

Duch's Testimony against the Khmer Rouge Leaders

DC-Cam Outreach Report from the Villages -- March 20, 2012

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The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) is now moving forward with a critical development. Case 001 against Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, concluded when the defendant was sentenced to life in prison by the Supreme Court Chamber on February 3, 2012. In tandem, the ECCC has opened many trial hearings in Case 002 against the three most senior surviving Khmer Rouge (KR) leaders since late 2011. However, the ECCC has encountered challenges because the three accused-Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, and Khieu Samphan-have not been cooperative with the Court. The trial for this week focuses on the Democratic Kampuchea (DK) structure and administrative system. After his conviction by the Supreme Court, Duch was again called on by the Court to attend a cross examination in the court room attended by about 500 people. His testimony may shed light on topics to be examined in this hearing.

The Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)'s Living Documents project took this opportunity to reach out to the population on the outskirts and provinces surrounding the Capital City to update information on the recent development of ECCC. Seeing this event as important and historic, the project took on a new approach and brought live broadcastings of the proceedings to the local population.

On March 20, 2012, DC-Cam, in collaboration with local communities, organized live screenings of Duch's testimonies against the accused in Case 002 at five different locations around Phnom Penh, including the following:

1. Cham Muslim Mosque at Boeng Kak Lake, Phnom Penh
2. Community Hall at Kilometer 8, Russey Keo District, Phnom Penh
3. Chhvaing Commune, Ponhea Leu District, Kandal Province
4. Preah Nipean Commune, Korng Pisey District, Kampong Speu Province
5. The Royal University of Agriculture



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The main purpose of this activity is to encourage the public to participate in the legal process of the ECCC and hopefully achieve a sense of justice, as well as generate discussion on the Khmer Rouge history. Along with the screening, the team distributes DC-Cam's publications, including the monthly Khmer magazine "*Searching for the Truth*", booklet *Genocide: The Importance of Case 002*, and DC-Cam's new bulletin *Observation*, which summaries the ECCC's daily proceedings.

Each team received an attendance of about twenty to thirty participants, except for the screening at the Royal University of Agriculture which received about 100 participants, most of whom are students. The overall activities for the live screening included introducing the purpose of the screening to the audience, explaining contents of the proceedings, generating a discussion related to Duch and his testimony after the live screening, and conducting individual interviews for reactions toward, and concerns about, the ECCC's proceedings. The reports from each location follow.

Live Screening at Boeng Kak Mosque

One of the live screenings of Duch's appearance as a witness in Case 002 was conducted at Boeng Kak Mosque, Phnom Penh. Due to the mosque being demolished and reconstructed near the Boeng Kak Lake development area, the location of the live screening was conducted at a nearby student hostel which houses fifty-six female Muslim students and sixty Muslim male students. The female student hostel is managed and supported by the Cambodian Muslim Student Association,

while the male student hostel is operated by the Cambodia Islamic Development (CAMID) institute. Both hostels provide a reasonable accommodation and language training program for poor Muslim students from provinces across Cambodia. About ninety percent of these students attend undergraduate education at Norton University which has made an arrangement with the Cambodian Muslim Development Foundation to provide limited and general scholarships to Muslim students.

The live screening shows Duch answering the Cambodian co-prosecutor's questions regarding Duch's background, involvement in the communist party of Kampuchea, and his management of the notorious S-21 Prison in which 12,273 people were incarcerated, tortured, and executed over a period of about three years. Duch talked about his experience as a prison chief of M-13 and M-99 prisons before becoming chief of DK's central and secretive S-21 Prison. Duch testified that he did his best to fulfill his obligation as leader of this prison. In judging the Case 001 over Duch's crimes, the ECCC sentenced him to life imprisonment.

During the live screening, a total of twenty students listened to Duch, looked at his behavior, and pondered some of the most difficult questions about the Khmer Rouge genocide. While we expected more participants, only twenty students were able to attend the live screening because of conflicting schedules with the students' classroom program and the fact that the ECCC keeps changing Duch's scheduled time and date of appearance.

Audience Discussion Topics

What is this Hearing About?

The majority of the students did not know that this hearing was for Case 002. Only two persons said that this hearing was for Case 002 and knew the names of the four former Khmer Rouge leaders indicted for this case.



Who is Duch?

Five students said he was chief of S-21, while the rest did not know him well.

What was Duch's Sentence?

Only two students knew that Duch was sentenced to life imprisonment while about ten students said that he was sentenced to thirty-five years in prison. The students probably did not know about the appeal judgment which was handed down after the first verdict.

