

Press Release
on the Situation of Displaced Persons and Impact on Civilian Areas
As of the Morning of 24 August 2026



The Ministry of Interior of the Royal Government of Cambodia hereby informs the national and international community that, since the ceasefire between Cambodia and Thailand came into effect on 27 December 2025, pursuant to the Joint Statement of the 3rd Special Meeting of the General Border Committee (GBC), the Thai side has not fully and faithfully implemented its ceasefire obligations. On the contrary, the Thai military has continued to seriously violate Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity through the occupation of civilian areas, the destruction of civilian property, and the prevention of Cambodian citizens from returning to their homes.

The Ministry of Interior wishes to provide the following preliminary updates as of the morning of 24 August 2026:

1. Situation of Displaced Persons and Violations of International Humanitarian Law: Out of a total of more than 640,000 displaced persons, 18,703 persons, including 9,437 women and 6,066 children, remain unable to return to their villages and homes due to obstruction by the Thai military. This obstruction and inability to return are not merely unintended consequences of the conflict, but are the direct result of the continued unlawful occupation by the Thai military of civilian villages and areas, as well as its destruction of homes and civilian property after the ceasefire came into effect. These actions also constitute serious violations of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which categorically prohibit the forcible expulsion, transfer, and displacement of civilians from occupied territory.

2. Destruction of Physical Infrastructure and Continued Closure of Essential Public Services: The acts of aggression and continued unlawful occupation by the Thai side have caused extensive damage to public and private property, as well as Cambodia's cultural heritage. Preliminary assessments indicate that damage to private property includes 1,558 houses, 7 civilian buildings, 10 hotels/apartment buildings, 4 gas stations, 1 private market, 34 vehicles, 10 motorcycles, 1 cassava purchasing warehouse, 1 storage warehouse, 39 cell towers, and 6 water supply facilities, constituting violations of the rights to property and an adequate standard of living enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948. At the same time, preliminary assessments indicate that damage to public property includes 26 schools, 14 hospitals/health centres, 74 government administrative buildings, 19 pagodas, 1 almsgiving hall, 2 statues, 1 vehicle, 5 bridges, 87 road sections, 1 market, 3 electricity transmission lines, and 4 ancient temples, constituting serious violations of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property. In addition, the continued closure of a total of 15 schools and 7 health centres/hospitals in Oddar Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, and Preah Vihear provinces has deprived children and citizens of their rights to education and access to essential healthcare services.

The Ministry of Interior of the Royal Government of Cambodia supports the Royal Government's formal protest against Thailand's continued violations of Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity along the border. Specifically, from 26 July to 17 August 2026, in Sangkat O Smach, Krong Samraong, Oddar Meanchey Province, the Thai armed

forces progressively cleared the forest to construct a new road running from the north of Boundary Pillar No. 14 to the area of Ta Thong Mountain (Hill 278). Subsequently, on 20 August 2026, the Thai armed forces continued road construction activities in the aforementioned areas and also constructed new military bunkers. Furthermore, on the same date, 20 August 2026, the Thai armed forces constructed several new military bunkers north of Keo Sikha Kiri Svara Pagoda, located in Sra Em Commune, Choam Ksan District, Preah Vihear Province. These activities constitute a clear violation of Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on the Survey and Demarcation of the Land Boundary, signed on 14 June 2000, and the Joint Statement of the 3rd Special Meeting of the General Border Committee (GBC) dated 27 December 2025, under which both sides agreed to refer the matter to the Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) to resume at the earliest the survey and demarcation work, in accordance with the existing agreements between the two countries.

The Ministry of Interior of the Royal Government of Cambodia emphasizes that, based on the principles of international law: **“As long as an unlawful occupier is continuously protested against by the territorial sovereign, the unlawful occupier does not acquire a permanent right of possession. Conversely, as long as the territorial sovereign continues to protest, it does not lose its rights through the passage of time.”** Cambodia categorically rejects any unilateral alteration of the boundary line or any attempt to change the border through the use of force, whether in the past, present, or future.

Phnom Penh, 24 August 2026