



ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

រាជរដ្ឋាភិបាល

ROYAL GOVERNMENT
No. ០១៥៣

ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ

NATION RELIGION KING

Statement by the Royal Government of Cambodia

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has consistently pursued a foreign policy rooted in peace, friendship, and cooperation among nations, particularly with our neighboring countries, with whom we share borders shaped during the French colonial period.

Since gaining independence, with the exception of the genocidal regime of the Khmers Rouges, Cambodia has remained steadfast in its commitment to transforming these shared borders into zones of peace, friendship, cooperation and development. While the journey has not been without challenges, Cambodia has prioritized the peaceful settlement of border issues, even in the face of occasional tensions and regrettable loss of life among our courageous soldiers who stand in defense of national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The RGC's unwavering dedication to peaceful resolution is evident in its historical conduct, including the referral of disputes to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which ruled in Cambodia's favor in 1962 and again in 2013 in our border disputes with Thailand. These actions reflect our deep commitment to international law and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Regrettably, in the early hours of 28 May 2025, at approximately 05:30 a.m., an armed incident occurred when Thai military forces opened fire on a Cambodian army position in Techo Morokot Village, Morokot Commune, Choam Khsan District, Preah Vihear Province — an area long recognized as a Cambodian military post. This exchange tragically resulted in the death of a Cambodian soldier.



The RGC has lodged a formal protest against this unprovoked use of force, which constitutes a serious violation of Cambodia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the principles of good neighborliness as enshrined in the 2000 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our two nations.

This incident is among several concerning developments that underscore the limitations of current dispute resolution mechanisms in addressing longstanding points of contention along our shared border. In light of this, and in the interest of securing a fair, impartial, and sustainable solution, on 02 June, 2025, the RGC has decided to refer the dispute over four sensitive areas — Mom Bei, Ta Moan Thom Temple, Ta Moan Tauch Temple, and Ta Krabei Temple — to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. These four areas have long remained unresolved and sensitive, with the potential to escalate tensions if left unaddressed.

This decision received unanimous support from the First Joint Congress of the National Assembly and Senate, the same day.

While pursuing legal resolution at the ICJ, the RGC remains committed to dialogue and diplomacy. Cambodia will continue to engage through existing bilateral frameworks and will host the next meeting of the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) on 14 June 2025 in Phnom Penh. However, given the referral to the ICJ, the four aforementioned areas will not be included on the agenda of the upcoming JBC session.

Cambodia expresses its hope that Thailand will cooperate in jointly referring this case to the ICJ, in the spirit of fairness, trust-building, long-term friendship and good neighborliness. Nevertheless, should cooperation not be forthcoming, Cambodia stands prepared to proceed independently.

The Royal Government urges all Cambodians to approach this issue with calm and restraint, and to refrain from turning it into a matter of ethnic or nationalist sentiment. We emphasize the importance of maintaining normal relations with Thailand, especially in trade, tourism, and broader areas of cooperation, for the mutual benefit of our peoples.

Phnom Penh, 4 June 2025

