



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**PERMANENT MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**NATION - RELIGION - KING**

**No: RC/MP/243/07**

**18 December 2007**

**His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
The United Nations  
New York**

**Dear Mr. Secretary-General,**

For many years now, Cambodia has been working closely with the United Nations in a number of areas of cooperation, especially with the UN agencies, such as UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and others. However, in the area of human rights, Cambodia is deeply upset with the aggressive behavior of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative who, during his last visit to Cambodia, has gone beyond the limit that is acceptable.

I wish to recall Article 17 of the Paris Peace Agreements of 1991, which states: ".....after the end of the transitional period, the UN Commission on Human Rights should continue to monitor closely the human rights situation in Cambodia including, **if necessary**, by the appointment of a Special Rapporteur.....".

Despite the fact that there is no longer a necessity of such a Special Representative, Cambodia continues to show its goodwill by accepting the Special Representative to further jointly work toward consolidating **human rights** in the country and to build closer cooperation with the UN.

However, the attitude and arrogance of Mr. Yash Ghai, during his 01-10 December 2007 visit to Cambodia, was unacceptable for the dignity of Cambodia as an independent State. During that visit, he insulted the Khmer nation and the Royal Government of Cambodia by stating the following:

- publicly and through media, he looked down on the Kingdom of Cambodia, a sovereign state, as **"a country without rule of law"**. This is tantamount to compare Cambodia to a primitive and anarchic society.
- more importantly, he incited the people in Cambodia to revolt against a democratically elected government, by stating: **Sooner or later, people are going to rise....., there is a limit to how far you could use coercion as a method of development"**, and so forth.

This provocative action contradicts flagrantly the opinion survey which was conducted by the US International Republican Institute (IRI), between December 20, 2006 and January 20, 2007, which shown that 71% of interviewed Cambodians believed that **"Cambodia is moving in the right direction"**.

In the face of such repeated and insult attitude of Mr. Yash Ghai, the Royal Government of Cambodia is now considering whether the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative is **"still necessary,"** as stipulated in Article 17 of the Paris Peace Agreements; while, since then, Cambodia is moving smoothly and irreversibly to the path of respect of human rights, much better than many countries in the region where there are no Special Representatives on Human Rights.

I would be grateful if you could kindly arrange to have this letter circulated as an official document of the United Nations.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
H. E.   
Ha Kosal  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the  
Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations

cc: All Members of the Human Rights Council