

# The CAMBODIA DAILY

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## Hun Sen Demands Arrest of Organizer

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Second Prime Minister Hun Sen on Sunday evening called for the arrest of the organizer of a Khmer Nation Party demonstration that was shattered by a grenade attack earlier in the day.

"I have requested that the Interior Ministry and National Police, while looking for the suspects, must examine the responsibility of the demonstration organizers," Hun Sen said in a speech at his residence broadcast on Apsara radio and television.

"Whether the demonstration was approved or not, the police should arrest the demonstration leader immediately," Hun Sen said.

The second prime minister added that National Police Chief Hok Lundy has ordered immigration police at Pochentong Airport to arrest any demonstration leaders that may attempt to flee the country.

At an impromptu press conference at his Phnom Penh residence less than an hour after the attack, KNP President Sam Rainsy on Sunday condemned the grenade attack and said he believed Hun Sen and the CPP were responsible.

Smearing with the blood of the dead and wounded and visibly shaken, Sam Rainsy declared he would not let violent acts deter the cause of the KNP.

"I feel very sad for the dead and injured, but I am more determined than ever to hold these peaceful demonstrations in the name of democracy and human rights. I will never back off," he said.

The opposition politician said he believed Hun Sen and the CPP had ordered the attack in retaliation for the protesters' challenge to what they see as the CPP's control of the judicial system.

"I think we have touched on one of the most sensitive points of the CPP...it is very easy to demonstrate that the judiciary is not independent," Sam Rainsy said.

Reminding journalists of a September 1995 grenade attack during a party congress of Son Sann's wing of the split BLDP that injured 31 people, Sam Rainsy said Hun Sen had warned of grenade attacks before that congress.

"Hun Sen is either a very good fortune teller or he is the leader of this terrorist squad," Sam Rainsy

remarked. He said, however, that there had been no specific threats prior to Sunday's attack.

Stating that the demonstration had been approved by Interior Ministry and municipal authorities, Sam Rainsy said the attack further eroded his confidence in the nation's security forces and proved that the political situation in Cambodia was worsening.

"The freedom of speech can no longer be assured in this country. We respected all the requirements, we played their game and abided by their rules, but they still cannot assure security for peaceful demonstrations," he said.

Om Yentieng, an adviser to the second prime minister, cautioned Sunday that the attack could have been organized by the KNP to build support for the party and divert attention from Sam Rainsy's own legal problems.

Sam Rainsy is expected to be summoned soon by the Phnom Penh municipal court to answer questions about the November 1996 murder of Hun Sen's brother-in-law, Kov Samuth.

KNP security chief Srun Vong Vannak and two alleged KNP members have been arrested and charged with carrying out the murder, and penal police officials claim confessions have been obtained from all three suspects.

"I think Sam Rainsy plays a very dangerous game. He does not think about the consequence of his actions on the lives of his party members," Om Yentieng said.

"Hun Sen is not responsible for this attack, he is only the scapegoat. It is my opinion that Sam Rainsy did this to himself...Sam Rainsy should not spill the blood of his own party members to hide the stain of his own criminal activity," he added.

Sam Rainsy, speaking at his residence, said he had heard rumors swirling around the capital Sunday night that tanks "were being heated up" by Hun Sen in preparation to arrest him.

A group of journalists and human rights workers, aware of the rumors, were staking out Sam Rainsy's house Sunday night when Sam Rainsy returned from a meeting with First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh and top Funcinpec military and police officials.

"If they want to arrest me I think it's better not to give any resistance," a drained-looking Sam Rainsy told reporters.

King Norodom Sihanouk swift-

ly condemned the attack Sunday in a letter sent from Beijing, where the 74-year-old monarch is receiving medical treatment.

Expressing his condolences to the families of the dead and wounded, the King said the bloodshed reflected poorly on his country in the eyes of the international community.

"This unfortunate incident makes me worried, sad and for the most part deeply shocked," the King wrote.

"This makes the nation lose honor in front of the international community, and causes the innocent and pure [Cambodian] patriots to be dismayed over the future of our unfortunate homeland," he added.

Prince Ranariddh also condemned the attack and expressed his support for peaceful demonstrations in a Sunday statement released by his cabinet.

"The perpetrators of this heinous crime are deplorable and must be condemned vehemently by all peace-loving Cambodians...this is a totally unacceptable and barbaric act in our society," the prince wrote. (*Reporting by Chris Fontaine, Ham Samnang, Eric Pape, Lor Chandara, Joe Cochrane and Rob Bingham*)