

Rainsy Traveling to US to Circulate Report

By JOE COCHRANE
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Opposition politician Sam Rainsy said Tuesday that he will fly to the US this week to circulate a report he claims links Second Prime Minister Hun Sen to the deadly March 30 grenade attack.

Sam Rainsy, speaking by telephone from Bangkok, said he will give the report to people "connected to the US Congress" but he did not name any individuals. He said he hopes the US government will pressure Cambodia to ensure that the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Cambodian Interior Ministry are not hampered during the remainder of the investigation.

"If the FBI made their finding public it could create intense political turmoil that could lead the US suspending aid to Cambodia," Sam Rainsy said.

"That would be unacceptable to some people including various diplomats," he continued. "These diplomats have been praising Hun Sen and the job he is doing, and now they find out he is behind the attack. This is very em-

barrassing for some diplomats so they are applying pressure to the FBI investigation."

A US Embassy spokeswoman contacted Tuesday said the embassy would not comment on the investigation.

Sam Rainsy said First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh gave him the report after the prince received it from Interior co-Minister You Hockry. Sam Rainsy said FBI and Interior Ministry investigators compiled the report from their investigations.

But Prak Sokhonn, a senior adviser to Hun Sen, on Tuesday said the report came from neither the Interior Ministry nor the bipartisan commission investigating the attack.

"We don't even know what's in this report," Prak Sokhonn said. "The second prime minister did not receive a report like this. This [report] is not any conclusion from the investigation. This is just a conclusion from Sam Rainsy."

An unknown number of attackers lobbed up to four grenades into the Khmer Nation Party

(KNP)-led rally in a park across from the National Assembly, killing at least 17 people and wounding 150 others.

At least two witnesses have said they saw two men throw grenades from behind the rally and then run across the park toward nearby Wat Botum. The witnesses said a group of soldiers, who were later identified as Hun Sen's bodyguards, aided the attackers' escape by physically stopping protesters who were in pursuit.

Sam Rainsy, the KNP's president, on Monday evening released a statement containing what he claimed were excerpts from the preliminary report that purportedly implicate Hun Sen.

According to Sam Rainsy, the report cites the commander of the bodyguards telling investigators that Hun Sen's cabinet ordered the soldiers to attend the rally. The report, Sam Rainsy continued, also states that witnesses after the attack saw a suspect run toward Hun Sen's house, which is located in a CPP residential compound behind Wat Botum.