

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Demonstrations crushed with excessive use of force

As Foreign Ministers from a number of the "Friends of Cambodia" group of countries meet in New York, Amnesty International calls on the international community to recognise the fact that serious human rights violations -- including killings and beatings of peaceful demonstrators -- have taken place in Cambodia. They should urge the Cambodian authorities to exercise restraint and lift the restrictions on freedom of movement of opposition politicians and Buddhist monks. There has been almost complete silence from other governments on the violations of human rights that have occurred in recent weeks, just as there was on the violations that took place before the elections.

Amnesty International believes that the crushing of opposition protests in Phnom Penh from 7 September was a violation of international human rights standards to which Cambodia is a state party, and involved excessive use of force on the part of the authorities. By using this level of force to break up what had been largely peaceful demonstrations, the authorities violated the rights of their own people and directly caused loss of life and personal injury. Among the victims are monks and young people. The organization also knows that many more people were detained than has been admitted by the government, and it fears for their safety, particularly given the large number of credible reports of bodies being found in Phnom Penh and the surrounding area.

Thousands of opposition party supporters from many walks of life in Cambodia, including students, factory workers and Buddhist monks took to the streets of the capital Phnom Penh in recent weeks, to protest against alleged electoral irregularities in the 26 July 1998 elections. Politicians from the two major opposition parties FUNCINPEC and the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP), as well as some from minor parties, led rallies and a sit-down protest outside the National Assembly. The protests began when the National Election Committee (NEC), the body responsible for organizing the elections, collating and announcing the results, and examining any complaints relating to the whole process, refused to accept complaints submitted by the opposition politicians. On 4 September, Amnesty International condemned the racist killings by angry mobs of as many as five ethnic Vietnamese people in Phnom Penh and expressed concern that the inflammatory rhetoric used by some opposition politicians and their supporters during the protests constituted incitement to racial hatred, and may have contributed to these attacks.

The violent dispersal of protestors began in the evening of 7 September and continued until the leader of FUNCINPEC Prince Norodom Ranariddh's call to supporters to stop the protests and prevent further bloodshed was heeded on 15 September. Amnesty International is gravely concerned that excessive use of force by the Cambodian authorities, notably the Military Police (also known as the gendarmerie) led to scores of injuries - some serious - and an as yet unconfirmed number of deaths,

which may be as high as 20. It also fears for the safety of dozens of people arrested by the police during the dispersal of the protests, most of whom remain unaccounted for and have possibly “disappeared”.

Amnesty International has documented casualty figures associated with the violent dispersal of protestors. The organization knows of over 60 people who sought hospital treatment for their injuries, fourteen of whom had bullet wounds. At least six people needed treatment for the effects of electric shock batons, wielded by the Military Police. Amnesty International notes that the vast majority of the opposition protests were peaceful, and almost all protestors were unarmed. Those that did engage in some violence, which began after the killing of an opposition supporter by the police on 7 September were armed with stones and bottles. The use of live ammunition to disperse these people, and the peaceful protestors, including monks, represents excessive use of force.

The United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials stress the need for governments and law enforcement agencies to adopt and implement rules and regulations on the use of force and firearms against people by law enforcement officials. In particular, the general provisions state that the use of force and firearms should be a last resort, and that law enforcement officials must always:

- exercise restraint...and act in proportion to the seriousness of the offence...;
- minimize damage and injury, and respect and preserve human life;”
- ensure that assistance and medical aid are rendered to any injured or affected persons at the earliest possible moment;

The general provisions also state that:

“Exceptional circumstances such as internal political instability or any other public emergency may not be invoked to justify any departure from these basic principles.”

An account of the key events relating to the demonstrations follows. The information has been collated from a wide variety of sources, many of whom cannot be identified for their own safety. Recommendations to the Cambodian authorities and the international community may be found at the end of this document.

