



FUNCINPEC PARTY

Kingdom of Cambodia

Nation Religion King



THE ALLIANCE OF THE DEMOCRATS



SAM RAINSY PARTY

18 October 2003

ANOTHER DEADLY INTIMIDATION AIMED AT THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance of Democrats condemns in the strongest possible terms another political murder. A news writer/reporter with radio station Ta Prohm FM 90.5, Mr Chuo Chet Tharith, 37, was shot dead at point blank this morning at 8 am in front of his radio station.

It is most difficult indeed not to conclude that the murder was purely politically motivated. Only yesterday did prime minister Hun Sen warn, for the second time this week, pro-Funcinpec Ta Prohm radio to stop analyzing his speeches, which he regarded as insults to him. The Cambodia Daily reported yesterday that the prime minister had first issued the warning on Tuesday. Last January the Cambodian authorities allowed full scale riots against Thai embassy and business interests in Phnom Penh after the prime minister issued warning in regard to a Thai actress who had reportedly made some frivolous claim against Cambodia.

The Funcinpec Party and the Sam Rainsy Party of the Alliance now find it inconvenient to attend the Monday talk called by HM the King. According to His Majesty's public announcement, the meeting was to solve the political deadlock as "one Khmer family". This morning murder, in addition to grenade attacks in the past three weeks against Funcinpec and SRP activists, does not make one family unit possible yet.

This is another reason why Cambodia needs a fresh leadership that will not, in any case, use violence to intimidate political opponents, or at least, will be capable of providing its citizens security in their daily life.

Based on past experiences, the Alliance would be naïve to expect the authorities to conduct a proper investigation and bring the culprits to justice, especially after such a clear lead from the prime minister. But the Alliance remains adamant that the new government will not be led by a person who has so repeatedly failed his duties and obligations to the country.

Chuo Chet Tharith is survived by his wife and two young children.

AD General Secretariat