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# Amnesty International of the USA, Inc. Cambodia Witness Exhibit, 1981-1987 HR# 0003

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## **SUMMARY INFORMATION**

### **Creator**

Amnesty International of the USA: National Office  
David Hawk  
Joan Libby

### **Title and dates**

Amnesty International of the USA, Inc.: Cambodia Witness Exhibit, 1981-1987

### **Abstract**

The collection includes 52 photographs and a map that were part of the Cambodia Witness Exhibit (1983). It also includes the exhibit brochure, catalog list, and a file on the exhibit from its coordinator, Joan Libby. The photographs were taken by David Hawk during two trips to Cambodia in March 1981 and April 1982. The exhibit includes images of the prison at Tuol Sleng, prisoners (from existing files), survivors, mass graves, and the destruction of temples and churches.

### **Size**

1 Linear Foot (52 Photographs, 1 Map, and 2 Files in 3 Oversized Boxes; Text Panels in 1 Oversized Box)

### **Call number**

HR# 0003

## **Amnesty International of the USA, Inc. Cambodia Witness Exhibit, 1981-1987**

### **Location**

Columbia University  
Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
Butler Library, 6th Floor  
535 West 114th Street  
New York, NY 10027

### **Language(s) of material**

The material is in English.

### **History of the Amnesty International USA - Cambodia Witness Exhibit**

Amnesty International (AI), a non-governmental organization (NGO), was founded in 1961 to campaign for internationally recognized human rights. In its early years, the main focus of AI's campaigns was to free prisoners of conscience. Within a short time, its mandate expanded to include campaigning for prompt and fair trials for all political prisoners, to end extrajudicial executions and disappearances, and to abolish the death penalty, torture and other cruel treatment or punishment. The organization also works to bring perpetrators of these abuses to justice in accordance with international standards.

Amnesty International of the USA, Inc. (AIUSA) is the United States section of Amnesty International. AIUSA was incorporated in 1966. The section is governed by a Board of Directors. The work of the section is carried out through the national office, regional offices, networks, country specialists (co-groups), student groups and local groups.

The photographs for the Cambodia Witness Exhibit were taken by David Hawk during two trips to Cambodia in March 1981 and April 1982. Hawk had worked on Cambodian relief and refugee issues while based in Bangkok, Thailand during 1980-1981. Hawk later became the Director of the Cambodian Documentation Commission in the mid-1980s and directed the Cambodia Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights in the 1990s. He has also been involved in other human rights issues.

The Cambodia Witness Exhibit was organized and sponsored by Amnesty International USA, of which David Hawk is a former executive director (1974-1978), and was first shown in Washington D.C. in April 1983.

### **Description**

The bulk of the collection consists of both black & white and color photographs used in the Cambodia Witness Exhibit (1983).

The first series contains two paper files of material related to the exhibit. The first file contains the exhibit brochure and the catalog list of exhibit materials. The catalog list includes a number, title and caption for all exhibit items, except for three "optional" photographs of executed prisoners and a map of Cambodia. The second file contains documentation on the exhibit kept by its coordinator, Joan Libby. Other files on the Cambodia Witness Exhibit may be found in other record groups of the archives of Amnesty International of the USA, Inc.

## **Amnesty International of the USA, Inc. Cambodia Witness Exhibit, 1981-1987**

The second series contains the exhibit material. The photographs are filed using the titles, numbers and original order described by the exhibit's catalog list. The three "optional" exhibit photographs and the map are filed last.

The photographs document several subjects: Tuol Sleng (Images of the interior and exterior of the prison); prisoners (Images of entry photographs and of executed prisoners taken from existing records in Cambodia); survivors (Images include surviving prisoners, Buddhist monks and nuns, and Cham, an ethnic minority); mass graves and memorials (Images of sites at Cheung Ek, Tonle Bati, Ta Mon, and Siem Reap); and destroyed religious buildings (Images are predominantly of destroyed Buddhist temples. There is one image of the site of a destroyed Catholic cathedral).

The exhibit text panels will be scanned and copies included in the collection for use and reference.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is divided into two series:

[Series 1: Files on the Exhibit](#)

[Series 2: Exhibit Materials](#)

### **ACCESS AND USE**

#### **Access**

This collection is located on-site.

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information**

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from Amnesty International of the USA, Inc.

### **Related Materials**

There is additional material related to David Hawk's work and the Cambodia Witness Exhibit in the Cambodia Documentation Commission Records, 1985-1990, held by Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections at Cornell University.

### **ACQUISITION AND APPRAISAL**

#### **Provenance and Acquisition**

The material was originally deposited at the University of Colorado at Boulder by Amnesty International USA's National Office in the 1990s. The material was deposited with the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University in February 2006. The exhibit coordinator's file on the exhibit was donated to the library by Joan Libby in March 2007.

### **PROCESSING AND OTHER INFORMATION**

#### **Processing Information**

## **Amnesty International of the USA, Inc. Cambodia Witness Exhibit, 1981-1987**

This collection was processed by Catherine N. Carson. Finding aid written by Catherine N. Carson in June 2007.

