



## Statement of the Spokesman of the Ministry of National Defense

- The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces welcome and support wholeheartedly the Press Statement of Her Excellency Hillary Rodham Clinton, made on 23 April 2011 in Washington DC.
- The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces are fully in concurrence with Her Excellency Hillary Rodham Clinton in her support for the efforts of Indonesia, as Chair of ASEAN, to designate a permanent ceasefire through the assignment of observers, so as to build trust between Cambodia and Thailand and promote a strong sense of responsibility of both sides.
- Taking "immediate measures to put in place an effective and verifiable ceasefire", as stated by the Undersecretary of the United Nations Secretary-General on 21 April 2011, will, in the view of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, no doubt ensure peace and interests of the people living on both sides of the border, in line with the vision of Samdech Akha Molea Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
- The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces deeply regret and categorically reject the dissemination, spread through the sources of Saravate Tak Force, with false claims that Cambodia has used civilians as shield for protection from attacks by Thai armed forces. The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces have neither access to such a coastal area, nor taking populated civilian area as target.
- The people of Cambodia have already experienced such cowardly conduct and tactic from the Thai military, as they have to endure Thai shelling and closer munitions fired into tranquil populated localities that have no link whatsoever, with military matters, such as:
  - 1- Samdech Hun Sen Natural Village in the Preah Vihear Temple area, located 19 km from the Cambodia-Thailand international boundary line, resulting in the displacement of 15,000 people.
  - 2- Kork Morn Village and the surrounding areas, located 20 km from the Cambodia-Thailand international boundary line, resulting in the displacement of 5,029 families or a total of 23,745 people.The majority of the displaced people are women and children, who have to suffer such inhumane and heinous conducts.
- Most regrettably, Thailand's aggression forces have not only launched a campaign of aggressive war against Cambodia, but also a psychological warfare to mislead the international community from the truth.
- The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces can neither imagine nor have any intention to use Cambodian temples as strategic positions to serve military interests. The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces adhere steadfastly to their obligations to abide by all international conventions concerning the protection of cultural property as well as the world heritage in the event of armed conflict.

Phnom Penh, 26 April 2011, at 17h00