Background

Following elections organized by the United Nations (UN) in 1993, Cambodia was governed by a coalition, in which the two major parties were FUNCINPEC, led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, which won the election, and the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP)

led by Hun Sen, which came second. An awkward power sharing arrangement, with Prince Ranariddh as First Prime Minister and Hun Sen as Second Prime Minister became increasingly shaky, and the armed forces and police were divided on party lines. The effective FUNCINPEC Finance Minister Sam Rainsy was sacked from his post early on in the life of the government, and was then expelled from his party and from the National Assembly. He formed a new opposition party, called the Khmer Nation Party which was later renamed the Sam Rainsy Party. Over the course of 1996, the human rights climate in Cambodia worsened steadily.¹ On 30 March 1997, Sam Rainsy and over a hundred of his supporters held a peaceful, authorised demonstration outside the National Assembly to protest against the judicial system. Four grenades were thrown at the demonstrators; at least sixteen people died and over a hundred were injured.²

Tensions increased in the country over the next few months, as the CPP and FUNCINPEC attempted to attract Khmer Rouge defectors to their particular parties, in an effort to garner maximum support prior to elections due to take place later that year. During the weekend of 5-6 July 1997, forces loyal to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen launched violent and sustained attacks against forces loyal to Prince Norodom Ranariddh in Phnom Penh and the surrounding area. The forces loyal to Prince Ranariddh were quickly defeated, and hundreds were arrested and detained in the immediate aftermath of the fighting. Scores of FUNCINPEC members, particularly those in high-ranking positions in the military were extrajudicially executed. Hundreds of politicians and party supporters loyal to Prince Ranariddh, Sam Rainsy, and veteran Cambodian politician Son Sann fled abroad. Thousands of other Cambodians crossed the border into Thailand to escape the fighting.

Prince Ranariddh and his close associates were tried and convicted *in absentia* in March 1998 on a number of charges by the Cambodian Military Court. The proceedings were grossly unfair, and were marked by the conviction and sentencing of all those charged, including one man - General Chao Sambath - who had been extrajudicially executed the previous July.

¹Amnesty International published many reports on the human rights situation during this period. See for example *Kingdom of Cambodia: Human rights and the new government* (AI Index: ASA 23/02/95) 14 March 1995, *Kingdom of Cambodia: Diminishing Respect for Human Rights* (AI Index: ASA 23/02/96) May 1996.

²See Amnesty International documents *Kingdom of Cambodia: Grenade Attack on Peaceful Demonstration* (AI Index: ASA 23/05/97), 31 March 1997 and *Kingdom of Cambodia: The victims of the 30 March grenade attack: an update* (AI Index: ASA 23/09/97), April 1997.

A Japanese peace plan known as the “four pillars initiative” was approved by the international “Friends of Cambodia” group in February 1998³. The plan was designed to allow Cambodia to move towards political normality, by negotiating a way in which Prince Ranariddh and other exiled politicians would be able to return to Cambodia and participate in elections in July 1998. Amnesty International expressed concern at the time that the “four pillars initiative” lacked a human rights element. The human rights climate in Cambodia during and after the July elections bear this concern out. No serious government investigations have been conducted into the extrajudicial executions that took place on and after the 5 July 1997 coup. No one has been brought to justice for the grenade attack on 30 March 1997. People are still being killed on the streets of the capital by the security forces. The Cambodian armed forces and police, which are controlled by the CPP operate in a climate of institutionalised impunity.

The July 1998 elections

³The Friends of Cambodia is an informal grouping of countries concerned with Cambodia’s future, including the USA, UK, France, Japan and the Association of South East Asian Nations countries.

The politicians who fled Cambodia after the July 1997 coup returned to contest the July 1998 elections, after assurances for their safety were provided to the UN by the government. A team of UN monitors was established, whose members were available to accompany returnee politicians around the country, and to raise any problems with a special committee established by the Cambodian authorities. The campaign period was relatively peaceful when compared with the previous 12 months, but was marred by a number of political killings and attacks, and a lack of free access to the electronic media for the opposition. At the time of the polls, Amnesty International expressed its concern at an apparent desire by much of the international community to play down the level of violence and ignore the impact of human rights violations on freedom of association and expression.⁴ In the aftermath of the election, as the preliminary results put the CPP in the lead, the organization's concerns were heightened, when scores of terrified FUNCINPEC and SRP activists fled from their villages to the capital, seeking refuge in their party headquarters. Amnesty International called on the state security forces to send orders with immediate effect to all units to cease harassment and intimidation of opposition activists. It also called on the international community to face the reality of the situation in Cambodia, and speak out to protect the vulnerable.⁵ While the Joint International Observer Group expressed its satisfaction with the election process less than 48 hours after the polls had closed and well before the counting process was complete, opposition politicians voiced their dissent with the election procedures, and began to collate instances of alleged electoral irregularities, with a view to presenting them to the NEC.

