

PRESS RELEASE

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA VISITS COUNTRY

Phnom Penh, 15th July 1994

The special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia, Justice Michael Kirby (Australia), will arrive in Cambodia tomorrow on his third official mission, which takes place from 16th July to 2nd August 1994.

During his visit Justice Kirby will visit the towns of Kompong Som and Battambang where he will inspect the local courts and prisons. He will also meet local officials and community leaders. He will visit the village of Boeng Ampil (a village near Battambang) to inspect mine clearance operations. Nearer to Phnom Penh he will visit the village of Peam So scene of a massacre of Vietnamese earlier this year. He will also visit a number of local prisons including PJ, T3 and Takmao. Meetings will be held with human rights NGOs and members of the National Assembly as well as with high level members of the government. It is also hoped that he can visit the Vietnamese at the border at Chrey Thom on the Tonle Bassac river.

Justice Kirby was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 23 November 1993 in pursuance of resolution 1993/6 of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights entitled, "Situation of Human Rights in Cambodia."

According to the resolution, the Special Representative has the following mandate:

- * Maintain contact with the Government and people of Cambodia;
- * Guide and coordinate the United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia;
- * Assist the Government in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- * Report to the General Assembly at its forty session and the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session under the agenda item entitled, "Advisory service in the Field of Human Rights"

In accordance with this mandate, Justice Kirby submitted his first report to the General Assembly in December 1993. After his Second mission to Cambodia, he prepared a comprehensive report assessing the human rights situation in Cambodia and formulated recommendations to assist the Royal National Government in the promotion and protection of human rights. This report was submitted to the Commission on Human Rights in February 1994. At the conclusion of this his third visit Justice Kirby will submit a further report to the General Assembly.

During his mission, and in the fulfillment of his mandate, Justice Kirby will be assisted by the Cambodia Field Office of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, which was established in Phnom Penh on 1 October 1993, following resolution 1993/6.

The Centre has been entrusted with the important mandate of implementing in Cambodia, under the guidance of the Special Representative, educational and technical assistance programmes in the field of human rights, assisting the newly established Government and supporting Cambodia human rights groups.

Justice Kirby may be contacted by individuals, non-government organizations and associations during his visit to Cambodia through the Centre for Human Rights, Tel: 015-91-3445/6/7.