

receiving from donors and ngos in strengthening the legal system.

b) Cambodian NGOs

The principle role of Cambodian ngos in this area has been in human rights training, discussed in more detail under the Human Rights section of this report.

The Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (**CICP**) sponsored an international law training course of 12 weeks in 1997 for 15 government officials.

The Khmer Institute of Democracy (**KID**) has placed special emphasis on promoting rule of law. It wants to de-mystify the court system and, to that end, is developing a video series documenting the criminal justice process, from arrest to judgement. The training team will distribute the series in partnership with provincial authorities and ngos.

c) Multilateral Agencies

UNCHR is working with the Justice Ministry to promote awareness of the law. It has commissioned the Women's Media Centre to produce programs to assist.

On his December visit, **SRS** (HR) Hammarberg raised in a press conference his concern over the issue of impunity in connection with the March and July killings, and its harmful effect on the elections. This prompted an angry retort from Hun Sen. In January, Mary Robinson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, came to Cambodia accompanied by Hammarberg, and raised these and other issues with the Second Prime Minister.

In 1995, **UNDP** established the Governance, Democracy and Human Rights project, designed to strengthen the capacity of legal and judicial institutions and to integrate the concept of rule of law into their work. Implementation of this \$2mn project is being done in close collaboration with **UNCHR**. In addition to support for the National Assembly's Human Rights Commission (see the National Assembly section below), **UNDP** has funded a judicial mentorship program, which has recruited six experienced international lawyers to work in nine provincial courts to train and advise judges, prosecutors, clerks, police and prison personnel on criminal and civil procedures, rules of evidence and defendant's rights. The following quote from the **UNDP**'s December 1997 project document illustrates the importance of the mentorship program:

"Since this project has begun, at least in courts where mentors are placed, judgements are not always based on a pre-trial understanding by the judge of who is guilty. Judges are beginning to understand the process of law, notions of presumed innocence and the importance of evidence in deciding guilt and appropriate sentencing. An understanding that all defendants have the right to a defender is becoming pervasive. The contrast between those courts where the Mentor has been able to influence day to day work and those courts who have yet to benefit, is stark."

In addition, the Governance, Democracy and Human Rights project has funded