Attack outside the Ministry of Interior

Following weeks of opposition complaints about alleged ballot counting fraud and other irregularities, on 20 August 1998 Sam Rainsy announced his intention to sleep outside the NEC headquarters - located inside the Ministry of Interior compound - where the ballots are all stored. At around 10.30pm, he spoke to journalists outside the compound, and then went back inside. At 11pm, a grenade was thrown and several shots fired, close to the area where Sam Rainsy had been standing. A Cambodian driver working for the Japanese news agency Kyodo was killed. Rainsy and his supporters inside the Ministry of Interior compound were detained at gunpoint and questioned about the attack for several hours. The following day, a Ministry of Interior spokesman indicated that the

⁴Amnesty International News Service 142/98, *Cambodia: Rule of law ignored as Cambodia prepares for polls* (AI Index: ASA 23/14/98), 24 July 1998.

⁵Amnesty International News Service 147/98 *Cambodia: Human rights situation deteriorates as election results are challenged* (AI Index: ASA 23/20/98), 31 July 1998.

Ministry intended to pursue legal proceedings against Sam Rainsy. To date, no charges relating to this incident have been brought.

The start of the sit-in

The Ministry of Interior denied permission for a planned march and rally by opposition parties to take place on Sunday 23 August. Eventually, following a late night compromise negotiated with the Ministry, a rally took place at Phnom Penh's Olympic Stadium. A crowd of 10,000 people attended.

The sit-in at the National Assembly began on 24 August 1998. Hundreds and then thousands of people gathered in the park area opposite the National Assembly building, the same place where the 30 March 1997 grenade attack had occurred. They listened to speeches by opposition politicians, who stated that the protest would continue until the opposition's demands were met. In particular, the opposition were calling for their complaints to be examined by the NEC, and for the formula by which seats were allocated in the National Assembly to be restored to the one originally agreed by the NEC. (The one that has been used was adopted informally by the NEC, at the end of May). Official approval for the protest was sought from the Governor of Phnom Penh, who is a senior member of FUNCINPEC. This was granted, but it was pointed out to the organizers of the protest that the Phnom Penh Municipality could not guarantee the security of the demonstrators. Such a guarantee could only come from the Ministry of Interior, or the top level of government.

As the days progressed, numbers attending the protest fluctuated from hundreds to more than ten thousand, but tended to rise at the end of the working day, not least because this was the time that Sam Rainsy usually addressed the crowd. Throughout the day, anyone who wished could take the microphone and voice their opinions. Many of these speeches were racially inflammatory and alleged that the CPP was backed by the Vietnamese Government. Opposition politicians did not attempt to prevent this incitement to racial hatred and some indeed contributed to it. On 30 August, the Cambodian-Vietnamese Friendship monument, located in the park opposite the National Assembly where the sit-in was taking place, was vandalized by protestors. An opposition politician intervened to stop the vandalism.⁶

During the week ending 6 September, hundreds of people in Cambodia were affected after drinking contaminated rice wine, and scores died. There was widespread panic over the deaths, and rumours of deliberate poisoning spread around the capital. Angry mobs blamed ethnic Vietnamese traders for the deaths (with no apparent

⁶*Phnom Penh Post*, Volume 7 Number 19, September 4 - 17 1998.

evidence), and five were beaten to death in the street. Amnesty International condemned the violence and called on opposition politicians to cease all potentially inflammatory statements and to call on their supporters not to engage in violence.

On 1 September 1998, the CPP were officially declared winners of the 26 July elections, by the NEC, after the Constitutional Council - Cambodia's highest legal authority and widely regarded as biased in favour of the CPP - dismissed all the opposition party complaints.⁷ Opposition politicians threatened to boycott the opening session of the National Assembly, due to commence on 24 September, if their demands were not addressed. Attempts by Head of State King Norodom Sihanouk to bring all sides together in Siem Reap to reach an agreement, during 5 - 7 September ended in stalemate.

Grenade attack on Hun Sen's Phnom Penh residence

⁷*Associated Press*, 1 September 1998.

