



25 July 2025

**Public Statement by Migrant Working Group (MWG)**

**"Stop violence against Cambodian migrant workers – Oppose the use of force against civilian population and protect human dignity of all lives"**

Pursuant to the violent conflict at the Thai-Cambodian border and the reported clashes between military forces of the two countries and how Thai civilians in certain areas have been affected by the Cambodia's armed forces' offensive, the Migrant Working Group (MWG) offers our deepest condolences to the affected families and would like to make our stand clear that **"Migrant Working Group (MWG) does not agree with the use of violence against civilians regardless of their affiliation."** The use of armed or military forces against unarmed civilians leads to no solution. Rather, it will only exacerbate the pain and instigate the divisiveness among people of the two nations. **We reiterate that many Cambodian migrant workers who live and work in Thailand have nothing to do with the decisions made by the Cambodia's armed forces or government.** They are simply ordinary citizens who came to work diligently in Thailand to provide for their families and want to live here peacefully. Meanwhile, if the workers feel unsafe, they may decide to quit their jobs or return to their country. This will leave the Thai industrial sector to face a sudden shortage of labour.

In the past few days, MWG has received many reports about the Cambodian migrant workers being subjected to intimidation, physical assault, and discrimination in certain sectors in Thai society. The situation is quite concerning. MWG therefore would like to share our concern and plead to all sectors in society as follows;

1 . We do not agree with the use of any form violence against civilian population including the use of arms against people living in the border area, or the physical attack against migrant workers in urban area, both of which constitute a breach of basic human rights and has no place in a society which respects humanity.

2. Distinguish between the "people" and the "power that be", as migrant workers do not represent either the Cambodia's armed forces or government. By physically attacking them, it would create repetitive injustice and would only perpetuate the cycle of hatred.

3. May the Thai state take the following actions promptly;

3.1 Issue statements to affirm in principle the protection of the people and the migrant workers, and put in place measures to effectively enforce the laws to deal with the arising cases of physical attack against the people and migrant workers in Thailand

3.2 Monitor, review and take legal action against those who inflict violence against the people and migrant workers

3.3 Institute grievance mechanisms to receive complaints from affected workers.

4 . Seek cooperation from the media and the public to ensure news reporting and communication with responsibility and refrain from perpetuating discourses that harbor hatred or racial stereotype



MWG opposes the use of military forces against civilians in both countries. **All people in Thailand, Thai or Cambodian, should equally afford protection based on human rights and laws. And let's hope this conflict shall not escalate and lead to the heightened hatred among people of the two nations.** Rather, this should serve as a turning point to prompt us to explore ways to live peacefully together based on mutual understanding and human dignity.

With respect,

Migrant Working Group (MWG)

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