

PRESS RELEASE

CMAA'S RESPONSE TO THAILAND'S UNFOUNDED CLAIMS OF DEPLOYING NEW MINES

The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) strongly refutes and dismisses the Thai military spokesperson's claims that Cambodia planted new mines, which injured Thai soldiers on July 16, July 23, August 9, and August 12. Thailand has further accused Cambodia of breaching Article 1 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention).

As a State Party to the Ottawa Convention, which currently comprises 165 States Parties, Cambodia is internationally acknowledged for its significant achievements in mine clearance. Despite this, Thai forces have repeatedly made accusations without presenting concrete evidence or verified investigation reports. In response to these baseless claims, the CMAA has submitted an official letter to the President of the Ottawa Convention to clarify the facts and refute Thailand's repeated false allegations that Cambodia planted new mines. The main points of the letter are summarized below:

1. Thailand has politicized the mine issues, making repeated accusations to justify military incursions into Cambodia. In 2008, similar allegations were made without clear evidence. This strategy aims to create tension and potentially justify the use of force. In this context, Cambodia emphasizes:
 - Any incidents occurring on Thai territory are Thailand's responsibility. Cambodia firmly rejects all baseless accusations or attempts to manipulate the situation for political or military gain.
 - Any incidents on Cambodian territory or in incompletely demarcated border areas constitute a violation by Thailand of the 2000 Memorandum of Understanding and the agreements reached during the Extraordinary General Border Committee Meeting on August 7, 2025. These areas, left with landmines from the 1970s–1980s, are currently under survey and clearance, which is complicated by difficult terrain and unresolved border issues. Cambodia rejects any false accusations or misuse of the mine issue to gain political advantage or infringe on Cambodian sovereignty.
2. Cambodia has not used and will not use anti-personnel mines, and strongly condemns the false allegations of their use as a pretext for aggression and violation of Cambodian sovereignty.
3. Cambodia calls on all State Parties to the Ottawa Convention to:
 - Uphold the integrity of the Convention and firmly reject baseless accusations, specifically Thailand's claims against Cambodia.
 - Urge Thailand to immediately release all Cambodian soldiers unlawfully detained, as these detentions violate international law, ceasefire agreements, and humanitarian principles.

- Encourage Thailand to fully respect the July 28, 2025, ceasefire agreement and the results of the August 7, 2025, Extraordinary General Border Committee Meeting, and to stop all acts of aggression against Cambodia.
- Support the continuation and acceleration of border demarcation in accordance with the 1904 and 1907 French–Siam treaties and the 2000 Memorandum of Understanding, as a foundation for peaceful resolution and safe mine clearance.
- Urge Thailand to resolve disputes over the four contested border points through legal measures under the International Court of Justice, ensuring definitive, peaceful, and lawful settlement, including demining.
- Urge Thailand to cease using cluster munitions, weapons that release toxic agents, MK 80 series aerial bombs, and to stop detaining Cambodian soldiers after the ceasefire, as well as all violations against Cambodian personnel during detention.

Phnom Penh, 15 August 2025