



## STILL REFUGEES ON OWN LAND

In 1993, the same year as the first UN backed general election, refugees who had previously fled the Khmer rouge returned to their homeland, Cambodia, in the final repatriation stage. After fleeing their war torn country, by the end of '93, approximately 370,000 displaced refugees returned to Cambodia, with support from the UNHCR. Returning in hope of better lives for their families, filled with home culture and most importantly, peace. The thousands that returned expected the entitlement of basic human rights-

fundamental freedoms, the entitlement to live in peace and security- free from intimidation and coercion, and the right to property. Little did these displaced citizens know they would be returning to a silent war and destitution; facing forced evictions and human rights violations. As Cambodian nationals, they still live as second-class citizens with limited rights and freedoms. In the past 20 year, little has changed for these communities who still live as refugees in their own land.

Cambodia National Rescue Party, the united opposition party has the following platform for the July 2013 elections: Presenting the elderly a pension of \$10 a month, a minimum workers wage of \$150 a month and civil servant salaries a minimum of \$250, free medical care for the poor, and equal education opportunities to the youth; creating better futures. As well as land titles to all citizens according to the land law. Offering communities a free and fair chance to care for and support not only themselves, but also their families- living with a newfound respect and dignity in which they deserve.

MP, Mu Sochua, CNRP candidate campaigning in ChamKa Samrong community Battambang, Cambodia, 2013 © Charlotte

