

Mon, 30-May-22 (Laos: Democracy Day) 10.00-11.00 Demonstration,

14.00-16.00 Press Conference

Laos (historical name "Lane Xang" means **land of millions of elephants**) is a southeast Asian landlocked country between Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and China. The **Vietnam War** (1955-1975) also **affected Laos** and **Cambodia: destabilisation, foreign intervention, civil war ...**

As a consequence, a **communist government** took over in **1975** - since then, a **dictatorship** in close cooperation with neighbouring **Vietnam** has set up a **repressive apparatus**, is violating **human rights (drugs, expropriation, human trafficking, land grabbing, media etc)** and is **suppressing all opposition**. On the **international** stage the country voted in the **UN General Assembly against Russia's exclusion** from the **Human Rights Council**.

As the **European Union** is a **major international player** for **rule of law, human rights and democracy**, we have decided to come to **Brussels**.

Our aim is twofold: to **inform about the situation** in our country of origin and to **ask for concrete support** for the fight for democracy:

Monday, 30 June 2022

Laos Democracy Day

10.00-11.00 Demonstration

Place de Luxembourg

(just in front of the European Parliament)

14.00-16.00 Press Conference

Press Club, Rue Froissart 95

(just in front of the Commission Berlaymont and the Council)

In case you would like to **participate** either in the demonstration or in the press conference (or even in the two), please **confirm via email** (schwalbahoth@gmail.com).

Hope to see you there.

Bounthone Chanthavong-Wiese (President, Alliance for Democracy in Laos)

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