

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 23/10/94
Distr: UA/SC

UA 229/94 Attempted extrajudicial execution / Fear for safety 14 June 1994

CAMBODIA Pheng Kim (f), Second Vice-Governor of Stung Treng Province
Heng Sor
A third person, name unknown

At about 1.30 am on 5 June 1994, a group of men, reported to be members of the security police, fired rockets and rifles into the house of Pheng Kim, Second Vice-Governor of Stung Treng province. The attack follows persistent threats and harassment against Pheng Kim. Amnesty International fears for her safety and that of her family, and is calling for a full investigation into the attack and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

Witnesses have described how three small groups of men came to the Vice-Governor's house in Stung Treng town, Stung Treng Province, and fired AK-47 rifles, then launched three B-40 rockets, two of which entered the house, but failed to explode. The third hit a tree and exploded, cutting off the electricity supply to the house. Heng Sor, who is Pheng Kim's brother-in-law, and another person were wounded by shrapnel, neither of them seriously.

Witnesses recognised the attackers as members of the security police of FUNCINPEC, one of the two political parties forming Cambodia's coalition government. A week before the attack, these security policemen were seen in a military vehicle near Pheng Kim's house. The policemen are closely associated with two FUNCINPEC officials in the province, who have reportedly threatened the life of Pheng Kim since she was appointed Second Vice-Governor in December 1993. Since that time she has received continual threats and harassment from men believed to be associated with the provincial FUNCINPEC office. Pheng Kim is also a member of FUNCINPEC.

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. FUNCINPEC (The National United Front for an Independent, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia) won the most seats in the new Parliament, and formed a coalition government with the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), which had formed the previous government, and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP), a smaller party. When positions in the new administration were allocated, some members of the political parties felt they had not received due recognition. Each political party had its own military wing and security apparatus, left over from the days of the civil war, and attempts to integrate these at all levels have not been wholly successful.

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

- expressing concern that Second Vice-Governor of Stung Treng province Pheng Kim has been subjected to intimidation, threats and, on 5 June 1994, a violent attack by members of the Stung Treng FUNCINPEC security police;
- calling for an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into this attack, and urging that those responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that the authorities take immediate steps to protect Second Vice-Governor Pheng Kim and her family from any further attacks and threats.

APPEALS TO

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

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

Sar Kheng
Minister of Interior and National Security
Ministry of Interior and National Security
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Telegrams: HE Sar Kheng, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Faxes: + 855 232 6144 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Salutation: Your Excellency

You Hok Kry
Minister of Interior and National Security
Ministry of Interior and National Security
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Telegrams: You Hok Kry, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Faxes: + 855 232 6144 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Salutation: Minister

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 26 July 1994.