

JFA expresses concern over Cambodia anti-media crackdown



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[Journalists'](#) Forum Assam ([JFA](#)) in northeast [India](#) expresses concern [over](#) the ongoing crackdown on newspaper & radios in Cambodia with an aim to silence the media ahead of next year's general election. The recent shut down of an independent English newspaper in the southeast Asian country has shown the authority's intolerance towards the mainstream media, alleged the forum based in northeast [India](#).

In a statement, the forum of scribes revealed that the Cambodia Daily was forced by the government agencies to close down its publication [over](#) a tax dispute. The newspaper was slapped with a purported \$6.3 million tax bill recently and the authority ordered the amount to be paid by September 4 last or shut down its operation.

The country's information [ministry](#) also ordered the closure of nearly 15 radio stations broadcasting programs from international broadcasters namely Radio Free Asia (RFA), Voice of America (VOA), Voice of Democracy (VOD) etc. Meanwhile, the RFA decided to close its Phnom Penh bureau citing the recent of media crackdown by the authority. Another United States-funded broadcaster VOA is also planning similar actions.

“It is now logical to define the Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen as an anti-media politician. He perhaps has no intention to allow the press to exercise its freedom ahead of the crucial national election scheduled for early 2018,” said a statement issued by [JFA](#) president Rupam Barua and secretary Nava Thakuria adding that influential media [rights](#) bodies should condemn the Cambodian authority for its latest anti-media crackdowns.

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