
Thailand Cambodia Agree Ceasefire After Deadly Border Clashes



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Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to an immediate ceasefire, bringing an end to nearly three weeks of deadly border clashes that killed dozens of people and forced close to one million

civilians to flee their homes. The ceasefire took effect at noon local time on Saturday and applies to all disputed areas along the shared border.

The agreement was announced following a meeting of the General Border Committee, jointly chaired by senior defense officials from both countries. According to an official statement, both sides committed to halting all armed hostilities and pledged to avoid unprovoked firing, troop advances, or movements toward opposing positions.

Thai military officials confirmed that the situation along the border, particularly in Sa Kaeo province, has stabilized since the ceasefire came into force. The truce covers military installations, civilian populations, and critical infrastructure across the border region.

Despite the agreement, an incident was reported shortly before the ceasefire took effect when a Thai soldier was injured after stepping on a landmine during an operation in Si Sa Ket province. No further military incidents have been reported since the ceasefire began.

Under the terms of the agreement, Thailand will return 18 Cambodian soldiers currently in custody after the ceasefire has been maintained for a continuous period of 72 hours. Both countries also agreed to maintain existing troop deployments, with no additional patrols or movements toward each other's positions as part of confidence-building measures.

The joint statement emphasized that the ceasefire does not affect existing border demarcation claims. However, both sides agreed to resume survey and demarcation work through the Joint Boundary Commission as soon as possible, prioritizing areas where civilians live and ensuring the safety of joint teams, including protection from landmines.

The agreement also allows displaced civilians to return home safely and with dignity, restoring access to livelihoods disrupted by the fighting.

Earlier on Saturday, Cambodian officials accused Thai forces of heavy artillery shelling and airstrikes near civilian areas during the final hours of the conflict. Thailand has not issued an official response to these allegations.

Diplomatic efforts are continuing alongside the ceasefire. Cambodia's foreign minister is expected to attend a tripartite meeting with Thai and Chinese counterparts in China to discuss the situation and regional stability. Thailand has confirmed its participation in the talks.

Regional leaders welcomed the ceasefire, describing it as a necessary step to protect civilians and prevent further escalation. ASEAN mechanisms, including observer verification and direct military communication channels, are expected to support implementation of the agreement.

The latest clashes, which began in early December, were among the deadliest in years, adding to a long history of sporadic violence linked to unresolved border disputes between the two neighboring countries.