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**STATEMENT OF THE  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS  
REGARDING THE GRENADE ATTACK IN FRONT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The members of the non-governmental organizations and associations are profoundly shocked about the cruel act of genocide, indiscriminately committed against a group of several hundred demonstrators, including men women and children, who were gathering together to express their opinions in a peaceful and lawful manner in front of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia on 30 March 1997 at 8:30 AM. While these people were demonstrating for improvements to the present system of courts, which they believe to be unjust and not independent, and demonstrating also for the rapid establishment of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy and the Constitutional Council, a group of unidentified assassins threw four grenades into their midst, with the result that 19 people have died and more than 100 people are injured, including 17 journalists.

The non-governmental organizations and associations absolutely condemn these unidentified persons. Their acts of indiscriminate assassination are violent and barbaric, violate human rights and the freedom of the people, and betray the national interest. They paralyze the progress toward democracy and diminish the reputation of the whole nation.

The non-governmental organizations and associations declare our deepest sorrow and share the mourning of the families of the victims who were killed, as well as those who were injured, some of whom still must remain in hospital.

In addition, the non-governmental organizations and associations request the Royal Government of Cambodia as following:

1. Please take immediate and effective measures to investigate and arrest those who threw the grenades, and those who arranged it from behind, and put them in prison according to the law without fail, in order to be a model so that there will not be violence against human rights like this again anywhere in Cambodia.
2. Please take care to respect and protect the freedom and human rights of the people of Cambodia to join in meetings in order to express their own opinions in a legal way, without malicious actions from any source. This is the role, duty, and responsibility of the government for security and social order.

Done in Phnom Penh on 2 April 1997

Non-governmental Organizations and Associations

(Attached are pages with signatures)