

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

**THE CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL MONITOR**  
**Outreach to Angkor University, Siem Reap province**

*"With or without justice, the Khmer Rouge Tribunal can bring [a] sense of closure for the victims"*  
Tithsothy Dianorin, Vice Rector

Located in northwestern Cambodia, Siem Reap province is home to hundreds of ancient temples including the World Heritage site of Angkor Wat. Unfortunately, with decades-long civil war and the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s, most of the cultural heritages in Cambodia were abandoned while some others were looted. The Khmer Rouge communists occupied most of the temples, including Angkor Wat, in as early as 1973, which left the temples unprotected and unpreserved. Even after the regime collapsed, the Khmer Rouge guerrillas remained in control over some cultural sites. Looting of cultural property was one of the main issues during the civil war in Cambodia in the 1980s.



Broken sculpture and bas-relief in Angkor Wat

On January 17, 2014, the Cambodia Tribunal Monitor (CTM) Project of the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) travelled to Angkor University that is one of the 10 institutions providing higher education in Siem Reap. The workshop focused on the history of Democratic Kampuchea, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, and the resources provided by the CTM website. The CTM hopes to use this workshop as a platform for disseminating information on the history of the Khmer Rouge, the trials of Khmer Rouge leaders, and research tools available for accessing these important topics. It is through this awareness and

greater access to resources that the CTM Project hopes to preserve memory and enhance the access to (and understanding of) justice.



Angkor University's students and staff listen to the presentation

The workshop was held from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with the participation of 110 foundation-year students. To start with, Vice Rector of the university Mr. Tithsothy Dianorin gave an opening remark describing his personal experience during the Khmer Rouge era. His family was evacuated from Phnom Penh city to Battambang province. Many of his relatives were forced to work hard and executed. To him, "With or without justice, the Khmer Rouge Tribunal can bring [a] sense of closure for the victims".

After a short documentary film screening featuring Tuol Sleng prison or S-21 in 1979, Ms. Chea Phalla presented on the Khmer Rouge history starting from the early stage of the creation of Cambodian communist movement to the Khmer Rouge regime. Students tentatively took notes and listened to the presentation.

After a short break, Ms. Kim Sovannpany discussed about the Cambodia Tribunal Monitor website resources in which students can access to reports on hearings, trial footage, commentaries, video reaction of people towards the trial, and many other relevant topics.

Lastly, Mr. Chan Prathna discussed about the on-going development at the ECCC focusing on the ECCC's structures, jurisdictions, trial of Kaing Guech Iev alias Duch in Case 001, and trial of Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan in 002. He also indicated about the future judgment of Case 002/1 and the beginning of Case 002/2.

The followings are questions from students:

- 1) Why did the USA cut off support to Lon Nol in 1973?

- 2) How did Lon Nol's regime survive until 1975?
- 3) Why did Cambodia ask for help from the Vietnamese to fight against the Khmer Rouge?
- 4) Which country supported Khmer Rouge to fight against Lon Nol?
- 5) How did Lon Nol overthrow King Sihanouk in 1970?
- 6) Why does the Khmer Rouge Tribunal only try the leaders [of the KR regime] and not other foreign countries?
- 7) How does the Khmer Rouge Tribunal provide justice for the society?
- 8) What is Angkar?
- 9) How much money has been spent on the Khmer Rouge Tribunal?
- 10) What countries financed the Khmer Rouge Tribunal?
- 11) What are the difficulties in trying the Khmer Rouge leaders?
- 12) What are the nationalities of foreign judges at the ECCC?
- 13) How would the case be closed if the accused does not answer questions raised in court?

### **Reflection:**

Mey Vuthai: It is important for youth to learn about the Khmer Rouge history as well as the tribunal because it could help prevent this kind of ferocious crimes from happening again.

Hong Sokhorn: The workshop reminded me of human rights abuses confronted by the people living under the Khmer Rouge regime, roles of the ECCC in providing justice for the people of Cambodia.

Rapporteur: Chea Phalla

CTM Team: Kim Sovannandy, Chan Prathna, Dy Socheata, Ouch Makara, and Teav Sarakmonin

*Funded by United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center and J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation. Supported by Northwestern University School of Law, Center for International Human Rights and the Office of Global Programs, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL), U.S. Department of State with core support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID). (2013-2014).*