

With recent large scale defections from the Khmer Rouge ranks since mid-1996, fighting in the north and west of the country has been dramatically reduced. Hardline Khmer Rouge forces continue to control limited areas in Siem Reap and Preah Vihear provinces. There have been repeated human rights violations in areas under Khmer Rouge control including the taking and killing of hostages, the execution of soldiers captured in combat and the massacre of ethnic Vietnamese civilians.

CANADIAN POSITION:

Canada has been supportive of the current government, though our Ambassador in discussions with officials has expressed concern over certain trend lines. Canada has been providing technical assistance in preparation for the 1998 national elections. Canada has twice sponsored visits to Canada by Kem Sokha, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the National Assembly. Canada cosponsored an Australian-led consensus resolution on Cambodia at the United Nations Third Committee in December 1996 and at the 52nd UN Commission on Human Rights.