



UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,
UN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

PRESS RELAEASE
3 October 1995

On the occasion of the second anniversary of the establishment in Cambodia of an operational presence of the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat and a few weeks before the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations, on 24 October 1995, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would like to recall the commitments made by the Member States of the United Nations, in the Charters to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person and to practice tolerance.

The High commissioner would also like to recall that the United Nations have proclaimed 1995 to be the international Year of Tolerance and the beginning of the United Nations Decade for Human rights Education. In accordance with Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which Cambodia is a Party, education should aim at the promotion of understanding and tolerance. In accordance with Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and political rights, to which Cambodia is a Party, every human being has the inherent right to life in Cambodia.

According to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, law protects the life of the citizens. The first Buddhist precept forbids killing of living beings.

Therefore, the High Commissioner condemns the violent and in discriminate attacks of 30 September on Wat Mohamantrey and the office of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP), which injured at least 50 innocent people and could have resulted in death and may have caused permanent injury to many persons.

The High Commissioner is also informed of other violation to the right to life, including continuing killings by the Khmer Rouge.

The High Commissioner therefore calls on all persons in Cambodia to resolve disputes only in a peaceful manner through the courts and the legal process and to respect the right to life of all persons, to make a firm commitment to dispense with such actions forever, to build the rule of law and to promote and protect the human rights of the all persons in Cambodia. This should be the objective of the Government, institutions and all the people of Cambodia.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose AYALA-LASSO is the senior United Nations officer especially in charge with human rights questions in the United Nations Secretariat. He visited Cambodia on an official mission in July 1994.

In keeping with his mandate and in the context of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the High Commissioner has oriented his activities towards:

(a) promoting international cooperation in the field of human rights and coordinating human rights activities within the United Nations System; (b) strengthening implementation of all human rights; (c) responding to serious violations of human rights; (d) acting to prevent violations of human rights from becoming serious or widespread; (e) assisting countries in transition to democracy; (f) providing advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights; (g) adapting the United Nations Human Rights machinery to current and future needs; (h) promoting the rights to development and the enjoyment of cultural, economic and social rights; (i) combating discrimination; promoting the rights of persons belonging to groups requiring special protection: women, children, minorities and indigenous people, (j) combating the most atrocious human rights violations, such as torture and involuntary disappearances; (k) assisting internally displaced persons, (l) promoting human rights education and public information activities; (m) implementing the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.