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## **Cambodia: Killings must end**

The apparent killing in custody of a second senior member of FUNCINPEC loyal to ousted First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and the killings of at least five others, is compelling evidence of a targeted campaign to eliminate political opponents, Amnesty International said today.

“We believe Chao Sambath was killed yesterday. We know Hor Sok was killed on Monday. There must be no more killings,” the organization said. “Assurances from senior political figures that no one is being targeted ring hollow after these events.”

The bodies of four other men who had been killed were left at a temple in Phnom Penh on 7 July. Eye-witnesses told Amnesty International that the men had been handcuffed and gagged, and had gunshot wounds. Unconfirmed reports say these men had been the bodyguards of Chao Sambath, and had previously worked as bodyguards for a senior military policeman in Kandal Province.

“This gives the lie to the message from the Phnom Penh authorities that royalist supporters are not in danger,” Amnesty International said. “People have been summarily executed, apparently solely on account of whom they once worked for. The exodus of prominent political figures from Cambodia will continue, as long as they remain in fear for their lives.”

Amnesty International welcomed the stance of the ASEAN countries, who have assisted in ensuring safe passage for of people at risk.

“The humanitarian actions of ASEAN countries, including the efforts of their officials in Cambodia to ensure the safety of individuals under threat, sets a positive example that others should follow,” Amnesty International said. “Protection must be given to those who need it.”

All parties to the 1991 Paris Peace Accords vowed to “*promote and encourage respect for human rights and freedoms in Cambodia, in order to prevent the recurrences of human rights abuses*”. “The time has come for them to live up to that commitment,” Amnesty International said.

Concerns remain for the safety of those in detention, including hundreds of FUNCINPEC soldiers and officials who were detained following the fighting at the weekend in Phnom Penh. Amnesty International today renewed its call to the Cambodian authorities to provide the numbers and names of all those in detention, details of any charges against them and assurances that they will not be ill-treated.

“It is imperative that the authorities immediately grant access to detainees for human rights monitors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights,” the organization added.

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