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PRESS RELEASE

**Cambodia Strongly Condemns Thailand's Aggression
against Cambodia's Sovereignty**

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On 25 July 2025, in response to the request of **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) convened an urgent private meeting to address the escalating conflict between Cambodia and Thailand. Ambassador Keo Chhea, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations, participated in the meeting and delivered a national statement drawing the Council's attention to the launch of a full-scale armed aggression by Thailand against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in the early hours of 24 July 2025.

Ambassador Keo Chhea apprised the Council of Thailand's deliberate, premeditated, and unprovoked military assault on Cambodian border areas, including Tamone Thom Temple, Ta Krabey Temple, and Mom Bei, in the provinces of Preah Vihear and Oddar Meanchey. He strongly condemned this military aggression, which flagrantly violated the fundamental principles of non-aggression and peaceful resolution of disputes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the ASEAN Charter.

Ambassador Keo Chhea elaborated on the coordinated and premediated nature of the military offensives by Thailand on multiple Cambodian positions using heavy weaponry, including F-16 fighter jets, tanks and cluster munitions. At the same time, Thailand has also expanded its military operation preparedness to Chanthaburi and Trat provinces, despite no military movement in the adjacent border areas on the Cambodian side. This full-scale military aggression by Thailand, which is in no way for self-defence as falsely claimed by Thailand, has left 8 civilians dead and 50 injured, and more than 10.865 families evacuated from the danger zones in the provinces of Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear and Banteay Meanchey. Moreover, Thailand's indiscriminate assaults on Cambodia have caused significant damages to the Temple of Preah Vihear. The deliberate destruction of this UNESCO World Heritage Site is a violation of the Hague Convention of 1954.



The Ambassador urged the Council to engender an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, to stop this unprovoked and armed aggression against Cambodia, to support Cambodia's peaceful efforts and to encourage Thailand to honor international law and its treaty obligations. He also requested the Council to dispatch a United Nations fact-finding mission to the affected border areas and refer the Cambodia-Thailand border dispute to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for adjudication.

The Members of the UNSC expressed deep concern over the recent escalation along the Cambodia-Thailand border, which adversely affected the local population and resulted in civilian casualties. They appealed for maximum restraint and immediate ceasefire to prevent further hostilities and create space for peaceful dialogue and diplomatic solution in the spirit of good neighborliness with a view to finding solutions to the disputes.

Meanwhile, the UNSC Members encouraged both parties to make full use of the UN Secretary-General's good offices and supported ASEAN's role. Some members also took note of Cambodia's intent to refer to the ICJ for adjudication the four disputed border areas of Tamone Thom Temple, Tamone Touch Temple, Ta Krabey Temple and Mom Bei.

Full statement of Ambassador Keo Chhea is herewith attached.



Phnom Penh, 26 July 2025



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PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by

His Excellency Chhea Keo

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations

At the Security Council

Cambodia-Thai Border Disputes

New York, Day/Month/ 2025

United Nations Security Council

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Distinguished Members of the Council,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

1. I address this Council to bring urgent attention to an unprovoked and dangerous act of armed aggression committed by the Thai military against the Kingdom of Cambodia. This blatant violation of Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity demands immediate action.
2. In accordance with Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, Cambodia formally invokes the Council's mandate to uphold international peace and security. **We urge this august body to engender an immediate and unconditional ceasefire**, prevent further escalation and deterioration of the situation, facilitate a peaceful and lawful resolution to the Cambodia-Thailand border dispute, and safeguard regional peace and stability.

Allow me to apprise the Council of facts and status of the current hostilities between Cambodia and Thailand.

3. On the early morning of **24 July 2025**, Thai armed forces launched a deliberate, premeditated assault on multiple Cambodian positions along our internationally recognized border with Thailand. The attacks targeted areas of profound historical and cultural significance — including Tamone Thom Temple, Ta Krabey Temple, Preah Vihear Temple, Keo Sekha Kirisvarak pagoda, and Mom Bei — located in Preah Vihear and Oddar Meanchey provinces. This flagrant act of aggression has dangerously escalated an already volatile situation and poses a serious threat to regional peace and stability.
4. On 23 July 2025, a day before the Thailand's armed attack on Cambodia, Thai Army Commander General Pana Klaewplodtook also ordered the 2nd and 1st Army Commands — which oversee the Thai-Cambodian border — to implement the "Chakraphong Phuwanat" plan, a full war-readiness strategy aimed at addressing what they call "problems" along the border. The same war strategy was used in Thai aggression against Cambodia during 2008-2011.

