

Will US cut Cambodia aid if Hun Sen rules again?

By Ashlee Betteridge

Lawmakers and human rights activists are [pushing](#) for the US government to cut \$70 million in annual aid to Cambodia if upcoming elections are not conducted fairly.

Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party has held power in the country since the Khmer Rouge overthrow in 1979.

The legitimacy of the July 28 elections has been called into question, with allegations of [intimidation](#), foreign media [broadcast blocks](#) and a [shortage](#) of unaffiliated observers. A report [prepared](#) for US Congress last month blames closer relations between Cambodia and China for undermining the influence Western donors have on human rights and democracy issues.

About the author/s

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Ashlee Betteridge was the Manager of the Development Policy Centre until April 2021. She was previously a Research Officer at the centre from 2013-2017. A former journalist, she holds a Master of Public Policy (Development Policy) from ANU and has development experience in Indonesia and Timor-Leste. She now works as a development consultant.