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# Holloway not 'named' from Cambodia

BY JASON BARBER  
AND MATTHEW GRAINGER

FIVE words uttered in the Australian Parliament — "John Holloway is a pedophile" — have stunned both the accused and Cambodian child welfare groups.

"This came as a complete and utter shock and had nothing to do with us," said Tony Culnane, who runs a World Vision street kid center in Phnom Penh, of the allegation which rocked Australia.

"We didn't name names," he said of information which local NGOs had earlier sent to the Australian government about alleged Australian pedophiles in Cambodia.

Meanwhile Holloway, the former Australian ambassador now a top adviser to the Cambodian Foreign Ministry, says his reputation has been tainted forever.

Holloway — who refused to talk to the *Phnom Penh Post* — told the *Sydney Morning Herald* that his accuser, backbench MP Ken Aldred, had no evidence.

"His statement regarding me is strictly untrue. I am angered because parliamentary privilege enables him to slander innocent citizens without any repercussions."

"This is a travesty of justice and an abuse of free speech," said Holloway, 52.

But, he believes, the damage is done. No matter how many times he denies the allegation, it will be believed, and his future career has evaporated overnight.

Aside from sensational headlines, all Aldred has won at home is the anger of both his own Opposition leadership and government ministers.

Aldred had a big week — prior to naming Holloway as one of 20 diplomats who were pedophiles, the MP claimed Australia's chief diplomat Michael Costello had received \$1 million from an Israeli secret agent with links to South American drug lords.

That statement led Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans to describe Aldred's allegation as "the lowest form of political and human behavior."

*"Even when I'm exonerated I believe these accusations will still cause hesitation."*

Aldred's "pedophile" speech, however, landed him in hotter water. His own party — taken by surprise by his claims — called them regrettable.

The Australian attorney-general, Mr Lavarch, said Aldred's comments were the worst breach of Parliamentary privilege he had seen in 17 years.

But for all that Holloway's reputation has been damaged — and perhaps, ironically, that of Aldred — there is greater concern about the possible repercussions for attempts to track down pedophiles.

Some child welfare workers in Cambodia have expressed concern that the flurry of headlines will push the child sex trade underground, making it harder to keep tabs on. Others, however, say it is high time that the issue was thrust under public, and governmental, attention.

Regardless, child care workers deny any responsibility for the claims made in the Australian Parliament.

Aldred's June 5 allegations followed the sending of a confidential request for help to deal with pedophiles in Cambodia to the

Australian Federal Police (AFP).

Both Australian Justice Minister Duncan Kerr and World Vision Australia have said the request was for an investigation into Australians involved in organized child-sex activities in Cambodia.

Tony Culnane, however, maintains the request was merely for advice on how to gather evidence against pedophiles, and for possible assistance to the Cambodian police.

He says the request came from about 30 UN and private agencies making up the Child Welfare Group in Cambodia, which recently began monitoring known child prostitution pick-up places in Phnom Penh.

"We are not following individuals, diplomats, businessmen or visitors. We're just going to places to watch," Culnane said of the work.

But the agencies wanted to know whether their observations could be used as evidence under Australia's Child Sex Tourism Act, which allows Australians involved in pedophilia abroad to be prosecuted at home.

"We asked the Australian Federal Police 'Can you send somebody to give us some advice on what does our observations mean in this context? Are they valid?'"

"We've had no formal response yet. Now we don't know whether we will, given what's happened."

The AFP was also asked whether they would be willing to help train Cambodian police officers if a child-protection police unit were established in Phnom Penh.

Culnane says Holloway, or others, were not named to the AFP.

"We didn't tell them the pick-up points. We didn't name names...we asked for technical advice... We're not gunning for Australians, we're trying to work out a way we can protect children."

In Australia, however, NCCs have said they want an AFP investigation into Australian pedophiles.

A World Vision spokeswoman was quoted as saying an investigation was requested into "Australian expatriates, diplomats and tourists" involved in pedophilia.

Another agency, End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism said: "We have information that prominent Australians and foreign dip



**JOHN HOLLOWAY**  
Reputation damaged by "travesty of justice". Local child welfare groups say they had nothing to do with his naming in Parliament.

lomatics have been involved in these activities and we are asking the government to investigate."

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs has meanwhile started an internal inquiry into allegations diplomats have been involved with pedophilia while on overseas service.

The allegations are long-standing — some were raised as long ago as 1988, and others more recently.

Two months ago, a Philippines senator alleged that two serving Australian diplomats, and a former one, had molested children while posted to Manila several years ago.

Meanwhile the only Australian diplomat to have been publicly named in Australia, John Holloway, fears his career is over.

"Who's going to give someone accused of this any responsible public job?" he told the *Herald*.

Holloway, who is about to finish a year's contract with the Cambodian Foreign Ministry and return to Canberra, said: "The government has to decide whether I'm suitable for any of the senior posts now available."

"Even when I'm exonerated I believe that these accusations will still cause hesitation."

The former ambassador, who is divorced with five adult children, said he found pedophilia abhorrent.

"I don't believe it is a valid form of sexuality. I believe it is a crime. As someone who has raised five children I can only say there is nothing acceptable about forcing sexuality on children."

