UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Human Rights condemns July 17 attack on election staff

21 July 1998

The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia condemns the attack on election staff officials in Anlong Veng on July 17. Two members of the election committee were brutally killed and five others injured. The staff were on duty preparing for the 26 July elections. They were transporting boxes and ballots by helicopter and had just landed when they were attacked.

The Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has started collecting facts about the case. Data obtained so far indicate that this was an organized action by a group belonging to one of the Khmer Rouge factions in Cambodia.

Staff of the Office are furthermore investigating information received about plans by remnants of the Khmer Rouge to disrupt the electoral process through the use of violence in the areas where they continue to operate. The information received has been shared with the National Election Committee.

Though precise facts still have to be established, the Special Representative wants to make clear that further human rights violations of this violent and criminal nature will be strongly condemned by the international community. At the same time, the Special Representative expresses his condolences to the families of the election officials who died in their work for a democratic election in Cambodia.