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**Appeal by Dhamayietra 4 on the occasion of Visak Puja**

Dhamayietra 4 welcomed the Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace & Life 1995 as walkers crossed the Thai-Cambodia Border at Poipet, entering the Kingdom of Cambodia on 7 May 1995 at 3:00 pm. Samdech Preah Maha Ghosananda spoke to the pilgrims & offered them lotus flowers as they crossed the Poipet Bridge, welcoming the peacemakers to Cambodia.

The Dhamayietra 4, composed of approximately 600 Cambodian monks, nuns, & lay people, and guided by Samdech Preah Maha Ghosananda have accompanied the nearly 50 international walkers down Route 5 to the Cambodia-Vietnamese border at Baveth.

The pilgrimage arrived in Mong Russey, Battambang Province today, 14 May 1995 at Wat Bo. As today is Vasak Puja, the highest holy day of Buddhism commemorating the birth, death, and enlightenment of Buddha, the pilgrims will rest 15 May in Mong before continuing its journey the 16th according to their scheduled route.

Throughout the journey, walkers have witnessed the great suffering due to Cambodia's ongoing war. They have seen displaced people without shelter and food, people disabled from the war, houses and buildings burned to the ground, and ricefields laden with landmines, rendering the land useless.

Thousands of people have lined the road, welcoming the Dhamayietra and sharing tales of great suffering caused by war. They sit with buckets of water, flowers, and incense, raising their hands, palms together, praying for true peace in Cambodia. They have told the walkers of their hopes that the Dhamayietra may bring peace to our nation and to all of its people.

Supreme Patriarch Maha Ghosananda has given dhamma talks in each village and town along the route. "The suffering of Cambodia has been deep. From this suffering comes great compassion. From this compassion comes a peaceful heart" is his message of peace.

As witnesses of this great suffering of our nation, on the occasion of Visak Puja, the 4th Dhamayietra Interfaith Pilgrimage would like to appeal for:

1. An immediate cease-fire and an end to the war among brothers of the same nation and religion. Use of nonviolent means to resolve the conflict so that true peace may prevail in Cambodia.
2. A ban on landmines: an end to the use, import, and trade of mines. Further assistance for demining efforts.
3. An end to the destruction of the forests, protection of remaining forests and replanting in areas already destroyed.
4. All Cambodians to observe the 5 precepts, particularly the 1st precept of non-killing, to stop killing one another and depriving one another of life.

May all Cambodians begin to observe this appeal from this day, Visak Puja, on.

"May all beings be free from suffering.  
May all beings be free from fear.  
May all beings live in peace."