



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### Clarification

The Washington Post published on 02 October 2017 an article entitled "A North Korean ship was seized off Egypt with a huge cache of weapons destined for a surprising buyer" in which it was reported that "...a mysterious vessel steaming toward the Suez Canal. The bulk freighter named *Jie Shun* was flying Cambodian colors but had sailed from North Korea..." and that the Egyptian customs "swarmed the vessel and discovered, concealed a cache of more than 30,000 rocket-propelled grenades."

In this connection, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation would like to clarify as follows:

1. In accordance with the Royal Government of Cambodia's decision, the Chairman of the Cambodian Ship Registration Management Committee, in his letter No. 966 LI/OCM dated 27 August 2015, informed the Chairman of International Ship Registry of Cambodia (ISROC) that in order to safeguard the reputation and honor of the Cambodian flag, the Royal Government of Cambodia had decided to terminate the contract with ISROC as a sole and exclusive flag state administration in Cambodian ship registration and asked ISROC to discontinue registering the Cambodian-flagged ships.
2. His Excellency Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister, Minister of Public Work and Transport, in his letter No. 045 MPWT dated 17 August 2016, informed the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization that "the Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to close down the ship registration since 17 August 2015. In order to facilitate the ship owners, whose ships still have valid registry certificate with Cambodian flag, we allow their ships to be operated under Cambodian flag until such day that those certificate are expired which is due at end of August 2016. Any ship claimed to be under Cambodian flag after this due date, are considered illegal and subjected to applicable international laws and regulations."



3. In another move, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, through its Diplomatic Note No.889 MFA-IC/LC5 dated 12 April 2016, has informed the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Phnom Penh that three vessels owned by a North Korean firm with Cambodian flag of convenience, had been de-registered from the list by ISROC in accordance with Paragraph 19 of the UN Security Council Resolution 2270, dated 2 March 2016.
4. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to affirm that the flying of the Cambodian flag of convenience by any ship including the above-mentioned vessel is illegal.

Phnom Penh, 02 October 2017

