



អង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិ

**ការិយាល័យនៃឧត្តមស្នងការអង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិ
សម្រាប់សិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា**



PRESS RELEASE

Phnom Penh, 31 December 2008

The Cambodia Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights observed with keen interest the hearing in the case of Born Samnang and Sok Sam Oeun held today by the Supreme Court. The Office welcomes the decision by the court to release the two defendants on bail, and to send the case back to the Court of Appeals to be reinvestigated. The Office hopes that this will be an opportunity to conduct an in-depth and thorough revision of the entire case, both on matter of fact, law and procedure, so that a real decision of justice is made, in conformity with the Cambodian penal law and international standards for fair trial as provided for in the Constitution, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The OHCHR hopes that this decision will set the standards for the future handling of all criminal cases by Cambodian courts. The decision was made after a several-years long process that has been marred since the first retrial by numerous irregularities and grave breaches of the procedural rights of the two co-accused. It was greeted with a warm round of applause by the public, including the families of the defendants, as it truly deserves.