

F53/7

អង្គភាពសហមេធាវីនាំមុខកំណត់ដើមបណ្តឹងរដ្ឋប្បវេណី

**Civil Party Lead Co-Lawyers' Section**

**Section des co-avocats principaux pour les parties civiles**

**LETTER**

**To:** SEA Mao and PHAN Theoun, Greffiers of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

<b>ឯកសារដើម</b>	
Supreme Court Chamber of the	
DOCUMENT ORIGINAL	
ក្រៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ ទទួល (Date of receipt/Date de reception):	
28 / 01 / 2019	
ពេលវេលា (Time/Heure):	
15:30	
អគ្គិសនីបញ្ជូនឯកសារ/Case File Officer/L'agent chargé du dossier:	
SANN RADD	

**SUBJECT:** Declaration of a possible conflict of interest

Dear Messers SEA and PHAN,

As you will be aware, I took up the role of International Civil Party Lead Co-Lawyer on 26 August 2019. I write now to declare a potential conflict of interest so that if it is of concern it may be appropriately dealt with.

The matter relates to a project in Timor-Leste which I am involved in jointly with reserve Judge Phillip Rapoza. The project is a collaboration between The Asia Foundation and a Timorese NGO, JSMP, to produce a textbook on domestic Timorese criminal law. I am contracted by JSMP as lead writer. Judge Rapoza has agreed to assist The Asia Foundation by providing technical input on drafts, and by leading consultations with senior Timorese judicial actors, with whom he has long-established relationships. I have been involved since late 2017 when I began to provide *pro bono* input on the project proposal. Work on the project began in mid-2018 and is now part-way through, with my first drafts completed.

My direct interactions with Judge Rapoza have been limited: in the past I had briefly met him on two occasions; during this project we have exchanged a small number of emails during the development of the project proposal and in the early stages of my drafting work. Since applying for the role of International Lead Co-Lawyer I have had no direct contact with Judge Rapoza.

I am conscious that interactions of this kind between judges and counsel are not unusual, and that Judge Rapoza's role is that of reserve rather than sitting judge. The risk of a conflict of interest, or even the perception of one, may therefore be considered to be low. Nonetheless, in the interests of full transparency I thought it best to apprise the Supreme Court Chamber.

As this is a matter personal to me, I send this letter with my signature alone, however I do so having discussed and agreed this course of action with National Civil Party Lead Co-Lawyer, PICH Ang. If the Chamber considers it appropriate for the other parties in Case 002/02 to be informed, I would of course have no objection. I also stand ready to provide any clarification or further information which may be required.

Yours sincerely

Megan HIRST  
International Civil Party Lead Co-Lawyer  
Phnom Penh, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019