



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

His Excellency Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, wrote on 16 October 2017 a letter to H.E. Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), with headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands, to inform him about the discovery of chemical remnants in Cambodia and to seek OPCW's assistance in this issue.

His Excellency Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn said in his letter that:

"I wish to inform you that in our operations to clear landmines and other explosive remnants of war which contaminated many parts of the country, Cambodia has encountered a number of chemical remnants. Back in March and April 2012, experts from OPCW verified and confirmed the existence of chemical remnants found in Mondulkiri Province. Recently, in early October 2017, we have removed devices in Koki Primary School and Pagoda in Koki Commune, Svay Rieng Province, which were later verified and confirmed by experts from the National Authority of Chemical Weapons (NACW) and the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) that the substance found in the devices are consistent with the definition of Chemical Weapons stated in Article II, Paragraph 1 (1) and (b) of the CWC. Several affected victims were also identified in the commune.

"As of present, there are 34 locations known to contain the same type of devices throughout the country.

"In light of the above, pursuant to Article III, Paragraph 1(b) of the Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction (CWC), the Kingdom of Cambodia wishes to declare that the country is affected by the chemical remnants of war used during the 1960s and 1970s. Meanwhile, as you are fully aware, the Convention

also requires State, which used and abandoned such chemical weapons, to make declaration.

“Facing such grave danger, to ensure safety and well-being of Cambodian people, the Royal Government of Cambodia, in accordance with Part IV (B), Paragraph 8 of the Convention, wishes to seek OPCW’s assistance in the verification process of all devices in the known locations, and assistance to support further national survey on chemical weapons contamination as well as future clearance and destruction.

“As State Party to the Convention, the Royal Government of Cambodia wishes to reiterate Cambodia’s continued commitment and support to the work of OPCW in our common endeavor to fulfill duties and obligations under the Convention.”

Phnom Penh, 01 November 2017