On the morning of Monday 7 September, two grenades exploded in the garden of Hun Sen's Phnom Penh residence. The Second Prime Minister rarely uses the house, and no one was hurt in the explosions. Hun Sen was in Siem Reap at the time of the blasts, but returned to the capital, and announced a ban on opposition leaders from leaving the country. He also called for the arrest of Sam Rainsy.⁸ Amnesty International urged a full investigation into the attack, but said that it should not be used as a pretext to crack down on peaceful dissent. At 2pm that day, Sam Rainsy sought refuge in the office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Cambodia, which is located in a large Phnom Penh hotel.

As news of Sam Rainsy's whereabouts spread, hundreds of his supporters gathered outside the hotel. Police arrived in trucks to disperse the demonstrators in the early evening. At 7.30pm they began firing live ammunition over the heads of the protestors. Witnesses spoke of hundreds of rounds being fired. Some of the protestors responded by throwing rocks at the police. One protestor was shot in the head, and was pronounced dead by medical staff at a local hospital. Others sought treatment for beatings and bullet wounds, including a teenage boy and a young woman. There were reports that one Buddhist monk was beaten to death by the police but Amnesty International has not been able to obtain independent confirmation of this. Government radio broadcast announcements calling for the sit-in outside the National Assembly to end before midnight, or be dispersed by the police. The protestors did not leave, but no action was taken to disperse them that night.

Students began a sit-in protest at the Information Ministry and were joined by monks and members of the public. Police fired over the heads of the protestors at around 11.30pm. There were no reports of any injuries.

Violence against protestors

⁸*Reuters*, 7 September 1998

In the early afternoon on Tuesday 8 September, police armed with AK-47 assault rifles and electric shock stun batons moved in against the demonstrators outside the National Assembly. Hundreds of people fled the area in minutes as they were attacked by the police. Women protestors were among those who were beaten by the police. Filthy water was sprayed onto the encampment from several directions. The actions were in direct contravention of the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials which state very clearly what force may be used in the dispersal of protestors.⁹ Protestors who had been peaceful in their behaviour up to that point began to pelt police with rocks and bottles as they fled from the area. Hundreds of rounds of live ammunition were fired by the police as they chased demonstrators away.

At the same time, hundreds of Buddhist monks began to march towards one of the city's main streets, apparently in response to the reported killing of a monk the previous evening. They were met by a large security presence and many of them were beaten and received electric shocks from stun batons wielded by the military police. Military police also toured the capital's pagodas and fired shots into the air within the temple grounds.

The violence continued on Wednesday 9 September, with military police firing upon and beating protestors, including Buddhist monks, who had gathered outside the United States Embassy near the middle of the city. Several monks and civilians were injured. Witnesses reported seeing at least six people arrested at the scene, at least one of whom was bleeding and in need of medical treatment. Heavily armed police and military police continued to tour the capital's pagodas. Government spokesmen criticised the monks who took part in the protests, and said that they should not be

⁹ The principles state:

12. As everyone is allowed to participate in lawful and peaceful assemblies, in accordance with the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Governments and law enforcement agencies and officials shall recognize that force and firearms may only be used in accordance with principles 13 and 14.

13. In the dispersal of assemblies that are unlawful but non-violent, law enforcement officials shall avoid the use of force or, where that is not practicable, shall restrict such force to the minimum extent necessary.

14. In the dispersal of violent assemblies, law enforcement officials may use firearms only when less dangerous means are not practicable and only to the minimum extent necessary. Law enforcement officials shall not use firearms in such cases except under the conditions stipulated in principle 9. (Principle 9 states: Law enforcement officials shall not use firearms against persons except in self-defence or defence of others against the imminent threat of death or serious injury, to prevent the perpetration of a particularly serious crime involving grave threat to life, to arrest a person presenting such a danger and resisting their authority or to prevent his or her escape, and only when less extreme means are insufficient to achieve these objectives. In any event, intentional lethal use of firearms may only be made when strictly unavoidable in order to protect life.)

involved in politics, although under Cambodian law, Buddhist monks are eligible to vote. An Interior Ministry communique dated 9 September 1998 was read on National Voice of Cambodia, denying that any monks had been injured or killed and claiming that the authorities had dispersed the protests without violence.¹⁰ However, Amnesty International has collated substantial data which disproves this claim, and numerous eyewitness reports bear this out. For example, the organization knows of at least eight monks who sought medical treatment on 8 September, having been injured by police violence near the Ministry of Information. The monks - who came from several different pagodas in Phnom Penh - had been variously beaten with sticks and batons, and received electric shocks from stun batons wielded by the police. Several had been beaten on the head.

