

L A W
O N
D E M O N S T R A T I O N

Article 1: Meetings and gathering of groups and crowds for staging demonstrations are acceptable. However, meetings of groups or crowds in public places or on public roads, or marching demonstrations which can be detrimental to public tranquillity, order or security, are categorically prohibited.

Article 2: Marching demonstrations on public roads to express views on any issue may be held under the following conditions:

- (1) Violence cannot be used and arms or any other dangerous instruments cannot be carried;
- (2) Public tranquillity, order and security cannot be jeopardized; and
- (3) Authorities in each commune and ward through which a group of demonstrators will march shall be informed at least three days beforehand in writing, which will indicate the surnames, names, addresses and signatures of three of the demonstration's organizers; objectives; locations; dates; streets; and the number of the people participating in the demonstration.

If demonstrations are to be held in provincial towns or city, they should be reported in writing to the authorities there.

Article 3: Authorities, after receiving a notice, should issue a receipt for it. However, if the authorities concerned think that demonstrations have characteristics conducive to causing turmoil, they can ban the demonstration by issuing a decision within 48 hours and communicate the decision to the demonstration's organizers.

A copy of the decision should be immediately forwarded to higher authorities within 24 hours.

In case there is disagreement, demonstration organizers may lodge a protest to higher authorities. The latter should make a decision on the grievance with approval or rejection, then communicate the decision to the petitioner within 24 hours.

Article 4: If any demonstration takes place without local authorities being informed beforehand or without authorization from local authorities, the latter can take measures to forbid the demonstrators on the site.

After issuing the ban twice, if the demonstrators still adamantly refuse to discontinue their activities, the local authorities shall act to disperse the demonstrators with the use of equipment that does not endanger life.

Article 5: If demonstrators are armed with dangerous weapons or equipment, security forces can remove the weapons and equipment.

If the demonstrators persistently refuse to hand over the weapons and equipment, the security forces will be able to detain the demonstrators temporarily and remove their weapons and equipment.

After they calm down, the demonstrators shall be released and the weapons and equipment returned to their owners, except when other offenses are found.

Article 6: If a peaceful demonstration turns into violent demonstration or riot, competent authorities will take the most appropriate measures to stop the demonstration or riot.

The measures mentioned in Article 4 should be applied on a preliminary basis.

Article 7: Any demonstrator resorting to violence to cause damage to other people's property or public property or to create bodily harm or death to other people or officials on duty shall be punished according to the law in effect, depending on the degree of the committed offence.

Disguised [demonstrators] and those who incite [demonstrators] to use violence shall be punished according to the law currently in effect.

Article 8: If any official carrying out his duty at a demonstration commits an offence, causing damage to people's property or public property, or causing injury or death to other people, shall be punished according to the law currently in effect, depending on the degree of the offence committed.

Article 9: Anybody taking advantage of a demonstration to commit burglary, looting, robbery or other offences shall be punished to the maximum degree according to the law currently in effect.

Article 10: Reparation of all damages caused by a demonstration should be burden of the budget of the province or city concerned.

If damages are caused by the fault or negligence of the victims themselves, the reparation of damages should be reduced or cancelled.

If the provincial or municipal authorities have found the offenders, they can sue the latter to repay the cost of the damages to the budget of the province or city.

Article 11: This law is declared urgent.

(Adopted by the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia on 27 December 1991, and reaffirmed by the Ministers of Interior of the Kingdom of Cambodia)