FILE / SUBJECT  
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From Tue Apr 30 14:06:12 1996  
Date: Tue, 30 Apr 1996 08:01:49 -0700 (PDT)  
From: Houn-Nam Ing  
To:  
Subject: [camnews] News: April 30, 1996

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Australian diplomat in court over child sex charge  
Reuters News  
29 Apr 22:41

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^ Australian diplomat in court over child sex charge@  
CANBERRA, April 30 (Reuter) - One of Australia's most senior diplomats and a former ambassador to Cambodia, John Holloway, was on Tuesday ordered to face a committal hearing on a charge of having sex with a child in Cambodia. Magistrate Michael Somes adjourned the case to August 19 when the hearing will decide if Holloway, 53, should stand trial.

Holloway, who also served as a senior adviser to the Cambodian government, has been charged with one count of having sex with a child under 16 between July 14 and September 30, 1994, in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh.

He is the second Australian to be charged under a 1994 law which allows Australians to be prosecuted at home for having sex with children overseas.

The charge carries a maximum jail term of 17 years.

Holloway did not appear in court and submitted no formal plea.

But his lawyer, Richard Refshauge, issued a statement outside the court denying the charge.

"My client categorically denies the charge and proposes to defend it strenuously," Refshauge said in the statement.

"He believes the charge has been motivated by disaffected persons with whom he had unfortunate dealings when serving his country with distinction as a senior ambassador," the statement added.

Somes suppressed any details which might identify the child.

No further details of the allegations were presented to the court.

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Cambodia believe Khmer Rouge near capital  
Reuters News  
30 Apr 0:15

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PHNOM PENH, April 30 (Reuter) - Cambodian police believe jungle-based Khmer Rouge guerrillas may have infiltrated areas around the capital Phnom Penh, a newspaper said on Tuesday.

Chen Sary, deputy police commander of the northern Phnom Penh suburb of

Russei Keo, told The Cambodia Daily that an estimated 50 rebels had been moved from battlefronts in the northwest to districts just north of the capital.

The Maoist group, fighting a low-level war with the Phnom Penh government elected in U.N.-organised polls in May 1993, has mostly restricted its guerrilla activities to certain provinces and areas under its control in the north and northwest of the country.

"We are worried that (guerrillas) occupying this area might be thinking about shelling Phnom Penh or attacking the gasoline storage facility along Route Five," Chen Sary said, referring to a key road linking Phnom Penh to the northwest.

Police were not immediately available for comment on the report.

The newspaper reported that some 150 police had been deployed to search for the suspected infiltrators.

A police official in the Ponhea Leu district just north of the capital was quoted as saying police were searching for rebels believed to be hiding in the forest.

"It is true the Khmer Rouge have infiltrated this district, but we have not yet made any arrests," he said.

An army officer believed the guerrillas could be planning to take advantage of the fact that many soldiers had been moved from the capital to frontline positions in the northwest.

The Khmer Rouge, who ruled Cambodia by terror from 1975-79, have fought the government since reneging on a 1991 peace accord and rejecting the results of the U.N.-run polls.

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Cambodia to investigate reports of massacre

Reuters News

30 Apr 2:07

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^ Cambodia to investigate reports of massacre@

PHNOM PENH, April 30 (Reuter) - Cambodian human rights groups are expected to send investigators to a southwestern province on Wednesday to investigate reports of a mass murder.

A member of the LICADHO agency said a sub-committee of local rights groups had on Tuesday questioned reporters of a Khmer-language newspaper, Globe, which last week said 22 bodies had been found in a mass grave on a Koh Kong province island.

She said the committee was expected to send at least two investigators and "they'll probably be leaving for Koh Kong tomorrow (Wednesday)."

The LICADHO worker was unable to give any details, but The Cambodia Daily newspaper on Tuesday cited Interior Ministry officials as saying the victims were believed to have been killed and buried on February 22.

"Twenty-two bodies were discovered in a mass grave on Turtle Island in Koh Kong," it quoted an unidentified senior ministry official as saying.

The victims had their hands bound.

Interior Ministry spokesman Heng Hak said an investigation was under way with the help of Koh Kong officials into reports of the killing in February of eight or nine alleged thieves.

Recent reports said the men had been caught by villagers and apparently murdered on an isolated island, but it was not known if there was a link between the two cases.

Koh Kong, which is difficult to reach by road, has developed a reputation as a wild frontier zone and centre for illegal logging and drug trafficking, while the provincial capital near Thailand has become a centre for prostitution and sex trafficking.

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Cambodian air force plane crashes, crew survive  
Reuters News  
30 Apr 5:36

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^ Cambodian air force plane crashes, crew survive@  
PHNOM PENH, April 30 (Reuter) - One plane of Cambodia's small air force crashed on Tuesday but the two crew survived, a senior officer said.

The propellor-driven Britten-Norman Islander crash-landed on its way from the northwest city of Battambang to the isolated northern province of Preah Vihear, the officer told Reuters, asking not to be named.

"The plane's damaged, the crew's okay," he said.

He gave no details on the nature of the plane's mission to Preah Vihear, where the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction has an important base on the border with Thailand.

The Cambodian air force can muster a few ancient MiG fighters, some Czech fighter trainers, some spotter planes, a few more propellor-driven planes and some helicopters.

Government authorities in Battambang are worried that they will face severe shortages of fuel and other supplies if several bridges destroyed by the Khmer Rouge are not repaired before the rainy season comes.

The rebels have destroyed five main bridges along the key Route Five, linking Battambang and Phnom Penh. While most vehicles can detour into the fields this will become impossible for big trucks when the rains come at the end of May.

The city, Cambodia's second largest, was hit by power cuts due to a lack of diesel fuel last week, Battambang power station director Lum Suon told Reuters at the weekend.

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