



NATIONAL ELECTION COMMITTEE PUBLIC INFORMATION BUREAU

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NEC REPORTS ATTACK IN ANLONG VENG

The National Election Committee is very sad to report that a tractor carrying election material was attacked outside the town of Anlong Veng on Friday 17 July, HE Im Suosdei, a spokesman for the NEC, said today.

Two people were killed and five wounded in the attack, which is believed to have been carried out by hardline Khmer Rouge soldiers. One PEC official was seriously wounded. The tractor was carrying election materials, ballots, ballot boxes, voting screens and other items, from the town of Anlong Veng to the Commune Election Commission in Trapeang Prasat. Most of the material was burnt but what remains was collected and sent back to the Siem Reap Provincial Election Commission (PEC).

The attack took place at 13.30 on Friday along the road to Trapeang Prasat. The commander of the 4th Military Region sent troops to the scene and took the wounded to be treated. The spokesman did not know how many people were in the group, nor what weapons were used in the attack.

"I am very sorry about this incident. We sent the material based on the information that we could do the job safely," HE Im Suosdei said. "Whether we can continue working or not [in Anlong Veng] depends on a meeting with the PEC."

But the spokesman said he is optimistic that the NEC will not pull out of Anlong Veng because of this attack. "I think it is a very sad incident." But in other areas there have been attempts to intimidate people and cause problems and election staff continued to work.

"The NEC's intention is only to enable the Cambodian people, the whole country, to express their political will," he said.

HE Im Suosdei was asked if the NEC is sure that Khmer Rouge attacked the tractor. He said that according to the information he has, it was the hardline Khmer Rouge.

A journalist asked him to compare the security situation with the UN election time. "I can say that the situation is much better than in the UNTAC times."

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