5. This move demonstrates a clear and deliberate intention by Thailand to prepare for war. What is unfolding now is not accidental — **it is the result of premeditated planning at the highest level of the military** in coordination with other government institutions. **The deployment of F-16 fighter jets, tanks and the extensive use of cluster munitions, and heavy artillery are manifestations of the invasion and aggression.** Moreover, Thai armed forces have expanded their military operation preparedness, by declaring the use of state of emergency law in the provinces of Chanthaburi and Trat, while Cambodia has made no military deployment or movement in the adjacent areas on the Cambodian side. **This is clearly not self-defence, as claimed by Thailand.**
6. From a preliminary report we just received on the damages and casualties on Cambodia. A bomb from F-16 fell on the ground of a Tamoan Sen Chey Pagoda, killing one priest, on 24 July 2025. **On 25 July (Cambodia's time), F-16 conducted 4 bombing raids- one raid on Ta Krabey Temple area, and three raids on Keo Sikhakirisvara Pagoda,** which is situated just around 300 meters from the Temple of Preah Vihear. There have been significant damages to the temple of Preah Vihear and its protected areas. This deliberate destruction of world heritage is a violation of the Hague Convention of 1954. **On human casualties, as of now we have 5 deaths and 21 injured on the military; and on the civilian side there are 8 deaths and 50 injured. More than 10.865 families have been evacuated** from the danger zones in the provinces of Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear and Banteay Meanchey.
7. **We strongly condemn this military aggression** by Thailand's armed forces, which flagrantly violated the fundamental principle of non-aggression and peaceful resolution of disputes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the ASEAN Charter. This hostile aggression not only defies international law, but also gravely undermines the spirit of good neighbourliness and mutual respect that form the foundation of regional cooperation and peace.
8. Facing this blatant aggression, Cambodian troops had no other option, but to respond in self-defense and to safeguard our sovereignty and territorial

integrity under Article 51 of the UN Charter. Cambodia cannot and will not accept aggression and armed coercion to exert territorial control. Cambodia will take all necessary measures to protect its national sovereignty and safety of our nationals.

Mr. President,

9. This latest incursion is not an isolated incident. **It is part of a repeated and deliberate pattern of Thailand's violations** against Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Thailand has continued to use a map that it has unilaterally drawn, lacking any legal basis and flagrantly disregarding its commitment under the Memorandum of Understanding on the Survey and Demarcation of Land Boundary signed between the two countries in 2000, noticeably (1) the unilateral closure of the Tamone Thom Temple by Thailand constitutes a serious provocation, a violation of the 2000 MOU; (2) the unilateral decision by Thailand to deny Cambodian citizens access to the Ta Mone Thom Temple, which lies within Cambodian territory, is **not only a clear violation of the 2000 MoU, but also amounts to an act of de facto annexation**. This constitutes a grave breach of Cambodia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Such actions are provocative and form part of a premeditated strategy by Thailand to occupy the temple and the surrounding Cambodian territory.

Mr. President,

10. The present armed escalation started with the unprovoked gunfire by Thai military forces in the early hours of 28 May 2025, which killed one Cambodian soldier, in the area of Mom Bei where Cambodian troops have been stationed long before the signing of the 2000 MOU. The position of the Cambodian military post is located well within Cambodian territory as defined by the maps produced by the Commissions of Delimitation of the boundary between Indo-China and Siam created under the Franco-Siamese Convention of 1904 and Treaty of 1907.
11. Instead of investigating the incident as Cambodia requested, Thailand made false accusations that the Cambodian troops fired first and violated Thai

territory. Moreover, in an attempt to force Cambodia to accept Thailand's territorial claims based on its unilateral map, Thailand unilaterally closed border checkpoints, disrupting life and businesses, and further escalated tension by threatening to cut power and oil supplies and internet service to Cambodia

