



Cambodian Association of North Carolina

2809 Liberty Rd Greensboro NC, 27406

Tel: 336-338-4318 E-Mail: CambodianAssociation.NC@gmail.com |

Website: <https://www.cambodianassociationnc.org>

August 15, 2025

TO: U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee

United States Senate

423 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Call for U.S. and International Engagement in Resolving the Cambodia–Thailand Border Dispute

Dear Chair Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and Members of the Committee:

We, the Cambodian-American community in North Carolina, are deeply concerned for our families and friends affected by the recent fighting along the Cambodia–Thailand border.

From July 24 to July 28, 2025, heavy clashes claimed lives, displaced hundreds of thousands, and damaged homes, temples, and communities. This violence came despite decades of legal clarity from the 1907 treaty maps and the 1962 International Court of Justice judgment, reaffirmed in 2013, that awarded the Preah Vihear Temple and its immediate vicinity to Cambodia.

It was at this critical moment that President Donald J. Trump personally called the prime ministers of both Cambodia and Thailand, urging them to stop the fighting and agree to a ceasefire. His intervention helped bring about the ceasefire agreement reached in Malaysia on July 28. This direct, decisive engagement by an American president demonstrated the unique influence and moral authority of the United States in advancing peace and upholding justice.

While the ceasefire has paused open conflict, serious concerns remain. Soon after the agreement took effect, Cambodian soldiers were lured under the pretense of a handshake and photograph, then captured and taken hostage. Reports indicate that at least 18 remain in Thai custody. This act violated both the spirit and the letter of the ceasefire and further erodes trust.

Furthermore, Thailand continues to provoke Cambodia and cause distress to civilians by continuously moving their positions inside Cambodian territory and placing barbed wires on Cambodian land and denying villagers from access to their homes.

We respectfully ask the Committee to:

1. Reaffirm U.S. support for the ceasefire and ask Thailand to fully comply with its terms in order to prevent any return to armed hostilities.

2. Call for the immediate release of all Cambodian soldiers captured and held hostages after the ceasefire went into effect, and condemn violations of war protocol and inhumane treatment of captured soldiers, as evidenced by signs of trauma and torture in the two already released out of the 20 taken.
3. Press for the withdrawal of Thai forces from areas already decided by international treaty and court rulings.
4. Support structured peace talks with strong, neutral third-party oversight, including continued U.S. engagement alongside Malaysia, ASEAN, and the United Nations, as well as on-the-ground monitoring.
5. Hold Thailand accountable for damage to cultural heritage sites and for human rights abuses against civilians, as well as for the loss of soldiers and property resulting from the aggression and invasion.
6. Apply diplomatic and economic pressure when necessary to deter further violations and to protect civilian lives.
7. Monitor and call for an end to the discriminatory and abusive treatment and incitement to hate and violence of Cambodian migrant workers in Thailand, and urge the Thai government to uphold basic human rights and treat all Cambodians with fairness and dignity.
8. Condemn the use of sophisticated advanced weaponry into Cambodian territory in clear escalation of hostility and force such as:
 1. F-16 fighter jets
 2. Saab Gripen fighters
 3. Fixed-wing kamikaze drones
 4. Artillery and mortars, including 155mm Noricum GHN-45 howitzers from Austria firing NR173/NR256 Extended Range – Full Bore (ERFB) projectiles
 5. 82mm PW-78 recoilless weapons with extended-range ammunition targeting Cambodian defensive positions
 6. Small arms and light machine guns — M16A4 assault rifles (U.S.-made) with 40mm M203 under-barrel grenade launchers firing M433 HEDP grenades; IWI Negev NG-5 light machine guns from Israel used in ground operations targeting Cambodian positions
 7. MK-84 bombs with identifiable serial numbers
 8. Cluster bombs, banned under the Convention on Cluster Munitions due to their indiscriminate impact on civilians
 9. Toxic gas, reported by civilians and soldiers, in violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), with clear evidence from affected civilian communities in Srok Cham Kosan Penh

America's leadership, as shown by President Trump's intervention, can change the course of events and prevent needless suffering. With sustained U.S. attention and bipartisan support in Congress, a fragile truce can become a lasting peace grounded in truth, respect for sovereignty, and adherence to international law.

We thank you for your service and for considering this urgent matter. We, the Cambodian-American community, are proud to stand as Americans — in the land of the brave — standing for justice and liberty for all, using our voices to call for justice where it is needed, as is our duty in this great nation.

