

Guide to Kampuchean organizations and personalities

KPNFL: Khmer People's National Front for Liberation (also known as the KPNFL or the FNLPK, in French: Front National de Liberation du Peuple Khmer) formally founded in October 1979 and led by former Premier Son Sann. The KPNFL has liberated several villages and distributes international aid from the Thai frontier with supply lines running deep into Kampuchea. Its military wing is commanded by Dien Del.

Son Sann: leader of the KPNLF, former governor of the National Bank of Kampuchea, ex-President of the National Assembly and many times a Minister in Sihanouk era cabinets (Finance; Economic Affairs; Foreign Affairs and Premier). A constitutional monarchist, Son Sann has former associates from the Democratic Party of the 1940s, Chhean Vam and Thon Ouk, as his Vice Presidents in the Front. He is 69 years old.

Dien Del: Commander of the KPNFL armed forces, formerly Commander of Lon Nol's 2nd Division, one of the most effective in the civil war. Del lived in New York, 1975-78. He is 48.

MOULINAKA: acronym for Mouvement de Liberation Nationale du Kampuchea. MOULINAKA is Sihanoukist in orientation although direct links with the Prince have been very few and very recent. Leadership of the group is currently disputed as a result of the recent death of Kong Sileah.

Kong Sileah: also known as Kong Silos, leader of MOULINAKA until his recent death from cerebral malaria at 45. Sileah was a naval officer under Sihanouk and Lon Nol. He was widely regarded as the only sereikar leader to be acting in a wholly altruistic and patriotic manner.

Sereikar: or sometimes, sereika. Khmer language term denoting Freedom or Freedom Movement. Khmer Serei or the Free Khmer movement arose in the 1940s in opposition to the Japanese occupation and French colonial regimes and probably took its name from de Gaulle's Free French movement. In the 1950s, the Khmer Serei were instruments of the American CIA which then attempted to overthrow the neutralist Sihanouk regime. Some Khmer Sereika movements along the Thai frontier today are the old Khmer

Serei remnants. They appear more interested in war profiteering than in organising a viable resistance to the Vietnamese occupation.

FULRO: acronym for Front Uni pour la lutte des Races Opprimees, originally established in the highlands of Vietnam and Kampuchea in the mid-1960s by the minority peoples in the region (Chams and Khmer Krom especially). FULRO lost momentum in the early 1970s and some of its constituent groups were penetrated by US military intelligence. Currently, a reorganized FULRO-Dega is providing military resistance to the SRV in Vietnam and inside Kampuchea along the Vietnamese frontier. It is supported by and appears to support Democratic Kampuchean activities in the East.

Democratic Kampuchea: the name of the country adopted by the revolutionary regime in 1976. Pot Pol was its first Premier. He was replaced in 1979 by Khieu Samphan. The armed forces of Democratic Kampuchea and the government are commonly referred to as Khmers Rouges, a pejorative term denoting "Khmer Commie" in Khmer. Sihanouk used this term freely in the 1960s to denounce anyone opposed to his personal leadership. Dislodged from Phnom Penh in 1979. DK is said to have 30-50,000 troops opposing the Vietnamese occupation.

Khmer Rouge: term initially employed by Prince Sihanouk to discredit dissidents during his rule. After 1970, it was used internationally in reference to guerrilla fighters who opposed the American-backed Lon Nol regime and who took power in 1975. (See Democratic Kampuchea.)



Khmer Rouge Guerrilla

Hem Kroesna: Sereika leader convicted of "treason" for "counter-revolutionary" activities in a Phnom Penh show trial in June accused of recruiting people to subvert the occupation regime and of taking orders from "traitors such as Son Sann, Diel Del and In Tam". Kroesna and 16 associates were given prison sentences ranging from 3 to 28 years.

Confederation of Khmer Nationalists: an alliance of several dozen refugee, exile and expatriate Kampuchean groups led by Prince Sihanouk. It has no military arm. It advocates the "empty seat" formula in the United Nations and in the Conference of Non-Aligned Nations so as to clear the way for a new coalition government led by the Prince. KPNFL and Khmer Sereika leaders are sceptical about the Prince's intentions while the Prince has made it clear that any alliance with them is not possible unless he is undisputed leader.

In Tam: General Secretary of Prince Sihanouk's Confederation of Khmer Nationalists. Tam was a prominent figure in the Sihanouk regime (1954-1970) but supported Lon Nol's military regime, known as the Khmer Republic, from 1970-1975. Tam is a popular figure among Khmers and widely considered to be a sincere nationalist.

"Khmer Soul": a nativist anti-Vietnam group frequently denounced by Phnom Penh radio. Khmer Soul groups do not appear to work with any of the Sereika groups and may, in fact, represent local efforts at armed resistance.

"Nationalists": an anti-Vietnamese resistance movement operating in central Kampuchea. Again, as in the case of the "Khmer Soul" groups, the Nationalists may be isolated local movements. The combined activities of the "Khmer Soul" and "Nationalists" are, however, a persistent concern of the occupation regime in Phnom Penh. They are denounced after armed clashes and are sometimes said to be in touch with or acting as front organizations for Democratic Kampuchea forces.

Heng Samrin: nominal president of the "People's Republic of Kampuchea", the Vietnamese occupation regime. Formerly, a military commander in the Eastern zone of Democratic Kampuchea, Samrin was one of the leaders of a military mutiny against Democratic Kampuchea's central leadership in 1978. He reluctantly agreed to collaborate with the Vietnamese after his mutiny was defeated. In the Spring of 1980, after approximately one and a half years of Vietnamese occupation, Samrin is believed to have been sent to Hanoi for several weeks of political re-education. Pen Sovan, Defence Minister in the PRK, is widely considered the occupation regime's "strong man", that is, he enjoys the apparent full confidence of the Vietnamese.

Ping Say: a long-time revolutionary communist associated with the anti-imperialist struggle and the Vietnamese in the first Indochina war (1946-1954) with the French. According to refugee reports reaching Thailand in 1980, Say was executed by the Vietnamese in August 1979 for refusing to support their intervention in and occupation of Kampuchea.