¹⁰National Voice of Cambodia, in Cambodian, 1300 GMT, 9 September 1998, as reported by *BBC Summary of World Broadcasts*.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing monks shot on 9 September, outside the US Embassy. Amnesty International knows of two monks who were shot that day and survived, although one has serious injuries. However, the organization has also received credible reports that two other monks were shot and killed on the same day, in the same location. The whereabouts of the mortal remains are not known, but witnesses also described seeing the bodies of two Buddhist monks to staff of the Cambodia Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.¹¹ In addition, young men who had been inside several pagodas in the capital were severely beaten by police, who entered the pagodas and fired live ammunition into the air and beat people in the vicinity.

Continuing violence

Throughout the next five days, violent confrontations in the city streets continued. One eyewitness described to Amnesty International how groups of police and military police roamed the streets and violently dispersed gatherings of more than five or six people. On 10 September, the bodies of two men were exhumed near Phnom Penh by the Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Both had multiple bullet wounds and their bodies showed signs of torture. The authorities claimed the two were robbers who had fled the scene of a crime, in spite of the nature of their injuries - multiple shootings to the head and heads - and the fact that both bodies were clothed only in underwear.¹²

On 10 September, students demonstrating near the US Embassy were shot at by the police and one was very seriously injured. Others received minor injuries from beatings. A pattern was quickly established, where demonstrators would group together, be dispersed by the police then reassemble in another part of town. Groups of men in civilian clothes, but bearing weapons including guns and clubs with nails in attacked the demonstrators. They appeared to be under official protection, as the police made no attempt to halt their activities and witnesses reported to Amnesty International that they were well-organized and communicated by hand-held radios.

Pro-government demonstration

¹¹Statement by Ambassador Thomas Hammarberg, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Human Rights in Cambodia, 16 September 1998.

¹²Confidential sources, and report in *Cambodia Daily* 11 September 1998.

On Sunday 13 September a pro-government demonstration took place in Phnom Penh, with some 10,000 participants, most of whom were reportedly brought into the city from the surrounding area on trucks.¹³ The city was quiet during the demonstration, with almost no one on the streets except the marchers. However, in the afternoon, thousands of opposition supporters once again took to the streets, although plans for an official opposition rally had been cancelled because of fears of further bloodshed.

Calm returns to the streets

On 15 September 1998, the violence in the streets stopped, as opposition supporters heeded a call from Prince Ranariddh, backed by Sam Rainsy to stop the protests while a political solution was sought. On 16 September, Prince Ranariddh met his father King Sihanouk in Siem Reap, and agreed that FUNCINPEC members of parliament-elect would not boycott the opening of the National Assembly. Sam Rainsy left the protection of the UN office on 17 September to meet the King in Siem Reap. His party has also agreed to attend the opening of the National Assembly. After the meeting, he returned to his Phnom Penh residence, not the UN office.

Arrests and “disappearances”

Throughout the period 7 to 15 September, witnesses reported seeing dozens of arrests. Amnesty International also received the names of individuals reported as missing by their relatives, but their fate and whereabouts remains unknown. The organization is not publishing these names, in order to protect the family members who have come forward with information.

An eyewitness described several incidents of arrests on 14 September, including one where a group of four people were arrested, one of whom was very seriously beaten and in need of urgent medical attention. At least 16 people, and as many as 22 were arrested that day and taken to the Tuol Kork District Police station. Human rights workers were denied access to the detainees. During the course of the demonstrations, witnesses reported dozens of arrests, but the authorities have only acknowledged 22 were taken into custody and claim that most of these people have already been released. Amnesty International is gravely concerned that some arrested protestors may have been killed. The organization has received notification of as many as 20 bodies being found in the vicinity of Phnom Penh in the last two weeks, and fears that some or all of these people may have been the victims of extrajudicial execution by the police.

¹³*Reuters*, 13 September 1998.

