



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1989/64
6 February 1989

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 12

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL
AND DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 2 February 1989 from the Permanent Representative
of Thailand to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed
to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

I have the honour to refer to the report by the special rapporteur, Mr. S. Amos Wako, pursuant to item 12 of the agenda of the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights, in which one chapter includes references to Thailand concerning some incidents relating to Kampuchean refugees and displaced persons. Since Thailand's response to these incidents, which were reported to have taken place as long ago as 1987, has just arrived it cannot be incorporated in the said report in time.

I have the honour, therefore, to request Your Excellency to be so kind as to have Thailand's response, herewith attached, circulated as a document of the Commission under item 12.

(Signed) Chao SAICHEUA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

1. It should be clarified at the outset that the violent incidents and/or arbitrary acts involving Thai security personnel cited by the Special Rapporteur were in fact cases of the distant past in 1987, and ever since there have been new positive developments, especially the creation of the "Displaced Persons Protection Unit" (DPPU), aimed principally at eradicating such arbitrary and violent incidents in Khmer camp sites.
2. In retrospect, there were in 1987 arbitrary incidents involving Thai security personnel of "Task Force 80" and Kampuchean displaced persons at the border camps, especially at site 2 which housed some 130,000 Khmers, a population the size of a township in itself. Evidently, however, not all of these incidents were clear cases of deliberate ill-treatment or arbitrariness. Of the three serious cases, the first, according to the investigation, was rather personally inspired by revenge because the deceased had earlier inflicted harm on the family of the Thai personnel. The second case involving a grenade explosion appeared to have been no more than unruly behaviour and drunkenness of the Thai security personnel involved in the incident. The third case, involving the shooting of husband and wife, had its root in a long personal conflict and even a conflict of interests.
3. Thai policy is clear and definite. The Thai Government will not condone such acts of violence and/or arbitrariness. With no exception, Thai security personnel committing crimes will be brought to justice in accordance with Thai law. The individuals involved in the above incidents were apprehended, dismissed from Task Force 80 and arraigned in court.
4. As a result of a long series of discussions among the Thai authorities concerned at the beginning of 1988, it has been discerned that the arbitrary incidents involving "volunteer rangers" of Task Force 80 largely stemmed from sheer misbehaviour and was indeed understandable. The personnel of Task Force 80 which was in charge of camp security were locally recruited volunteer rangers, trained primarily for armed combat rather than for standing guard and for security. On these premises, the Thai authorities dismantled Task Force 80 and, with financial assistance from the United Nations Border Relief Operations (UNBRO) funded by major donor countries, the Displaced Persons Protection Unit (DPPU) was eventually created in early 1988 and put in charge of security.
5. The DPPU personnel have been recruited from qualified persons, including college graduates. They were then given disciplinary training. Thanks to the sociological and educational backgrounds of its personnel, DPPU has thus far met our expectations, greatly contributing to a marked reduction of violent incident in Khmer camp sites, indeed much to the appreciation of the international relief agencies concerned. In testimony to which, UNBRO, later in April 1988, gave an additional contribution towards the setting up of 2 1/2 additional DPPU units, making up the present total of 9 1/2 units with 760 personnel.
6. As a safeguard against the possibility of a recurrence of arbitrary acts and/or abuse by Thai security personnel, each DPPU unit will not be assigned to a particular location for an extended period, but will instead be rotated to different locations or camps sites at regular intervals. There are at

present eight Kampuchean displaced person camp sites. Furthermore, each unit will have to undergo constant reorientation on a rotational basis to ensure its optimal performance and sense of responsibility.

7. To improve security and protection further inside Khmer camp sites, especially at Site 2 whose population is equivalent to that of a large township, Thai authorities have recently agreed to Mr. Kibria's proposal to set up a liaison officers' team comprising Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia and the United States of America, to give advice and training to the Khmer administration for its policing activities inside camp sites. It should be noted that there exists a demarcation line of security responsibility inside camp sites. Within the camp perimeter, policing and law enforcement are in the hands of Khmer administrators in so far as there is no serious breach of Thai law. Security and protection outside the camp is under DDPU jurisdiction. Thai authorities will intervene, if need be, only in instances of possible occurrence of serious crime or violence.

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