

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 31, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We were appalled by the Cambodian government's recent decision to pardon and release from prison three convicted foreign pedophiles—Russian national Stanislav Molodyakov, alias Alexander Trofimov, German national Alexander Watrin and Dutch national Rene Paul Martin Aubel. While we appreciate the statement released by the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh condemning the release of Mr. Trofimov, we ask that you personally amplify this message with top officials in the Government of Cambodia and ask that Cambodian authorities designate all three individuals *persona non grata* and expel them from the country.

We believe that these pardons are a severe setback to Cambodia's efforts to eradicate child sex tourism and sex trafficking. The decision also sets a bad precedent for the prosecution of foreign pedophiles. As you know, Mr. Trofimov—originally sentenced to 17 years in prison for sex crimes against 17 minor girls—served less than half of an already significantly reduced sentence before being released. Mr. Watrin—originally sentenced to ten years in prison for sex crimes against four minor boys—was pardoned with more than a year remaining of his own reduced sentence. Mr. Aubel served just over half of his ten-year sentence for sex crimes against six minor boys.

These three individuals now have complete freedom in Cambodia. The children who were victims of their crimes and the nongovernmental organizations who assisted the Cambodian government in investigating and prosecuting these cases will be at risk of reprisals if these criminals are allowed to stay in the country.

Additionally, the Russian government has repeatedly asked that Mr. Trofimov be extradited in order to face charges in Russia for the rape of several young Russian girls. The Government of Cambodia instead insisted upon trying Mr. Trofimov in Cambodia, and now with his full pardon and continued presence in Cambodia, Mr. Trofimov has effectively avoided being held accountable for his crimes in either country.

We urge you to convey to the highest levels of the Cambodian government our government's concern over the pardon of these three convicted foreign pedophiles. We also ask that you contact Russian authorities and encourage them to invalidate Mr. Trofimov's passports and to collaborate with Interpol so that he might be arrested on outstanding charges against him in Russia.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



THAD COCHRAN
United States Senator



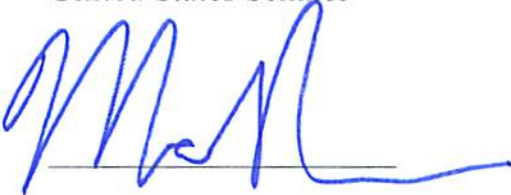
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