

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 23/28/98

22 September 1998

Further information on UA 245/98 (ASA 23/25/98, 15 September 1998) - Fear of torture/Fear for safety/Fear of "disappearance"

CAMBODIAScores, possibly over 200 people, arrested in Phnom Penh between 7 September and 16 September 1998

Amnesty International has obtained more information on the number of people arrested during a violent crackdown on opposition protests in Phnom Penh after 7 September 1998. The organization believes that scores, and possibly over 200 people, were arrested. The authorities have acknowledged only 22 arrests, and have claimed that 19 of those have been released (including all but one of the people named in the original Urgent Action).

New information about the number of bodies found in Phnom Penh and the surrounding area has reached Amnesty International. The organization believes that at least 20 people and possibly many more, have been killed in the last two weeks. Amnesty International fears that the unacknowledged prisoners may be among the dead.

Credible eyewitness testimony of the arrest of Buddhist monks, students and others, and separate credible eyewitness reports of dead bodies in Phnom Penh and the surrounding area, combined with outright denial by the Cambodian authorities that any of those killed were protestors, leads Amnesty International to fear for the safety of all detainees.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or French or in your own language:

- urging the Cambodian authorities to issue a complete list of all those detained in Phnom Penh since 7 September 1998, their place of detention and any charges against them;
- urging that independent, impartial investigations commence immediately into the fate and whereabouts of all those believed to have been arrested since 7 September;
- urging that all those currently in detention have access to their families, lawyers and medical personnel;
- reminding the government of Cambodia of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 5 : "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

APPEALS TO:

Samdech Hun Sen
Second Prime Minister
Office of the Council of Ministers
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Faxes: +855 23 42 6134 (if voice, ask for fax)

Telegrams: HE Hun Sen, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Salutation: Your Excellency

HE Sar Kheng
Minister of Interior
Office of the Council of Ministers
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Faxes: +855 23 42 6144

Telegrams: HE Sar Kheng, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Cambodia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 November 1998.

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>