

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety

6 October 1999

CAMBODIA

Lon Phon MP

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Amnesty International fears for the safety of Lon Phon, a National Assembly member for Battambang Province, from the opposition Sam Rainsy Party (SRP). The 6<sup>th</sup> of October, Lon Phon was taken from his home in the capital, Phnom Penh, at about 6.30pm by four men, armed with AK-47 assault rifles and a pistol, dressed in military uniforms, and driving an unmarked car.

Cambodian police officials have been quoted as saying they believe Lon Phon may have been kidnapped. However, Amnesty International is concerned that Lon Phon may have been arrested by agents of the state. Under Cambodia's constitution, National Assembly members have parliamentary immunity and may not be arrested unless this immunity has been lifted by the Assembly.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent weeks, two SRP activists from Battambang province have been arrested and accused of involvement in a rocket attack in Siem Reap province in September 1998, which the authorities allege was an attempt to kill the Prime Minister, Hun Sen. One of the two men was actually in prison at the time of the rocket attack, on unrelated charges. The two men are currently detained in the Military Detention Facility in Phnom Penh, and the case is proceeding through the Military Court, although the jurisdiction of this court is legally limited to breaches of military discipline. A third SRP activist from Battambang is also being sought in connection with these charges.

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

- expressing concern that Lon Phon was taken from his home by four armed men in military uniforms;
- asking the authorities to take all measures to establish the fate and whereabouts of Lon Phon and to ensure his safety;
- noting the fact that Lon Phon is a National Assembly member and enjoys parliamentary immunity.

#### APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Hun Sen

Office of the Prime Minister

Phnom Penh

Kingdom of Cambodia

**Faxes: +855 23 360666 (if voice, ask for fax)**

**Telegrams: Hun Sen, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

**Salutations: Excellency**

Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng

Office of the Council of Ministers

Phnom Penh

Kingdom of Cambodia

**Telegrams: Sar Kheng, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

**Salutations: Deputy Prime Minister**

Minister of Justice Ouk Vithun

2

Office of the Council of Ministers  
Phnom Penh  
Kingdom of Cambodia

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of Cambodia accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 November 1999.