Respectfully,



Seyha Thach, President
Cambodian Association of North Carolina

References

The recent border conflict between Thailand and Cambodia, which escalated in July 2025, involved a range of sophisticated weaponry used primarily by Thai forces in response to Cambodian actions. Below is a detailed account of the weapons reportedly used by Thailand, based on available sources:

Weapons Used by Thailand

1. F-16 Fighter Jets with Precision-Guided Munitions:



- Thailand deployed F-16 fighter jets to conduct airstrikes on Cambodian military targets. At least one F-16 was reported to have fired and destroyed a Cambodian military target on July 24, 2025. The jets used Mark 82 (MK-82) aerial bombs equipped with the LIG Nex1 “KGGB” Precision-Guided Glide Bomb system from South Korea for precise strikes. On July 26, a strike package included two F-16s and two Saab Gripen jets, which used 500-pound GBU-12

Paveway II laser-guided bombs to target Cambodian artillery positions. These airstrikes marked a significant escalation, targeting command posts of Cambodia's 8th and 9th divisions and other military positions.

2. Saab Gripen Fighter Jets:



- The Royal Thai Air Force employed Saab Gripen E/F jets for the first time in kinetic combat during this conflict, specifically on July 26, 2025. These jets, acquired from Sweden, were used alongside F-16s to deliver precision-guided munitions, including the GBU-12 Paveway II bombs, targeting Cambodian artillery positions. The use of Gripens has drawn scrutiny regarding Sweden's arms export policies.

3. Fixed-Wing Kamikaze Drones:



- Thailand utilized fixed-wing kamikaze drones, which are designed to plummet into targets and explode on impact. These drones were employed to enhance precision strikes and were noted for their effectiveness in providing tangible proof of tactical successes through recorded footage.

4. Artillery and Mortars:

- The Royal Thai Army conducted artillery attacks using 155mm Noricum GHN-45 howitzers from Austria, firing NR173/NR256 Extended Range - Full Bore (ERFB) projectiles. These were used to counter Cambodian positions on the border.



- Additionally, Thai forces employed 120mm M132A1 mortars with M293 High-Explosive (HE) mortar bombs and Singapore-made CAI HE mortar bombs for mortar attacks on Cambodian positions.

ส่งขนมหครกไปให้เขมรแดง



5. Recoilless Weapons:

- Thai soldiers used 82mm PW-78 recoilless weapons with extended-range ammunition, to target Cambodian positions. These weapons were part of ground-based engagements.



6. Small Arms and Light Machine Guns:

- Thai soldiers were reported to be armed with M16A4 assault rifles (U.S.-made) equipped with 40mm M203 under-barrel grenade launchers firing M433 HEDP grenades. Additionally, IWI Negev NG-5 light machine guns from Israel were used during engagements with Cambodian forces. These weapons were primarily used in ground operations to target Cambodian positions.



https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php/?story_fbid=1281899396617850&id=100043934059418