12. As a pretext for the current full-scale armed aggression, Thailand also made baseless and unfounded allegations against Cambodia over the recent landmine explosions, which happened after Thai military personnels deviated from the patrol routes previously coordinated between the two countries and created a new path through Cambodian territories, which are officially known and documented as mine-fields left from the civil war in the 70s and 80s.
13. Cambodia upholds international law and the UN Charter, notably Chapter VI, on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes. Once a war-torn country, Cambodia does not seek war and always places highest priority to peace. Our own painful journey - from decades of war to national reconciliation and lasting peace through our **Win-Win Policy** - has taught us one enduring lesson: ***war cannot end war***. We remain unwavering in our commitment to peace, dialogue, and the principles of multilateralism; and as a small state, we entirely depend on a rules-based international order to safeguard our sovereignty and territorial integrity.
14. As this Council is well aware, **following the repeated failure of bilateral negotiations due to Thai insistence on using its unilateral map**, Cambodia, on 2 June 2025, formally expressed its intent to refer the unresolved border disputes on four sensitive points, namely the areas of Tamone Touch Temple, Tamone Thom Temple, Ta Krabey Temple, and Mom Bei to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in line with Article 33 of the UN Charter. We call upon all Member States to support this principled legal course of action and urge Thailand to join us in seeking a peaceful resolution through international adjudication — as already successfully done by other ASEAN Member States. Lasting peace must be grounded in the rule of law, the pursuit of justice, the spirit of dialogue and good faith.

15. Cambodia respectfully calls on this Council to remain seized of the matter. **We urge the international community to support Cambodia's peaceful efforts and to encourage Thailand to honor international law and its treaty obligations, to stop its aggression against Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to agree to a complete ceasefire, and to resolve all disputes concerning the four border areas through the ICJ.**
16. We also issue an urgent appeal to all Members of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, ASEAN, our international partners and friends — please do not look away. If this conflict escalates, peace and stability of the entire Southeast Asian region will be at stake. It is time to stop this unprovoked and illegal armed aggression against Cambodia.
17. In this spirit, let me inform you that on the evening of 24 July 2025, His Excellency Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia and current ASEAN Chair, initiated a phone call with Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet, our Prime minister to discuss the border clashes between Cambodian and Thai forces. Prime Minister Anwar expressed deep concern and urged both sides to agree to an immediate ceasefire to enable a peaceful resolution. our Prime minister affirmed Cambodia's full support for the proposal, for the good reason that Cambodia did not initiate the hostilities. Following his call with Cambodian and Thai leaders, Prime Minister Anwar conveyed that the Thai side had also agreed to the ceasefire, to take effect at 12:00 AM on 24 July. **Unfortunately, just over an hour later, Thailand reversed its position, citing the need to postpone. Thus, the resolution of the current armed conflict ultimately hinges on Thailand's genuine willingness to commit to a ceasefire**—an essential first step toward lasting solutions.

Mr. President,

18. **In light of the grave allegations and the escalation of violence, Cambodia respectfully requests that the Security Council considers to adopt a**

resolution establishing an immediate ceasefire in the area and dispatches a UN fact-finding mission to the affected border areas. An impartial on-the-ground assessment by the United Nations would help establish the objective facts, promote transparency, reduce the risk of further escalation, and serve as a vital step toward a peaceful resolution in accordance with international law. Cambodia stands for cooperation, not confrontation. We seek peace and harmony at our borders and in our region.

19. **Cambodia demands that Thailand fully respect Cambodian sovereignty and immediately cease all acts of military aggression against Cambodia.** In particular, Thailand must respect the internationally recognized borders as defined by the 1904 Convention and the 1907 Treaty, as well as the 1:200,000 scale map, which was recognized by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its 1962 and 2013 judgments, and reaffirmed by the 2000 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
20. In order to prevent further armed conflict that could endanger regional security and stability, and to preserve lasting peace between the two countries, Cambodia has chosen to refer the four disputed areas to the ICJ and hereby declares in advance its acceptance of all ICJ rulings. In this regard, and pursuant to Article 36(3) of the United Nations Charter, **Cambodia respectfully requests the Security Council to refer the Cambodia–Thailand border dispute to the ICJ for adjudication.** This represents the most just and appropriate means of resolving the dispute in accordance with international law and delivering fair and reliable justice for the peoples of both countries.

I thank you, Mr. President!