

The National Authority for Preah Vihear (NAPV) and the National Committee for the World Heritage (NCWH) have in a joint statement condemned the recent activities carried out by a group of Thai ultra nationalists.

The full joint statement dated Jan. 13 reads as follows:

Phnom Penh, 13 January 2012

## **JOINT STATEMENT**

The National Authority for Preah Vihear (NAPV) and the National Committee for the World Heritage (NCWH) express their deepest regret at the recent activities carried out by a group of Thai ultra nationalists, including staging demonstration outside the UN Office in Bangkok, bringing in a large group of activists and erecting a statue of the Buddha on the Phnom Trap, close to the Temple of Preah Vihear and well inside the ICJ's sketch map of the Provisional Demilitarized Zone, as reported by the Thai media (including *15<sup>th</sup> move* on 08 January 2012 and *Thairath* on 8-9 January 2012).

The NAPV and NCWH strongly condemn this activity, which not only clearly violates the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Order issued on 18 July 2011, but also contradicts the spirit of the positive results of the recent General Border Committee (GBC) meeting between the Minister of National Defence of Cambodia and the Minister of Defence of Thailand, held on 21 December 2012 in Phnom Penh.

The ICJ established the Provisional Demilitarized Zone, and further ordered that "*both Parties shall refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve*"; while the GBC meeting issued a joint statement that "*both Parties agreed to implement the Order of the International Court of Justice of 18 July 2011 in a transparent, equitable and verifiable manner.*"

The NAPV and NCWH are seriously concerned that this activity with the use of people and religious movements can be perceived as a provocative act and an attempt to escalate tensions and hinder preservation of the precious Temple of Preah Vihear, World Heritage property and heritage of all humanity.

The NAPV and NCWH urge that the ICJ order and the conclusions of the recent GBC meeting be honoured and respected by both sides, and strongly hope that the Thai ultra nationalists will refrain from any activities which may adversely affect the recently re-established good relations between the two neighbouring countries and people who very much wish to live in peace and harmony in a civilised, modern world. **PA**