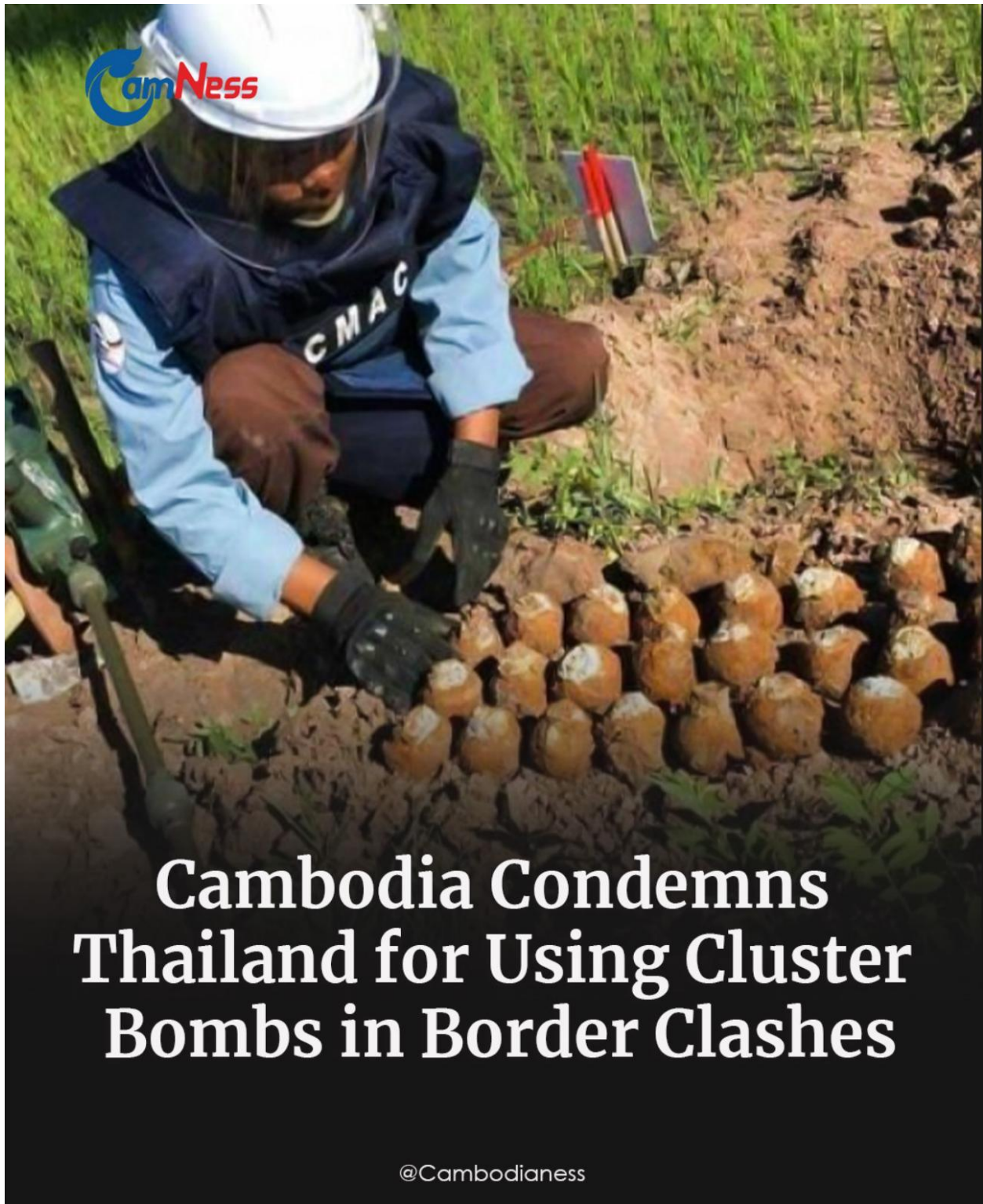
Today Monday 4th August 2025, at MK-84 bomb site in Tmordaun Village, Kokmoun Commune, Banteay Ampil District, Oddor Mean Chey Province, the bomb expert teams from CMAC, the Golden West and NPA (Norwegian People's Aid) have visited and assessed MK-84 bomb. The experts have identified this MK-84 manufacturing in 1996 with Lot No. IMI96GO15-11. The Resident Representative of the Golden West in Cambodia and former the United States marine corps, the EOD expert has also confirmed this MK-84 identification, manufacturing in 1996.

In this case, it is very clear that this MK-84 manufactured in 1996 thus there is no way to claim that this MK-84 was the bomb dropped during 1970-73 war era!.



7. Alleged Use of Cluster Munitions:

- Cambodia accused Thailand of using cluster munitions, which are banned under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (though neither country is a signatory). Thailand initially denied these claims but later acknowledged that such munitions “can be utilized when necessary” to enhance explosive destruction against military targets. The use of cluster munitions was condemned by Cambodia and human rights groups for their indiscriminate impact on civilian populations.



The conflict, centered around disputed border areas like the Ta Moan Thom and Preah Vihear temples, erupted on July 24, 2025, following months of tensions exacerbated by landmine incidents and diplomatic disputes. Thailand's use of advanced weaponry, including fighter jets and precision-guided munitions, marked a significant escalation compared to previous skirmishes. The Thai military justified these actions as retaliatory, claiming Cambodian forces initiated attacks with BM-21 rocket launchers and other heavy weapons, targeting civilian areas.

- Web References:

- Al Jazeera (,): Details Thai airstrikes and Cambodian rocket attacks, with casualty reports.
- Forbes (): Provides in-depth analysis of Thai air power, including F-16s, Gripens, and kamikaze drones.
- Reuters (,): Reports on F-16 deployments and cluster munition allegations.
- ABC News (): Discusses Thai Gripen jets and Cambodian rocket systems.
- The Diplomat (): Contextualizes the conflict and mentions Thai F-16 airstrikes.

- X Posts:

- @war_noir (,,,,,): Provides specific details on Thai weaponry, including mortars, artillery, small arms, and aerial bombs.