

Australia Network News

Cambodia's Sam Rainsy to return for election
Robert Carmichael in Phnom Penh
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Photo: Veteran

Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy announces return in time for general election.

Veteran Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy, who has lived in exile since 2009, has announced he will return in time for the country's general election.

With the general election scheduled for 28 July he has not set a date for his return, saying only that he would be in country by the day of the election. Sam Rainsy insists he is prepared to go to jail if necessary.

The opposition leader left Cambodia for exile in France in 2009 ahead of two court cases that saw him handed an 11 year jail sentence.

His supporters say the charges were politically motivated, designed to rid Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen of his most significant challenger.

The Cambodian government says it has not received a request for a royal pardon, and insists that the courts ought to carry out their responsibility should he return.

International pressure is building on Cambodia, particularly in the US where Congress is to hold hearings on the political situation this week.