# 《柬埔寨女仆被禁》

Cambodia ’ s Prime Minister Hun Sen signed an order in recent days that bars recruitment firms from sending domestic workers to Malaysia after numerous reports of abuses.

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But a prominent rights group says the ban was quickly violated when at least two firms sent more women abroad on Monday.

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Rights groups have been pressuring Phnom Penh for months to combat the abuse of Cambodian maids working in Malaysia.

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Last Friday Prime Minister Hun Sen promised to take action.

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On Saturday he signed an order banning Cambodian recruitment firms from sending domestic workers to Malaysia.

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Rights groups welcomed the ban. Maid placement agencies condemned it.

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But on Monday, Naly Pilorge, the director of rights group LICADHO, says that two firms sent at least 25 young women to Malaysia on the early morning flight from Phnom Penh.

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“I mean Friday and Saturday I was encouraged, but after my colleagues reported that at least 25 women were seen leaving to Malaysia this morning, it’s clear to me that the authorities, the companies are defying this ban,"

said Pilorge. "So no, I’m not encouraged.”

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For months opposition legislators in Cambodia have highlighted serious abuses against domestic workers in Malaysia.

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Pilorge believes the government has banned the flow of migrant workers now, in part, because officials worry that Washington may downgrade its human trafficking status, putting it at risk of losing U.S. foreign aid.

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The 2011 State Department Trafficking in Persons report said that Cambodia has made no improvements to identify or protect trafficking victims.

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Around 300,000 young people enter Cambodia’s job market each year, but there is no paying work available locally for most.

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That is why tens of thousands cross - legally and illegally - into Thailand and Malaysia each year seeking employment.

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