

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 23/04/94
Distr: UA/SC

UA 160/94

Extrajudicial executions / Fear for safety

21 April 1994

CAMBODIA Attack by soldiers on villagers of Ban Teay, Ko Lo-ap Commune, Kratie district, Kratie province

Killed: Thoeun Nab (aged 7)
Thi Phorn (aged 54)
Hen Mao (aged 24)

Wounded: Touch Tol (aged 20)
Son Sath (aged 40)
Theng Tol (aged 16)

Local human rights monitors report that on 11 April 1994 three villagers were killed and three others wounded by soldiers of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in Ban Teay village. Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the villagers, and is calling for a full investigation into the attack.

Six soldiers from the 22nd Battalion reportedly entered the village at 7.30 pm on 11 April, and demanded a chicken from the villagers. When the villagers did not produce one, the soldiers accused them of being "Pol Pot" - that is, linked to the *Partie of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK)* or *Khmer Rouge* - and fired two separate rounds from their AK-47 rifles.

Thoeun Nab, a seven-year-old boy, died from wounds to the ribs, arm and leg. Thi Phorn, a farmer, died from a gunshot wound to the head, and Hen Mao, a young policeman, died from a wound to the body. Three other people were wounded, including Theng Tol, a 16-year-old boy who ran into soldiers walking behind his house. One of the soldiers struck him with a weapon breaking his arm.

After the attack, reinforcements were sent by the 22nd Battalion Headquarters in Kratie to deal with the reported *Khmer Rouge* presence in the village, but withdrew because there were no *Khmer Rouge* in the vicinity. Villagers reportedly said that no *Khmer Rouge* had been in the area for three years. The villagers fled to the forest when the reinforcements arrived, fearing a second attack.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1993, under a United Nations-sponsored peace accord, 90% of Cambodia's electorate voted in democratic elections, following over 20 years of civil war, violent revolution and foreign occupation. A new coalition government was formed, and the armed forces of each party within the government combined to form a new national army. The PDK, which signed the Peace Agreements, did not comply with the terms of the accord, and resumed armed conflict. Since August 1993, the new Royal Cambodian Armed Forces have launched several offensives against the forces of the PDK. Soldiers on both sides are often not paid for many months, and sometimes run short of food.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams, faxes and airmail letters either in French, English or in your own language:

- expressing concern that three villagers were killed and three wounded by soldiers of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in Ban Teay village on 11 April;
- calling for an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the incident, and urging that those found responsible are brought to justice;

- urging the authorities to take immediate steps to ensure that there are no further attacks on the villagers of Ban Teay, Ko Lo-ap commune, Kratie district, Kratie province.

APPEALS TO

1. Samdech Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh
First Prime Minister
Office of the Council of Ministers
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Telegrams: HRH Norodom Ranariddh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Faxes: + 855 232 6144 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

2. His Excellency Hun Sen
Second Prime Minister
Office of the Council of Ministers
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Telegrams: HE Hun Sen, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Faxes: + 855 232 6144 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Salutation: Your Excellency

3. His Excellency Tea Banh
Co-Minister of National Defence
Ministry of National Defence
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Telegrams: HE Tea Banh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Faxes: + 855 232 6144 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Salutation: Your Excellency

4. His Excellency Tea Chamrath
Co-Minister of National Defence
Ministry of National Defence
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Telegrams: HE Tea Chamrath, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Faxes: + 855 232 6144 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Salutation: Your Excellency

5. His Excellency Chem Snguon
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Telegrams: HE Chem Snguon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Faxes: + 855 232 6144 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Please note that it may be necessary to go through the international operator to send a fax to Cambodia.

Cambodia has almost no diplomatic representation in other countries

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 June 1994.