



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

គំណាទពិសេសរបស់លោកអគ្គលេខាធិការទទួលបន្ទុកសិទ្ធិមនុស្សប្រចាំកម្ពុជា



**STATEMENT BY MR. PETER LEUPRECHT, THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA
30 JUNE 2004**

Special Representative Peter Leuprecht called on Deputy Director General of National Police General Sau Phan today to urgently clarify remarks apparently justifying the use of torture. On 28 June 2004 the Cambodia Daily quoted General Sau Phan as saying that "If the police do not torture or punish suspects, they do not tell us the truth..."

"If General Sau Phan made these remarks then he should immediately retract them or resign," Mr Leuprecht said. "There is no justification for torture. It is expressly prohibited in all circumstances in international law and by Cambodia's own constitution. Any policeman who thinks these or other laws do not apply clearly has no place in an institution of law enforcement."

Torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment in police custody is a serious problem in Cambodia, and has been raised on many occasions by the Special Representative and others. In 2003 the UN Committee against Torture called on the authorities to ensure prompt, impartial and full investigations into the many allegations of torture reported to the authorities and to establish an independent body to deal with complaints against the police and other law enforcement personnel.

"The comments attributed to General Sau Phan imply casual acceptance of torture as a tool of interrogation. It is therefore essential that the Government give independent observers full access to all places of police detention, and take urgent steps to respond to the Committee against Torture's recommendations", Mr. Leuprecht said.