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SAM RAINSY PARTY  
PARTI SAM RAINSY

សីលធម៌ សម្តេចធម៌ យុត្តិធម៌

Phnom Penh, March 24, 1999

## DENIAL OF UNFOUNDED AND POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE LAST SERIES OF GRENADE ATTACKS IN PHNOM PENH

According to "The Cambodia Daily" dated Wednesday March 24, 1999, "Police on Monday linked a recent spate of deadly grenade attacks against ethnic Vietnamese residents to the opposition Sam Rainsy Party. Senior police officials said they suspected the paymaster behind the raids was a member of Sam Rainsy's party and the case would be treated as politically motivated."

The Sam Rainsy Party categorically denies any involvement in any act of political violence which it condemns in the strongest terms as reflected most recently in its press release dated March 14, 1999 and entitled "Appeal to avoid acts of violence against Khmer and other people." (See "The Cambodia Daily" dated Tuesday, March 16, 1999).

We clearly said in the Appeal:

"As we have already done several times over the last few years, the Sam Rainsy Party (formerly the Khmer Nation Party) strongly condemns any individuals or organizations involved in any acts of violence against the population, regardless of the ethnic origin or the political affiliation of those who were targeted by the terrorists. All terrorist attacks are criminal acts which blindly kill or hurt innocent people.

The Sam Rainsy Party appeals to the population to strengthen their vigilance to counter any acts of terrorism and to cooperate with the competent authorities in order to help identify all the criminals who must be prosecuted according to the law.

The Sam Rainsy Party reaffirms its commitment to humanism, democracy and non-violence and its constant determination to defend and promote human rights regardless of ethnic background, political affiliation or any other discrimination criteria."

We have always stated that all problems facing the country, including border disputes and illegal immigration, must be resolved exclusively by peaceful and legal means, with due respect for human rights.

We want to congratulate the Police for the quick arrest of four main suspects in the recent attacks. But we also call for the suspects to be immediately interrogated by independent human rights workers so that these suspects cannot be forced or manipulated later on into making false confessions used by the government-controlled judiciary as a means to crackdown on the legal and democratic opposition. We still remember the case of Srun Vong Vannak who was declared "prisoner of conscience" by Amnesty International.

Sam Rainsy