

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 23/004/2001

17 May 2001

Further information on UA 117/01 (ASA 23/003/2001, 10 May 2001) - Fear of forcible repatriation

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA/VIET NAM Dien Y Lien

Maria Nam Linh (f)

Their five children (four girls, one boy)

More than 150 Vietnamese ethnic minority men, women and children

The Cambodian authorities have reportedly agreed to give temporary refuge to Vietnamese ethnic minority asylum-seekers. More than 150 adults and children fleeing from Viet Nam had been in hiding in Mondulkiri province. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has now moved them to the provincial capital, Senmonorom, and is providing them with assistance. A long-term solution to their situation, and that of possibly more asylum-seekers from Viet Nam arriving in Cambodia has not yet been decided.

There is still no news of Dien Y Lien and his family, who were reportedly detained by Cambodian police on 8 May, and it is feared that they have already been forcibly repatriated to Viet Nam. This fear is heightened by reports in the Cambodian media that Vietnamese officials in Mondulkiri province have been offering money for the return of ethnic minority refugees to Viet Nam.

They are among the scores of Vietnamese ethnic minority people who have fled the country since March to escape an official crackdown on ethnic unrest in the central highlands. The crackdown is said to be continuing.

Other Vietnamese asylum-seekers who have been forcibly returned from Cambodia have been ill-treated and sentenced to long prison terms.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:

No further appeals to the Cambodian authorities are required at this time.

Appeals should continue as below to the Vietnamese authorities.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Dien Y Lien, Maria Nam Linh and their five children, who may have been forcibly returned to Viet Nam;
- urging the authorities to make public any information about their whereabouts and to guarantee their safety;
- expressing concern that the Vietnamese authorities may have been acting contrary to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees by encouraging forcible repatriation of asylum-seekers through financial reward.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Phan Van Khai

Office of the Prime Minister

Hoang Hoa Tham

Ha Noi

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Fax: + 844 825 9205 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

+ 844 826 0774 (c/o Ministry of Interior)

Salutation:Dear Prime Minister

and to diplomatic representatives of Viet Nam accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 June 2001.