



**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**  
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

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Geneva, 30 December 2013

Dear Special Rapporteurs,

Referring to your letter dated 9 December 2013, requesting information concerning the missing of Mr. Sombath Somphone, I would like to provide clarifications as follows:

1. On the alleged information in your letter that following the missing of Mr. Sombath Somphone on 15 December 2012, a couple of days later, he and his car were seen inside a police compound and then two days later he was reportedly taken to a military camp outside Vientiane and a week later was moved to an unknown location, I would like to confirm that this alleged information is not accurate because after receiving the report on his missing, the authorities concerned had notified all police headquarters across the country, on 17 December 2012 by telephone and on 18 January 2013 in writing, to search for Mr. Sombath Somphone. Those police headquarters then had reported back that they have not found the missing person.
2. On the details of the investigation into the incident, I would like to confirm that, in the past, the authorities concerned have conducted a thorough investigation and could collect some information that may be relevant to the missing of Mr. Sombath Somphone and the authorities concerned have conducted 3 briefings on the results of the investigation for the media and all interested parties. At present, the authorities concerned are continuing to seriously conduct the investigation.
3. On putting up poster about the missing person in Vientiane, the authorities concerned informed Ms. Shui Meng Ng that putting up posters in public places in the Capital should follow the Notification of the Mayor of Vientiane Capital which provides that any person who intends to do so should submit a request to the relevant body of Vientiane Capital administration to ensure the beauties and tidiness in the Capital City. In addition, the authorities concerned also informed Ms. Shui Meng Ng that she could post through the media and in the past she has a number of times posted in newspapers and other media means.

**Mr. Frank La Rue,**

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

**Mr. Maina Kiai,**


Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

**Ms. Margaret Sekaggya,**

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

4. On the prosecution of perpetrators, I would like to inform you that at present the authorities concerned are continuing to conduct the investigation into the missing case. If perpetrators are identified they will be brought to justice in accordance with the law.

Please accept, Special Rapporteurs, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thongphane Savanphet', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Thongphane Savanphet**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to UNOG