



For Immediate Release

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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Civil Society Requests Expansion of More Charges in the Current Case 002 Trials

Given the recent delays in Case 002, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) faces ever mounting pressure to bring to a juridical close the three year, eight month, and twenty-day period of the Khmer Rouge regime, which was responsible for the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians. The passing of Ieng Sary and the dismissal of Ieng Thirith for mental unfitness—and the advanced age and poor health of the remaining two Khmer Rouge defendants (Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan)—make imperative the need for an efficient and exhaustive decision on the liability of Khmer Rouge era atrocities. The deaths of Pol Pot, Ta Mok, and now Ieng Sary, have represented a loss of opportunity for survivors to attain justice and establish a historical, judicial record of the crimes.

Currently, the tribunal's focus on the involuntary evacuation of Phnom Penh and the forced transfer of civilians is important for the historical basis of the crimes but does not fully attend to the regime's most severe human rights abuses, crimes and violations. Given that this trial may be the only opportunity for survivors in Cambodia and in the diaspora to see justice, the Applied Social Research Institute of Cambodia (ASRIC), the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC) and Victims Association of Democratic Kampuchea (KsaemKsan) make an impassioned request to expand the charges to move beyond the early days of the regime and instead encompass the most egregious violations alleged against the remaining defendants. By considering other charges (inclusive of genocide and forced marriage), the ECCC would be better suited to render a meaningful ruling for survivors, who have waited almost four decades for justice, before the remaining senior leaders have passed and the opportunity for justice is closed.

It is therefore in the spirit of expanded justice that ASRIC, CHRAC and KsaemKsan would like to call the Trial Chamber to prioritize the most serious crimes alleged against the remaining defendants, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, in the current trials of Case 002.

About ASRIC: Founded by medical sociologist Dr. Leakhena Nou, the Applied Social Research Institute of Cambodia (ASRIC) is the only not-for-profit organization of its kind devoted to restoring, distributing, and implementing procedural justice for Cambodian American victims and survivors of the Khmer Rouge. The organization has grown considerably since it began under the auspices of New York University's Asian/Pacific/American Institute. It is now

a leading independent organization dedicated to giving voice to Cambodian genocide survivors. For more information on ASRIC, please visit www.asricjustice.com

About CHRAC: The Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC) is a coalition of 21 NGOs and associations working in the field of human rights, democracy and legal aid in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Since the start of the ECCC, CHRAC has been working in closed coordination among its members (ADHOC, KID, LAC, CDP, KKKHRA, CJR) to provide support of the victims participating in the ECCC as civil parties. For more information about CHRAC, please visit: www.chrac.org

About Victims Association of Democratic Kampuchea (KsaemKsan): The Association of Victims of Democratic Kampuchea (Ksaem Ksan), or the Ksaem Ksan Association for short, is one of the first Victims Associations in Cambodia. Ksaem Ksan Association was created to give a unified and strong voice to the victims. The idea of creating the Association emerged when the ECCC on August 27 decided without notice that civil parties in Case 001 had no right to question character witnesses in the Duch's trial. At that time, 28 civil parties sent a letter to the judges, signed by all 28 civil parties, protesting that decision and boycotted attendance at the trial's proceedings. On September 13, 2009, 33 civil parties from ECCC Cases No. 001 and 002 gathered at the premises of the NGO ADHOC and decided to create the Ksem Ksan Association. For more information, please visit: <http://ksaemksan.info>

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