

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

The killing of Chao Sambath and Krauch Yeum

General Chao Sambath ***Shot dead execution style in the back of the head***

General Chao Sambath and General Krauch Yeum were part of a group of around 30 people -- military officers and soldiers -- who were captured by opposing forces on the morning of 8 July 1997. They are believed to have been executed the same day. Their shallow graves were not discovered until October, when their bodies were exhumed for identification by their families.

Chao Sambath and Krauch Yeum are just two of more than 53 people believed to have been unlawfully killed in Cambodia since conflict and tensions in the coalition government turned into violent political upheaval on the weekend of 5 July 1997. Forces loyal to Second Prime People who witnessed the arrest of Generals Chao Sambath and Krauch Yeum, and the others with them, in Oudong district of

Hun Sen and his political party, the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), attacked forces loyal to then First Prime Minister Prince Norodom

General Krauch Yeum ***Shot twice. His legs were tied together and both hands had been cut off***

Ranariddh, leader of FUNCINPEC (National United Front for a Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia). The forces loyal to Prince Ranariddh were quickly defeated and hundreds were arrested and detained in the immediate aftermath of the fighting.

Evidence soon began to emerge that some of those arrested had been extrajudicially executed, including senior military and security officials of FUNCINPEC.

Kampong Speu province say that no fighting or violence was involved and that they were taken unharmed. They were reportedly taken to a

local school where they were held together in a separate building from the other soldiers. Later that day it is believed that both men were taken into the forest and shot.

Both men were senior FUNCINPEC security officials. General Chao Sambath had been the Director of Intelligence and Espionage in the Ministry of National Defence since 1993. He was married with children. General Krauch Yeuam was the Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of National Defence. He was married.

The authorities have provided no information about what happened to either of the two men.

One pro-government newspaper did report that Chao Sambath had killed himself by biting his tongue and that Krauch Yeuam was killed by soldiers who fired at him when

he refused to surrender -- both reports clearly contradicted by eyewitness accounts of their arrest and evidence from the exhumed bodies.

The Cambodian Government has not yet honoured its commitments to conduct full investigations into reported extrajudicial executions since the events of early July 1997.

Amnesty International believes that unless such investigations are undertaken as soon as possible, impunity for serious violations of human rights will continue to prevent Cambodian people exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association in safety.

What you can do

Write appeals to:

<p>Ung Huot First Prime Minister Office of the Council of Ministers Phnom Penh Cambodia</p>	<p>Hun Sen Second Prime Minister Office of the Council of Ministers Phnom Penh Cambodia</p>	<p>Sar Kheng Deputy Prime Minister and Co-Minister of Interior and National Defence Ministry of Interior Phnom Penh Cambodia</p>	<p>You Hok Kry Co-Minister of Interior and National Security Ministry of Interior Phnom Penh Cambodia</p>
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- expressing dismay at the apparent extrajudicial execution of Generals Chao Sambath and Krauch Yeuam in July 1997;
- calling on the government to immediately set up an independent investigation into the circumstances of their deaths in order to discover who is responsible;
- urging the government to bring those found responsible to justice fairly before an independent court;
- expressing your concern that impunity for serious human rights violations is preventing Cambodian people from peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association

You can also ask your own government what it is doing to put pressure on the Cambodian Government to improve the human rights situation there

International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

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