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AMBASSADE ROYALE DE THAILANDE
DELEGATION PERMANENTE DU
ROYAUME DE THAILANDE
AUPRES DE L'UNESCO
8, rue Greuze - 75116 PARIS

27 July B.E. 2568 (2025)

Dear Madame Director-General,

I have the honour to bring to your attention a matter of grave concern regarding the series of unprovoked and premeditated acts of aggression and armed attacks by Cambodian Armed Forces since 23 July 2025 and the consequences on Thai cultural heritage sites, which is in direct contravention of Cambodia's obligations under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention.

On 23 July 2025, the Cambodian Armed Forces fired heavy artillery, in particular the BM-21 multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), into Thai territory at Prasat Don Tuan in Si Saket Province. Following on the morning of 27 July 2025, the Cambodian Armed Forces launched an attack on Thai territory at Prasat Ta Khwai and Prasat Ta Muen Thom Archeological Site, located in Surin Province of Thailand. At Prasat Ta Muen Thom Archeological Site, shrapnel and vibration from explosions have damaged the sand stone structures. Certain parts of the monument have fallen to the ground.

Cambodia's unprovoked act of armed attacks constitutes a clear violation of Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of good neighbourliness and peaceful coexistence between States. Therefore, Thailand is compelled to exercise its inherent right of self-defence pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The self-defence measures are undertaken in strict compliance with international law, including the principles of international

Madame Audrey Azoulay,

Director-General,

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

UNESCO Headquarters,

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humanitarian law (IHL). These measures are limited in scope, proportionate to the threat, and are directed solely at neutralising the imminent danger posed by the Cambodian Armed Forces, with the utmost effort made to avoid harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure.

With regards to Cambodia's accusation on 24 July 2025 against the Royal Thai Armed Forces of damaging the surrounding area and the structures of the Preah Vihear Temple, none of the exchanges of fire between Thai and Cambodian Armed Forces took place anywhere near the Preah Vihear Temple. The closest sites of attacks are located around Phu Ma Khua, situated approximately 2 kilometres away from the Preah Vihear Temple. The Temple itself lies entirely outside the trajectory of any Thai military operations. The likelihood that bullets or shrapnel from gunfire exchanges at Phu Ma Khua would reach or cause significant damage to the Preah Vihear Temple is impossible.

In the spirit of the Convention, with a view to preserving the integrity of cultural heritage, Thailand calls upon Cambodia to immediately cease its indiscriminate attacks at cultural heritage sites and their immediate surroundings, in order to avoid exposing these sites to further destruction or damage. Thailand sincerely hopes Cambodia would act in good faith and uphold its international obligations to ensure the protection of cultural heritage in the shared interest of humanity.

With warm regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



(Sarun Charoensuwan)
Ambassador and Permanent Delegate