

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 23/23/97

11 July 1997

Further information on UA 209/97 (ASA 23/21/97, 11 July 1997) - Fear for safety

CAMBODIA Cheng Sokna, journalist

Vutha, journalist

New names: Sovann Sokha, editor

Pong Saphai, editor

and two others, journalists

Pong Saphai, editor of the newspaper *Nokor Thom*, Sovann Sokha, editor of the newspaper *Antarakhum* and two journalists from *Antarakhum* newspaper all fear for their safety, following the violent coup in Cambodia over the weekend 5-6 July 1997. Both editors are known to have been close to Hor Sok, a senior FUNCINPEC member who was arrested and extrajudicially executed on 7 July.

Pong Saphai is no longer staying at his house in Phnom Penh, as it has already been surrounded once by police loyal to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen. It is believed that this has also happened to the three journalists from *Antarakhum*.

Amnesty International fears for the safety of these four, should they be arrested.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In March 1994, the *Antarakhum* office was attacked by two unidentified men who threw a grenade which exploded and wounded five people, including two newspaper staff. No one was ever brought to justice for the attack.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Sovann Sokha and journalists at the *Antarakhum* newspaper, and Pong Saphai and journalists at the *Nokor Thom* newspaper;
- urging that they should not be arrested on account of their conscientiously held peaceful political views, or their association with the FUNCINPEC party;
- asking for assurances that journalists and editors will not be targeted for arrest, detention and ill-treatment.

Please continue action for Cheng Sokna and Vutha as outlined in original UA.

APPEALS TO:

HE 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

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Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Faxes: +855 23 42 6144 (if voice, ask for fax)

Telegrams: HE Sar Kheng, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Salutation: Your Excellency

HE Tea Banh
Minister of Defence
Office of the Council of Ministers
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Telegrams: HE Tea Banh, 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 24 August 1997.