

# ***CAMBODIA: CIVIL UNREST***

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### ***The Disaster***

Factional fighting over the weekend of 5-6 July in Phnom Penh resulted in the ousting of co-prime minister Prince Ranariddh — who fled before fighting began — at least 57 dead, scores of injured and widespread looting. Hun Sen and the Cambodia People's Party (CPP) are firmly in control in Phnom Penh. An uneasy calm has settled on the city: roads, markets and schools have reopened, and some international and domestic flights have resumed.

However, there are still many thousands of homeless families in and around the capital, some 6,000 foreign nationals have fled the city, many important donor countries, including the USA, have suspended aid and Cambodia's entry into ASEAN (the Association of South East Asian Nations) has been suspended indefinitely.

Many Cambodians now fear intimidation; particularly those with connections to Prince Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC party. Human Rights workers have expressed their concern at reports of the summary execution of 25 FUNCINPEC loyalists including top government and military officials in Phnom Penh, the reported detention of several party members in the provinces and the shutdown of 19 opposition newspapers.

Forces loyal to Hun Sen continue to gain ground in the Northwest provinces where they have met only token resistance from FUNCINPEC forces, who are reported to be withdrawing towards the Thai border, possibly regrouping for a counter-offensive near one of their strongholds.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

Although an official curfew and state of emergency has been lifted the Red Cross and UN are maintaining a 2000 to 0600 curfew.

The Institutional Delegate and her family were evacuated on 11 July and will only return when the security situation is stable. The Finance and Administration Delegate will return to Phnom Penh today from Kuala Lumpur and (along with the HoD, Branch Development Delegate, and the French Red Cross Delegate) will remain in Phnom Penh and continue to provide assistance to the Cambodian Red Cross Society, as will the Australian Red Cross Delegation.

The Norwegian Red Cross Delegation was evacuated from Mongol Borei over the weekend of 5 July, while the families of ICRC delegates, American Red Cross delegates and the Japanese Red Cross midwife flew out a week or so later. It is understood that due to the decision of the American government to suspend aid to Cambodia for a minimum of 30 days the remaining three American Red Cross delegates will depart for Bangkok by Sunday 20 July. The Federation Delegation in Cambodia will support American Red Cross local staff to ensure that their office in Phnom Penh remains open.

The Head of the Federation Delegation, supported by the Asia & Pacific department, continues to liaise closely with ICRC and National Societies with bilateral programmes regarding security issues and support to CRCS.

The President, Secretary General and up to two of the four vice-presidents of the National Society will probably remain out of the country for an indefinite period. At present Dr. Ngoun Sakhon is the acting Secretary General and Madame Bun Rany Hun Sen in her capacity of First vice-president is the *de facto* President of CRCS.

After the cessation of hostilities CRCS carried out assessments in co-operation with the local authorities in four districts and nine communes of Phnom Penh where the following statistics were recorded:

Affected families:	594
Affected people:	3,355
Wounded:	86
Dead:	17
Houses destroyed.	423

Distributions were organised and carried out on 15 July with each affected person receiving a ration of 10 kg of rice (donated by WFP) and each family receiving one household kit (cooking pots and utensils, blanket, clothing, mat and plastic sheeting). Surveys will also be conducted in the affected provinces. As the situation develops and additional needs become known further information will be provided.

## ***Conclusion***

Despite the fact that Hun Sen and the CPP appear to be firmly in control of the capital and much of the countryside the situation remains tense, uncertain and volatile. The Federation delegation will continue its vital and pivotal role, assessing and monitoring the situation, assisting and supporting the CRCS, and co-operating and liaising with ICRC, National Societies, IOs, NGOs and UN to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

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