

Deputy Prime Minister HOR Namhong's Letter to Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia and Chair of ASEAN

Written by Administrator

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KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION · RELIGION · KING
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

Phnom Penh, 22 April 2011
H.E. Dr. R.M. Meru
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Republic of Indonesia and
Chair of ASEAN
Jakarta

Excellency, Dear Mr. Namhong

I would like to draw to your kind attention to the fresh armed attack by Thailand against Cambodia, as follows:

Today, 22 April 2011, at 06:00, Thailand started a large-scale attack with many types of weapons, including 102 mm, 106 mm and 152 mm artillery, against Cambodia in the area of TA MOUAY and TA KRAKAEY. Troops landed deep inside Cambodian territory. The soldiers shot at us as if we were inside Cambodia, as well as many villages in Utker, Boreychoy Province, while Thai soldiers violated deep into Cambodia's airspace. Cambodia has refused to accept any results during the attack.

This fresh act of aggression not only violates all legal instruments as stated in my letter dated 2 February 2011 to the former UNSC President, Mr. Karim Ben El-Mechaieq, but also the UNSC Press Statement on 14 February 2011 and the Statement of the Chairman of ASEAN following the Informal Meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 22 February 2011, calling for a permanent ceasefire.

My recall that, in accordance to movement over the inscription of Cambodia's TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHAR on the World Heritage List in July 2008, Thailand attacked Cambodia four times earlier, namely on 15 July 2008, 23 October 2008, 2 April 2009 and 27 February 2011 during which cluster munitions were also used by Thailand, as confirmed by the Crime Museum (Cambodia CMG) on 8 April 2011.

The fresh armed attack takes place in spite of intensive regional efforts by Indonesia, Chair of ASEAN, supported by the UNSC to expedite a permanent ceasefire and a peaceful solution, after Thailand's large-scale offensive against Cambodia last February.


This deliberate act of aggression explains why Thailand has used force instead to accept the necessary details of the Terms of Reference (TOR), proposed by the ASEAN Chair, for the deployment of the Indonesian Observer to monitor the commitment of both sides to avoid further armed clashes, while Cambodia has already given its immediate positive response for the short time in the draft TOR after its release in accordance Thailand's position.

This most recent aggression against Cambodia also confirms the grave nature Thailand's insistence on making the conflict "Cambodia's" a pretext for the use of its large and materially more sophisticated armed force against Cambodia.

Cambodia has so far succeeded in maintaining peace and demonstrated its goodwill in order to maintain an atmosphere favorable for a peaceful settlement. However, it reserves the right to self-defence in the face of such deliberate acts of aggression.

Considering the repeated blatant aggression by Thailand, I would like to request that Indonesia, in close cooperation with the Chair of ASEAN, to kindly inform the UN Security Council on the "The armed force" - multiple aggression against Cambodia, a resolution with the "Security Council Press Statement on Cambodia-Thailand Border Situation" of 14 February 2011.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration and respect.


Hor Namhong

cc: ASEAN PM
ASEAN Secretary-General