

Indonesian Foreign Minister Sends Letter to UNSC President over Cambodia-Thailand Border Dispute



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Jakarta, 24 April 2011

Mr. President,

As Your Excellency would no doubt be aware, on 22 April and 23 April 2011 fresh rounds of armed clashes have taken place between the Armed Forces of Cambodia and Thailand at the border area of the two countries.

While the exact circumstances of this latest military incidents are yet to be fully ascertained, their occurrence is a source of deep and profound concern, as well, indeed, of profound disappointment.

For these armed clashes have disrupted the encouraging trends in the peaceful resolution of the dispute between the two countries, since the Security Council deliberated on the issue on 14 February 2011. With the support and encouragement extended by the Security Council at the aforementioned meeting, Cambodia and Thailand, as well as Indonesia, as Chair of ASEAN, and indeed, the entire ASEAN family of nations, have sought to promote and nurture a diplomatic and peaceful solution to the issues currently being faced by Cambodia and Thailand.

The Statement of the Chairman of ASEAN, issued at the end of the Informal Meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Jakarta on 22 February 2011, provided a roadmap for a peaceful and diplomatic solution. As current Chair of ASEAN, Indonesia has made concerted efforts to ensure the continued avoidance of armed conflict, as well as the resumption of the diplomatic negotiations between the two sides. Until the outbreak of armed clashes on 22-23 April 2011, we have been able to point to notable progress. Even the cessation of all fire from both sides, although it must be emphasized that the already agreed International Observer team is yet to be assigned. Swift negotiations between the two sides have resumed, through the meeting of the JSC in Beijing, Indonesia, on 7-8 April 2011.

Yours faithfully,
H.E. Nugroho Soedjatno
Minister of Foreign Affairs
The United Nations
New York