



Jan Kohout
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Presidency of the Council of the European Union

20 May 2009
Ref: B870

Dear Mr Kohout,

EU-ASEAN Summit

In view of the forthcoming EU–ASEAN Summit that you will be co-chairing on 27 and 28 May 2009, Amnesty International would like to bring to your attention some human rights concerns related to ASEAN countries which we hope you will take the opportunity to raise with your counterparts.

The guidelines on human rights dialogues highlight the EU's commitment to make use of every opportunity to raise human rights concerns with third countries at all levels. In particular, we would urge you to highlight EU concerns on:

- the detention conditions of prisoners and detainees; the imprisonment of protesters in the August/September 2007 anti-government demonstrations; and the imprisonment of Cyclone Nargis relief volunteers
- human rights abuses in the southern provinces; and the situation of Lao Hmong refugees and asylum-seekers in Thailand
- forced evictions in Cambodia
- the need to establish an ASEAN human rights mechanism.

You will find information on these four topics in the briefing provided with this letter.

We would welcome any feedback on discussions with the ASEAN countries on these important issues, and would be happy to provide any further information that would be useful.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Nicolas Beger
Director
Amnesty International EU Office

Dáša van der Horst
Director
Amnesty International Czech Republic

Cc: Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy
Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations
Riina Kionka, JavierSolana's Personal Representative on Human Rights
Seamus Gillespie, Head of Unit for South-East Asia, DG Relex
Heads of EC delegations in ASEAN countries