



Cambodia Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights deplors Phnom Penh violence

9 September 1998 - The Cambodia office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights deplors the loss of life, injuries, violence and other illegal acts in Phnom Penh which have occurred during government operations since Monday to disperse peaceful protesters by force.

To our knowledge at least two people have been killed so far. It is essential that further bloodshed be avoided. Among those who have been beaten or otherwise injured are monks, as well as ordinary citizens and a foreign journalist.

The COHCHR calls on government security authorities and demonstrators alike to avoid any form of violence, and to refrain from all acts of incitement or intimidation. The rights to peaceful assembly, expression, and association are fundamental. These should be protected. The Office additionally calls on the authorities to ensure that people who have been arrested are treated fairly and in full accordance with the law.

The U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in his September 8 statement, strongly urged all Cambodian leaders to exercise utmost restraint. The COHCHR would like to reiterate this message, stressing the need for non-violence and self-restraint on the part of all parties in the current crisis.