



អង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិ

**ការិយាល័យនៃឧត្តមស្នងការអង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិ
សម្រាប់សិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា**



**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, ROYAL GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS**

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

26 January 2009

26 January 2009 -- On 22 and 23 January 2009, the Ministry of Interior convened a workshop on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in Cambodia, with the participation of Hans Draminsky Petersen, Vice President of the Sub-committee on the Prevention of Torture, and supported by the Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Danish based Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims.

This important event was an opportunity for the Royal Government to reiterate its commitment, formally made when it ratified the Optional Protocol in 2007, to eliminate the practice of torture in the country.

It was also an opportunity to study in detail and clarify the requirements for the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under that protocol.

The workshop led to a common understanding that while the effort of the Royal Government to establish such a mechanism was to be commended, more time is needed to establish a mechanism that will be fully compliant with the OPCAT and the Paris Principles.

It was also understood that the current draft sub-decree will create a "Temporary body towards the establishment the NPM" and that this NPM would be based on a law that would be developed by the Government over a period of time, possibly two years.

Mr. Petersen welcomes the commitment of the Government to involve the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture at the earliest possible stage of this process, so that it can provide advice and assistance to the Royal Government in its effort to establish the future NPM.

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