

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Extrajudicial Executions of ethnic Vietnamese

12 July 1993

**CAMBODIA**

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Amnesty International is gravely concerned by confirmed reports of extrajudicial executions of 12 ethnic Vietnamese civilians by forces of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK, or Khmer Rouge) in Kompong Chhnang Province, central Cambodia. The organization calls on the NADK to instruct all its troops not to arbitrarily kill civilians under any circumstances.

The NADK killed 12 Vietnamese in four separate incidents from 8 to 11 July, and five other deaths have been attributed to them, although Amnesty International has not been able to confirm the killings of the last five individuals. Reports also indicate that NADK commanders in the area have publicly stated that they will not tolerate the presence of Vietnamese in Kompong Chhnang waterways. Ethnic Vietnamese had evidently been returning to the area after having fled from similar massacres in late 1992 and early 1993. At that time thousands of Vietnamese left Cambodia after the NADK killed over 30 of them on 10 March in Siem Reap province, which was the latest in a series of massacres of almost 200 Vietnamese civilians by NADK forces. Many ethnic Vietnamese fishermen have resided in Cambodia for decades, often living on waterboys in houseboats. Local State of Cambodia (SOC) authorities have reportedly not investigated or condemned the massacres. Amnesty International is greatly concerned that the SOC has not taken action to halt these killings, and calls on them urgently to provide protection to ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia and to publicly condemn the massacres to ensure that such killings do not re-occur.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In May 90% of Cambodia's electorate voted in internationally-supervised multi-party elections. The elections themselves were relatively free of violence and were declared free and fair by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which was mandated by the 1991 Paris Peace Agreements to oversee the country's administration in the run-up to elections. The royalist opposition party FUNCINPEC won 58 seats and the Cambodian Peoples' Party (CPP), which controls 80% of Cambodia's territory and population, won 51 seats, out of a total 120 seats. The CPP controls the one-party government of the State of Cambodia (SOC), based in the capital Phnom Penh. The Partie of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK, or Khmer Rouge) boycotted the elections, but signed the Paris Peace Agreements, along with its allies FUNCINPEC, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and the SOC, who fought against the opposition coalition for 13 years.

The six months previous to the elections were characterized by widespread political violence attributed to both the CPP and to the PDK. In the period from 1 March to mid-May alone, the UNTAC Human Rights Component reported that 200 people were killed, 338 were injured, and 114 were abducted, including UNTAC personnel. The PDK targeted ethnic Vietnamese in a series of massacres in which almost 200 civilians were killed. They were also responsible for killing ethnic Cambodians and killing and abducting UNTAC personnel. In April PDK representatives to the Supreme National Council (SNC, which is comprised of all four parties to the Peace Agreement and embodies Cambodian sovereignty in the interim period), withdrew from Phnom Penh.

The newly-elected Constituent Assembly is now meant to draft a constitution and transform itself into a National Assembly in the three month transition period following the election, when UNTAC's mandate will expire. The first meeting of the National Assembly took place on 14 June, with almost all 120 members present. A unanimous resolution was passed reaffirming Prince Sihanouk's role as head of state. On 16 June, the CPP and FUNCINPEC agreed to form a coalition government in the interim period while the constitution is being drafted. In the meantime, it is likely that most of the SOC civil service, including the security forces, will remain in place.

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

- calling on Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the head of State, to publicly condemn the killings and to demand that the PDK immediately cease extrajudicially executing Vietnamese civilians;
- urging Khieu Samphan, head of the PDK, to instruct all forces of the NADK not to arbitrarily kill civilians under any circumstances;
- calling on Hun Sen, former SOC Prime Minister, and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of FUNCINPEC, both of whom are current co-Presidents of the interim cabinet, to publicly condemn the killings. Also urge Hun Sen to instruct the armed forces of the SOC to provide protection to ethnic Vietnamese, and to investigate the killings.

**APPEALS TO**

1) His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk  
Head of State  
President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia  
The Khemarin Palace  
Phnom Penh  
Cambodia

**Telegrams: HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**  
**Faxes: + 855 232 6110**

**Salutation: Your Royal Highness**

2) His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh  
Co-President  
Office of the Council of Ministers  
Phnom Penh  
Cambodia

**Telegrams: HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**  
**Faxes: + 873 177 0102**

**Salutation: Your Royal Highness**

3) His Excellency Hun Sen  
Co-President  
Office of the Council of Ministers  
Phnom Penh  
Cambodia

**Telegrams: HE Hun Sen, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**  
**Faxes: + 873 177 0102**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

4) His Excellency Khieu Samphan  
President of the Partie of Democratic Kampuchea  
Member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia  
c/o Secretariat of the SNC  
Embassy of Cambodia  
185 Rajdamri Road  
Bangkok 10500

Thailand

**Telegrams: HE Khieu Samphan, Embassy of Cambodia, Thailand**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

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 23 August 1993.