



# amnesty international news release



International Secretariat 53 Theobald's Road London WC1X 8SP England  
Telephone: 01-404 5831 Telegrams: Amnesty London Telex: 28502

1977  
Prisoners of  
Conscience Year

AI INDEX: NWS 02/31/77  
DISTR: NS

Embargoed for: 22.00 gmt Sunday  
8 May 1977

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONCERNED AT DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEAN GOVERNMENT'S  
LACK OF RESPONSE TO APPEALS

Amnesty International today (Sunday 8 May 1977) expressed concern at the lack of response by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) to its past appeals and inquiries.

The international human rights organization said that in February this year it had appealed to President Khieu Samphan to look into the fate of 26 Cambodian citizens forcibly returned to Cambodia by Thailand in November 1976. The 26 persons, mainly farmers, but including an 11-year-old child, were later reported to have been executed shortly after their return to Cambodia.

AI had also made a separate appeal to the Prime Minister of Thailand urging that refugees should not be compelled to return to their country of origin when there were possibilities of reprisals.

The appeal to President Khieu Samphan was contained in a letter which also referred to reports alleging summary executions and maltreatment of civilians by local authorities in some areas of Cambodia. As with previous inquiries made by AI to the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, the letter has remained unanswered.

Commenting on past reports of executions in Cambodia, Amnesty International said today: "Allegations of executions have been numerous. Many reports, especially of isolated killings, remain uncorroborated, but the number and gravity of allegations of summary executions cannot be ignored".

/...