

PRESS RELEASE

Civil Society and Expert Team to Launch Rapid Assessment on Environmental Impacts of Chemical Weapons Use Along the Cambodia–Thailand Border

Phnom Penh, 4 September 2025 – A coalition of Cambodian civil society organizations, including the CHRAC, NGO Forum on Cambodia, CLEC, FTUWKC, PADEK, together with a mixed group of environmental specialists/defenders, lawyers, advocacy and human rights experts, and social specialists, will conduct a four-day rapid assessment from 5–8 September 2025 along key areas of the Cambodia–Thailand border: Preah Vihear, Oddar Meanchey, and Banteay Meanchey provinces.

The assessment will focus primarily on **assessing the environmental impacts caused by the reported use of chemical weapons and toxic smoke** during recent clashes along the border, particularly in Cambodian territory. Reports from affected communities have already indicated possible damage to forests, wildlife, crops, water sources, and human health.

This initiative aims to primarily document and verify the actual impacts of these possible illegal actions and toward holding accountable the party responsible for such wrongdoing under international law and justice mechanisms. This action will have done through engaging constructively with the Cambodian Government, state parties, relevant UN agencies, and related international technical committees to ensure transparency, accountability, and redress.

The coalition stresses that **the use of chemical weapons and toxic smoke is strictly prohibited under international law**, including the Chemical Weapons Convention, and poses grave risks to both human security and environmental sustainability.

The findings of this rapid assessment will be consolidated into a report to be shared with national and international stakeholders, ensuring that the voices of affected communities are heard and that justice and environmental protection are pursued at all levels.

Therefore, we would like to seek kind cooperation and understanding from all related authorities and concerning parties for this urgent action in order to fulfil the above mission.

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