UNITED NATIONS CAMBODIA OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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BUREAU DU HAUT COMMISSAIRE AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME AU CAMBODGE

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia ສໍ໑ລາວຄືເພພາຍພໍເພາສສສູເພອາສີສາເສຊູ໙ຍຊູສພີຊີຍຣູພູງບອຳສູຍຼຽາ



Mission of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia 3-10 June 2002

Phnom Penh, 10 June 2002 -- Mr. Peter Leuprecht, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia, completes his latest visit to Cambodia today. Over the past week he met His Majesty the King, members of the Royal Government of Cambodia, NGO leaders, and members of the diplomatic community.

The main focus of this, his sixth mission, has been to assess implementation of the right to education, and to examine issues of growing concern involving land disputes and housing. The Special Representative visited Anlung Krognam relocation site, where victims of the 2001 fires in Bassac and Deurm Cham were resettled. He discussed with municipal and central authorities the particularly difficult conditions of landless families at the site. He also visited squatter settlements in Bassac and Preah Monivong.

A significant part of the past week has also been taken up with looking at judicial reform and the work of the criminal and judicial authorities in bringing to justice those responsible for the killings that occurred during the commune elections.

It was in this context that on 7 and 8 June Mr. Leuprecht visited Kompong Cham province, where he met military and governmental leaders, the president and chief prosecutor of the Kompong Cham court, and NGO representatives. He discussed the apparent illegal detention of Funcinpec commune councilor Keo Van Tout over a land dispute, and traveled to Srolop and Ancheum communes in Tbong Khmum district where he met the families of murdered political activists Toun Phally and Phuong Sophat, and Horm Bun Ly, the victim of a murder attempt on 3, March 2002. Mr. Leuprecht has urged the authorities to do more to ensure that those responsible for these acts are properly identified and brought to justice in full accordance with law. Better cooperation from the military in Region Two in particular could help in this regard.

Mr. Leuprecht is today releasing a report on Street Retribution in Cambodia, and copies in Khmer and English are available to press representatives attending this morning's news conference. This report, which finds that mob killings are once again on the rise, was presented to the Royal Government of Cambodia last week.

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