

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Arbitrary Killings / Fear for Safety

25 October 1994

CAMBODIA Seven ethnic Vietnamese including a six-month-old girl and two year-old boy

Amnesty International is gravely concerned by the killing of seven ethnic Vietnamese, three of them children, in an attack on 20 October 1994. The attack continues a pattern of attacks against ethnic Vietnameses, many of them carried out by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) - the Khmer Rouge. Amnesty International fears there will be further killings unless the Government of Cambodia takes action to halt such attacks and provides adequate protection to its ethnic Vietnamese communities.

At 12.30am on 20 October, more than 10 armed men entered the fishing village of Peam Charalai, Kampong Chhnang province. They asked villagers whether they were *yuon* (a derogatory word for Vietnamese) and if they answered with a Vietnamese accent they and their family were shot. The seven killed were from two families. Three others were injured and the remaining members of the village escaped by running or swimming away. The attackers were dressed in Royal Cambodian armed forces military uniforms or in civilian clothes but some villagers recognised them as members of the NADK to whom they had previously paid protection money.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This attack brings the number of ethnic Vietnamese killed in Kampong Chhnang province to 24 since June 1994. The ethnic Vietnamese are the largest ethnic minority in Cambodia and are at risk of attack from the NADK and others. During the 2-year stay of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), from November 1991 to September 1993, the NADK killed over 140 ethnic Vietnamese. The killing of 34 ethnic Vietnamese in Siem Riep province in 1993 led 25,000 ethnic Vietnamese to flee the country. Some 5,000 are still stranded on the Cambodian/Vietnamese border. New immigration legislation passed in August 1994 has been condemned by human rights groups as it could be used arbitrarily to expel ethnic Vietnamese from the country, even those whose family have lived in Cambodia for generations. The Constitution of Cambodia affords human rights guarantees only to people of Khmer (Cambodian) origin, excluding the ethnic Vietnamese minority.

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

- expressing concern about the killing of seven Kampong Chhnang villagers, including three young children, on 20 October 1994 which demonstrates the extremely vulnerable position of the ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia;
- calling on the Royal Government of Cambodia to investigate the killings promptly and fairly, and to bring those responsible to justice;
- urging the Royal Government of Cambodia to provide immediate and adequate protection to the ethnic Vietnamese minority in Cambodia;
- urging that the ethnic Vietnamese are provided with the same guarantees of full rights and freedoms under the law as provided to ethnic Khmers;

APPEALS TO

Samdech Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh
First Prime Minister

Office of the Council of Ministers
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Telegrams: HRH Norodom Ranariddh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Faxes: + 855 232 6144 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

His Excellency Hun Sen
Second Prime Minister
Office of the Council of Ministers
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Telegrams: HE Hun Sen, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Faxes: +855 232 6144 (c/o ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Sar Kheng
Minister of Interior and National Security
Ministry of Interior and National Security
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Telegrams: Sar Kheng, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Salutation: Dear Minister

You Hok Kry
Minister of Interior and National Security
Ministry of Interior and National Security
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Telegrams: You Hok Kry, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Salutation: Dear Minister

Cambodia has almost no diplomatic representation in other countries.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 December 1994.