

## PRESS RELEASE

25 October 1996 – The Cambodia Office of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights (UNCHR) commends the amnesty for prisoners (except for those serious criminals whose release would jeopardise public safety and order) announced by His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varman on 18 October 1996 as a humanitarian gesture deserving full support.

The Royal Amnesty comes at a most auspicious time. The number of prisoners compared to the capacity of Cambodia's prisons has expanded leading to considerable overcrowding in the Kingdom's prisons.

The UNCHR also appeals to the international community and NGOs to assist in the rehabilitation and reintegration into Cambodian society of those prisoners about to be released by the King's amnesty of 18 October.