

## UNPO Secretary General Condemns Violence Against Hmong

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### Violent Crackdown against Hmong by the Lao and Vietnamese Military Forces Requires Urgent Attention

Brussels, 5 October 2012 – UNPO Secretary General Marino Busdachin condemns the recent violence perpetrated by the Lao and Vietnamese military forces against the Hmong people. Laos must end its violent campaign to cleanse the country of Hmong people on the basis of their ethnicity.

President Chong Lor Her of the Hmong Chao Fa reports that the Lao and Vietnamese military forces are cooperating in their violent efforts to decimate the Hmong people. On 25 and 26 September 2012, soldiers came from Moungcha and Xiangkhouang, firing heavy weapons in the Hmong-inhabited region of Phou Bia Mountain. The Hmong have been able to offer minimal and unsuccessful resistance to the powerful militaries of Laos and Vietnam.

As a result of the violent attacks, the Hmong have seen their food sources cut off and destroyed. The Congress of World Hmong People has expressed the need for humanitarian assistance to the region, particularly medicine, and is concerned about the continued safety and security of women, children and the elderly.

The UNPO condemns the actions of the Government of Vietnam in supplying the Lao military with both weapons and soldiers and demands an end to continued efforts on the part of the Government of Laos to cleanse northern Laos of its approximately 300,000 Hmong inhabitants.

UNPO Secretary General Marino Busdachin calls on the international community to respond to the severe violations of human rights and international law being perpetrated by the Lao and Vietnamese governments against the Hmong people.

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