

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 23/09/99

10 May 1999

Further information on UA 93/99 (ASA 23/08/99, 29 April 1999) - Fear for safety/Fear of torture

CAMBODIAKang Kek Ieu, aka Ta Pin, aka Duch

Former Khmer Rouge official Kang Kek Ieu was apprehended in Battambang province on 9 May 1999. The Cambodian authorities have claimed he is in "protective custody" in Phnom Penh. However, no details have been provided of his place and conditions of detention, and Amnesty International remains concerned for his safety. Torture in police custody is widespread in Cambodia. Kang Kek Ieu has not been officially arrested and his status as a detainee remains unclear.

During the period of the Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge) government, Kang Kek Ieu, then known as Duch, was in charge of the S-21 detention centre in Phnom Penh. More than 12,000 people were detained there between 1975 and 1979, of whom only seven survived. In addition to being indictable on many criminal charges himself, Kang Kek Ieu would be a key witness in any judicial proceedings against others involved in crimes against humanity while the Khmer Rouge were in power.

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

- urging the Cambodian authorities to ensure the safety of Kang Kek Ieu;
- asking where Kang Kek Ieu is detained, and urging that his treatment in detention conforms with international standards, in particular that he be given immediate access to his family, a lawyer and medical personnel;
- asking whether there is a warrant for his arrest, and on what charges;
- urging the Cambodian authorities to cooperate with the United Nations to bring to justice Kang Kek Ieu and others implicated in the grave violations of human rights during the Democratic Kampuchea period, following the recommendations of a UN Group of Experts in their report of February 1999.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Hun Sen
Office of the Council of Ministers
Phnom Penh
Cambodia
Fax: + 855 23 360666 (if voice, ask for fax)
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Sar Kheng
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior and National Security
Phnom Penh
Cambodia
Fax: + 855 23 212708 (if voice, ask for fax)
Salutation: Dear Minister

Tea Banh
Minister of National Defence
Ministry of National Defence
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Salutation: Dear Minister

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 21 June 1999.