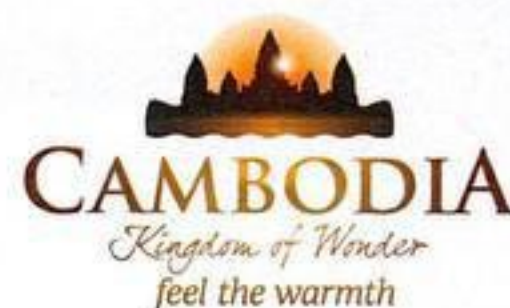




KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



MINISTRY OF TOURISM

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Phnom Penh, July 25th, 2025...

H.E. Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili

Secretary-General

UN Tourism

Madrid, Spain

Subject: Serious Damage to the UNESCO-preserved Preah Vihear Temple and Surrounding Areas Caused by the Recent Armed Clashes

Your Excellency,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Your Excellency and UN Tourism for the past and on-going cooperation.

It is with profound concern and deep regret that I hereby inform Your Excellency of the serious damage inflicted upon the sacred and historic Preah Vihear Temple—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—caused by a recent premediated and deliberated military aggression from the Thai armed forces, including the use of heavy artillery and the dropping of bombs by F-16 fighter jets.

Despite Preah Vihear Temple's status as a protected heritage monument and its symbolic significance as a testament to Southeast Asia's ancient civilization and architectural genius, it has regrettably suffered considerable structural harm and visible damage to essential parts of the temple, particularly Gopuras I, II, III, and V, as well as to the core architectural structures of the site. It was emphasized that the Preah Vihear Temple is protected under several international conventions on heritage protection, especially the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

The Ministry of Tourism views this incident as a serious impediment to cultural tourism and regional harmony, and a serious harm to the safety of tourists. The temple has long been a cherished destination for both domestic and international visitors, and this unfortunate aggression undermines efforts to promote peaceful cross-border tourism and shared cultural preservation.

In this regard, Cambodia would like to respectfully appeal to the UN Tourism to express solidarity with the Royal Government of Cambodia in condemning the recent acts of violence against this world cultural heritage committed by the Thai side. ☞

The Kingdom of Cambodia remains committed to the values of peace, cultural respect, and tourism as a bridge for understanding and fraternity among peoples from the neighbor countries and the world. We fully trust that UN Tourism will join us in defending these values in the face of unacceptable threats to our shared heritage.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. *Hu Hak*

Yours sincerely,



HUOT Hak

Minister of Tourism