

AI INDEX: ASA 23/22/98  
4 SEPTEMBER 1998

## **PUBLIC STATEMENT**

### **Cambodia: Killing of ethnic Vietnamese**

Amnesty International condemns the killings of four ethnic Vietnamese traders in Phnom Penh, apparently carried out for racist motives by angry mobs who reportedly beat them to death in the street.

The organization also expresses concern at the incitement to racial hatred against the Vietnamese minority contained in some speeches recently made by opposition politicians campaigning against alleged electoral irregularities.

The ethnic Vietnamese minority are one of Cambodia's most vulnerable groups, and have long been subjected to discrimination and violent attacks. Amnesty International has campaigned for many years to ensure protection of their rights, reminding the government of its obligation to prevent and punish human rights abuses against them.

Advocacy of racial hatred that constitutes an incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence cannot be justified under any circumstances, and is specifically prohibited under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Cambodia has ratified.

Amnesty International renews its call upon the opposition politicians to cease all potentially inflammatory statements and to publicly call on their supporters not to engage in violence. It calls on the government to prevent and punish acts of violence and to ensure those found to be responsible for the killings are brought to justice.

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