### **Descriptive Rules Used:**

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Encoding:**

Finding aid written in English.

### **Preferred Citation**

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Amnesty International of the USA, Inc.: Cambodia Witness Exhibit, Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

### **Subject Headings**

These papers have been indexed in the Columbia University Library online catalog using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

Amnesty International USA  
Cambodia History 1975-1979  
Cambodia Politics and Government 1975-1979  
Extrajudicial executions--Cambodia  
Hawk, David R.  
Human Rights--Cambodia  
Mass Burials--Cambodia  
Memorials--Cambodia  
Party of Democratic Kampuchea  
Prisoners--Cambodia  
Prisons--Cambodia  
Tuol Sleng (Prison : Phnom Penh, Cambodia)

## Amnesty International of the USA, Inc. Cambodia Witness Exhibit, 1981-1987

### Series I: Files on the Exhibit, 1981-1987

#### **Flat Box 745**

- F. 1 Exhibit Brochure and Catalog List, 1983
- F. 2 Exhibit Coordinator's File on the Exhibit, 1981-1987

### Series II: Exhibit Materials, 1983

#### **Flat Box 746**

- F. 1 CAT #1--Angkor Wat
- F. 2 CAT #2--Cheung Ek Enclosure--Top Down View
- F. 3 CAT #3--Three Young Women
- F. 4 CAT #4--Blindfolded Skulls
- F. 5 CAT #5--Entry Photo
- F. 6 CAT #6--Barbed Wire
- F. 7 CAT #7--Tuol Sleng Exterior
- F. 8 CAT #8--Photograph of Painting
- F. 9 CAT #9--Entry Photo

#### **Flat Box 745**

- F. 3 CAT #10--Body on Stretcher
- F. 4 CAT #11--Tuol Sleng Hallway

#### **Flat Box 746**

- F. 10 CAT #12--Tuol Sleng Interior

#### **Flat Box 745**

- F. 5 CAT #13--Leg Irons
- F. 6 CAT #14--Cell Interior

#### **Flat Box 746**

- F. 11 CAT #15--Interrogation Room

#### **Flat Box 745**

- F. 7 CAT #16--Executed Prisoner

#### **Flat Box 746**

- F. 12 CAT #17--Mr. Ung Pech

#### **Flat Box 745**

- F. 8 CAT #18--Documents
- F. 9 CAT #19--Executed Prisoner 24-9-77
- F. 10 CAT #20--Executed Prisoner 11-10-77

#### **Flat Box 746**

- F. 13 CAT #21--Tonle Bati Mass Grave
- F. 14 CAT #22--Tonle Bati Detail

#### **Flat Box 745**

- F. 11 CAT #23--Mr. Mom Chhot

#### **Flat Box 746**

- F. 15 CAT #24--Tonle Bati, 1982
- F. 16 CAT #25--Cheung Ek Grave Pits
- F. 17 CAT #26--Cheung Ek, 1982
- F. 18 CAT #27--Cheung Ek Enclosure

**Amnesty International of the USA, Inc. Cambodia Witness Exhibit, 1981-1987**

F. 19 CAT #28--Ta Mon Mass Grave

**Flat Box 745**

F. 12 CAT #29--Mrs. Ieng Sopheong Survivor

**Flat Box 747**

F. 1 CAT #30--Kampot Grave  
F. 2 CAT #31--Siem Reap Mass Grave  
F. 3 CAT #32--Cham Survivors  
F. 4 CAT #33--Buddhist Survivors  
F. 5 CAT #34--Ampil Bey Destroyed Temple  
F. 6 CAT #35--Monks Quarters Destroyed

**Flat Box 745**

F. 13 CAT #36--Catholic Cathedral Site

**Flat Box 747**

F. 7 CAT #37--Cham Survivors Seated  
F. 8 CAT #38--Destroyed Temple Takeo  
F. 9 CAT #39--Destroyed Library

**Flat Box 745**

F. 14 CAT #40--Monk and Buddha Head

**Flat Box 747**

F. 10 CAT #41--Buddha Head  
F. 11 CAT #42--Tep Rang Sey Temple/Warehouse

**Flat Box 745**

F. 15 CAT #43--Pichey Udong Temple/Destroyed

**Flat Box 747**

F. 12 CAT #44--Mr. Heng Chor and Family  
F. 13 CAT #45--Buddhist Nuns  
F. 14 CAT #46--Tuol Sleng  
F. 15 CAT #47--Prisoner Photos on Wall Tuol Sleng  
F. 16 CAT #48--Cheung Ek Enclosure/Skulls  
F. 17 CAT #49--Tonle Bati, 1982  
F. 18 Optional Exhibit Photograph--Executed Prisoner

**Flat Box 745**

F. 16-17 Optional Exhibit Photograph--Executed Prisoner

**Flat Box 747**

F. 19 Map--Vietnam; Laos and Cambodia (This map was framed over a duplicate copy of an exhibit photograph. It is not listed in the Catalog List.)

**Box 4**

Exhibit Text Panels