



JGGO/AL/JB

Mr Khieu Samphan  
President of the State Presidium  
Phnom Penh  
Democratic Kampuchea

28 February 1977

Mr President,

Amnesty International is an independent non-aligned organization whose work focuses on securing the release of persons who are imprisoned or whose freedoms are curtailed because of their beliefs, ethnic origin, skin colour or language, on the condition they have not used or advocated violence. Moreover, Amnesty International is against the application and carrying out of the death penalty, and torture, as well as cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of prisoners or any persons, in violation of the Universal Human Rights Declaration.

I am writing to you today concerning a matter that is causing great concern in international circles, in the hope that you can provide us with your comments regarding the fate of 26 citizens of Democratic Kampuchea.

The 26 individuals in question, natives of Samrong in Sorey Sisiphon district (Battambang province), are reported to have travelled to Thailand on 17 October 1976. It is reported that on 23 November 1976, the Thai authorities handed them over to the Kampuchea Democratic authorities at the Aranyaprathet border post. The report indicates that the person who was to receive them was Mr Kek Peu, chief of Poipet district and official in charge of economic services in the area along the border with Thailand.

Shortly after these people were made to return, several newspapers reported that they may have been executed in Kampuchea. One article reported that 20 of them may have been executed and that the six others were detained. It has also been reported that the entire group may have been executed after spending three days in Mongkolborey. In view of the seriousness of these accusations, Amnesty International appeals to the Government of Democratic Kampuchea to launch an investigation and to provide details about the fate of these 26 individuals. The list of the individuals in question is attached herewith.

I would also like to call your attention to the persistent reports that in certain areas Cambodian citizens are subjected to threats and acts brutality by some local authorities in Kampuchea. The most alarming reports are being circulated, and there have been several accounts of citizens who are considered as "enemies" by some representatives of the authorities being removed from their places of work and taken to unknown destinations while their families are unaware of their fate.

There are also accounts of summary executions, and recent reports indicate that there is a camp holding 1200 families in Phnom Thipadei, to the west of Battambang. It is reported that there is insufficient food and lack of medical care, and that those families were sent

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to the camp either because of the activities some of their members or because of various accusations against them.

As I pointed out in my letter of 11 May 1976, Amnesty International cannot comment on whether these allegations are true. However, our organisation and other international organisations are gravely concerned about the lack of any comments by the Government of Kampuchea, and are quite anxious to hear your government's views. It is in that spirit, Mr President, that I hereby submit for your consideration the request to allow a delegation from Amnesty International or other international organisation to travel to Democratic Kampuchea in order to address this widespread concern about this issue.

I trust that you will attend to the questions raised in this letter and that you will send us your comments.

Accept, Mr President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Martin Ennais  
Secretary General

Encl.

Mr Khieu Samphan

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List of the 26 persons who were handed over to the Democratic Kampuchea authorities by the Thai authorities at the Aranyaprathet border post around 23 November 1976:

Farmers:

CHHIENG HAM, 50  
KE AUN, 55  
KOUY ET, 27  
YIN PROK, 31  
SIV TRAP, 33  
THAING LAY, 29  
BUN KIM, 25  
CHHIENG HOUEN, 22  
PAK RIEN, 22  
EN PEN, 36  
KHEN RECH, 27  
HIV HUOT, 35  
HIV TONG HAN, 19  
CHHIENG BAK, 29  
YIM LET, 39  
PROM SHHOON, 33  
CHAM HAN, 27  
EM CHAY, 22  
HOK VANMA  
HAK CHANTA, 11

Soldiers:

VAT HAT, 23  
CHUOP BUN RUONG, 25

Military police personnel:

SAV BAKLY, 31

Canton chief:

HAK SAP, 49

Poipet customs official:

DUIBG BOPHEA, 42

Nurse:

HAK CHUOT, 23