



A tribute to President Jimmy Carter from The Khmer Movement for Democracy

The Khmer Movement for Democracy (KMD) wishes to pay tribute to the extraordinary life and achievements of former US President Jimmy Carter.

President Carter's accomplishments since his presidency ended should not obscure his achievements as president. During the Carter administration, the US military did not fire a shot in combat or drop a bomb anywhere in the world.

America's faith in its democratic institutions was shaken by the Watergate scandal. That faith was restored by the integrity of President Carter. He appointed more women judges than all of his predecessors put together, and was a visionary in terms of the need for a transition for renewable energy.

Few former heads of government anywhere have used their visibility and influence to such good effect as President Carter, alongside his wife of 77 years Rosalynn Carter, who died in 2023. The Carter Center, set up in 1982, is on the front lines of the struggle for genuine democratic elections, and has monitored well over 100 elections in 39 countries.

Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic and Kim Dae-jong of South Korea were among those who said that their release from prison was in part due to Jimmy Carter. Statesmanship of the caliber which he showed is desperately needed today as authoritarians continue to persecute and imprison their opponents with impunity.

President Carter's achievements were recognised by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his services to human rights and peace-making.

Human rights, President Carter said, is "the soul of our foreign policy ... because human rights is the soul of our sense of nationhood."

The thoughts of the Khmer Movement for Democracy are with President Jimmy Carter's family at this moment as the world comes together to reflect on the meaning of humanity, which President Carter dedicated his presidency as well as his life to promoting through diplomacy, humanitarian efforts, and a commitment to peace.

