonstration or riot, the competent authorities will take the most suitable steps to stop the demonstration or riot. The measures described in ARTICLE 4 will be implemented first.

ARTICLE 7:

Any demonstrators who uses violence, causes damage to other people's properties or public, or causes injuries or loss of life to other people or to officials on duty will be punished by existing law according to the gravity of their crimes. Impostors and those who instigate demonstrators into violence will be punished by existing laws as described above.

ARTICLE 8:

Officials on duty who commit offenses that cause damage to the people's properties or public property or injuries or loss of life to other people will be punished under existing laws according to the gravity of their crimes.

ARTICLE 9:

Anyone who takes advantage of a demonstration to commit a theft, robbery, or other offenses will be punished by existing laws according to the gravity of their crimes.

ARTICLE 10:

Compensation for damage caused by a demonstration will be made by the concerned provincial or municipal budget departments. If damage is caused by the mistake or negligence of the victims, compensation for the damage will be reduced or totally nullified. If the competent authorities identify the offenders, the provincial or municipal authorities may press charges to make the offenders pay the provincial or municipal budget departments for repairs for the damage.

ARTICLE 11:

This law is declared urgent.

This law is passed by the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia on December 27, 1991 during an extraordinary session of the first legislature. Governors and government delegates in provinces and municipalities shall implement the above mentioned law effectively.