Human rights workers, including those working for the Cambodia Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have been threatened, and the authorities have accused them of leading the demonstrations. Human rights defenders who have simply been conducting their legitimate business of observing whether the fundamental rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly are being upheld, have themselves become the targets of government criticism, and both veiled and direct death threats. Amnesty International deplors this development and calls upon the authorities to order an immediate halt to such threats and accusations.

In a statement on 16 September 1998, UN Special Representative for Human Rights in Cambodia Thomas Hammarberg expressed grave concern at the “increasing numbers of arrests, “disappearances” and bodies being found in Phnom Penh since the government’s September 7 crackdown on opposition protestors.”

Amnesty International reiterates the Special Representative’s concern and calls upon the Cambodian authorities to issue a complete list of all those who have been detained since 7 September, their place of detention and any charges against them. The need for transparency is paramount. Relatives have reported their family members as missing, and yet there has been no acknowledgement from the authorities to more than 22 arrests, in spite of witness testimony suggesting dozens of arrests in the last fortnight. Rumours circulating the city about killings and “disappearances” will only get worse if there is no cooperation from the competent authorities.

The dead and injured

Amnesty International has received information that at least two people were killed during the demonstrations, and many others injured. Dozens of people are missing, many of whom are feared to have been killed in connection with the crackdown, given a large number of credible reports of bodies being found in Phnom Penh and the surrounding area. At least 60 people required hospital treatment for their injuries. Fourteen people required treatment for bullet wounds. Buddhist monks were among those seeking treatment for bullet wounds and the effects of electric shocks and beatings.

Amnesty International is not publishing the details of all the injuries sustained, in order to protect the victims. The organization calls on the Cambodian authorities to ensure that all those in detention requiring medical treatment are given immediate access to a doctor.

Travel ban

Evidence that the travel ban on opposition politicians announced by Hun Sen on 7 September was indeed operating came on 10 September when Kem Sokha, the Chair of

the current Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights and the Reception of Complaints was prevented from boarding a plane at Pochentong airport by police officials. Acting on “high orders” the police told Kem Sokha that they were not permitted to let him leave the country. On 16 September, Cambodian National Radio quoted a Council of Ministers spokesman saying that “the travel ban has not been imposed on all MPs, only those who have committed criminal offences.”¹⁴ None of these people have had charges laid against them and yet they are being prevented from exercising their constitutional right to travel. The travel ban on opposition MPS has not been officially lifted, although Prince Ranariddh was permitted to fly to Bangkok, Thailand on 18 September.

Monks have also been stopped from leaving the grounds of their pagodas, effectively preventing them from collecting the alms on which they rely for food. The King issued an appeal for these restrictions to be lifted.

Recommendations

To the Cambodian authorities:

1. Make public the names of all those who have been detained since 7 September 1998, their places of detention and any charges against them;
2. Ensure that all those in detention have access to their families, lawyers and medical personnel;
3. Ensure that their treatment in detention complies with the UN international standards for the treatment of prisoners;
4. Make public a list of names of all those who were detained and have since been released, in order to avoid confusion over possible “disappearances”;
5. Launch investigations into the large numbers of bodies which have been found in and around Phnom Penh since 7 September;
6. Ensure that those responsible - including members of the military and police - are brought to justice;
7. Order an immediate end to threats against human rights workers, both Cambodian and international;
8. Ensure that the right to freedom of movement for all Cambodians, including elected representatives and Buddhist monks, is respected;
9. Order all police and military units to stop using violence to disperse peaceful protestors.

¹⁴“Phnom Penh imposes travel ban on 68 MPs” *National Voice of Cambodia*, 0500gmt, 16 September 1998, BBC Summary of World Broadcasts.

10. End the intimidation and harassment of Buddhist monks and lay persons in temples around Phnom Penh.

To the Cambodian opposition:

1. Cease the use of racially inflammatory language in speeches and banners.

To the international community:

1. The Friends of Cambodia meeting in New York on 22 September should condemn the violence against opposition demonstrators, and make clear to the Cambodian authorities that such action is unacceptable;
2. Extend the mandate of the UN monitoring operation for returnee politicians, in order to boost confidence amongst them at this difficult time;
3. Ensure adequate funding and support for the activities of the Cambodia Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Human Rights in Cambodia, Thomas Hammarberg.