Are You Satisfied with the Sentence?

Upon being told that Duch is now sentenced to life imprisonment, the students pondered the question of balance of crimes and judgment. Duch's crimes were crimes against humanity and grave violations of the Geneva Convention. Ninety percent of the students said they are satisfied with the verdict because a life sentence is the maximum anyone can get for serious crimes in Cambodia. A Muslim student named Tory who is from Stung District, Duch's home district, agrees that it is enough. His sentence will serve to deter future generations from committing crimes.

However two female students believe that a life sentence is a bit too harsh for Duch. They cited the following reasons: 1) Duch is now too old to serve such a long prison term; 2) Duch was under orders from his superiors.

Should Duch be Placed in Prey Sar like other Inmates or in a Special Prison?

Ninety percent of the students want Duch to be put in Prey Sar prison with other criminals in the prison. They cited the following reasons: Prey Sar is nowhere near the condition of S-21; It is not right to separate him from the rest of the prisoners because Duch's crimes are more serious than many inmates in Prey Sar; Duch should learn what it is like to be in a difficult prison, although not as difficult as S-21 as there is not a constant threat of execution at Prey Sar.

Two female students, or ten percent, said that they want Duch segregated from the other prisoners. Rosiah, one of the two, said that she pities Duch after looking at him at the court. She said that even when Duch is punished at Prey Sar, his victims will not come back. So she wants a separate prison for him. Another student named Sitro said that she wants Duch to live a long time while serving his prison term so that he could act as a witness and reveal more mysteries about the KR history. Therefore she wants a more comfortable prison for him.

What Kind of Person is Duch?

The students were asked to judge Duch's behavior based only on what they see through television and hear when Duch speaks. Eighty percent said that Duch was evasive and that he only talked about impersonal history which does not really relate

to him and his acts specifically. He talked about general history while they wanted to hear him talking more about himself and his responsibility.



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A student said that Duch looks like a very responsible person who did what he was told to do. Sinah and a few other students said that Duch is thorough in what he does, clear-sighted and knowledgeable in many things. For Sinah, this makes Duch even more to be blamed for what happened at S-21. He said therefore that Duch should not be trusted with everything he said.

A female student named Tory said Duch looks like a gentle and nice person although she could not understand how he could commit the crimes for which he was convicted.

A few students said Duch was a little arrogant in the way he talked. While being a criminal responsible for many deaths, they believed that an apologetic Duch should be more bending while talking.

Do You Like Him?

Ninety said they don't like Duch, while ten percent said that they cannot relate themselves to him. Two students said they like how Duch was thorough in his work and his intelligence. They said if Duch serves a good regime, he could have been highly contributive to Cambodian society.

A male student named Ysa said he likes him because Duch makes other countries know Cambodia, but another strongly disagrees for being famous because of crimes. Sanas said that without the DK, Cambodia would be more famous than it is now based upon what Duch brought upon Cambodia to be infamous. Ysa replied without DK, many Vietnamese would be in Cambodia. If there are too many Vietnamese in Cambodia, this country will be lost just like Champa. Ysa was aware that in the Lon Nol regime, Vietnamese people were persecuted in Cambodia. Roky replied to Ysa that even with DK, Cambodia was still occupied by Vietnam and yet it is not lost to Vietnam.

Believe What He Said?

Ninety percent said that they believe parts of what he said. A student named Sinin said Duch might lie about some parts of history to conceal his involvement in killings and to make himself look better than he was.

As Muslim Students, What Justice Do You Want for the Khmer Rouge Genocide?

Ninety percent of the students said that they want legal punishment plus a public apology from former Khmer Rouge leaders. A female student named Tory said that the Khmer Rouge sinned against Islam and that many Cambodian Muslims died as a result of the Khmer Rouge atrocity, and therefore their leaders should be punished according to the law. Ten percent of the students (two female students) said that a public apology should be enough and that former Khmer Rouge leaders should ask for forgiveness from Cambodian people. The two students were following a Cambodian Muslim tradition of asking for forgiveness from Allah and friends and relatives during Ramadan, Eidul Fitri, and Eidul Adha festivals. One of the students, Saroh, said that his life sentence should be decreased but Duch should apologize more. She also wants a lighter sentence for the remaining leaders who are on trial.

People's Reactions to Duch's Testimony: Skepticism and Hope Tuol Village, Sangkat Chraing Chamres, Khan Russey Keo, Phnom Penh

"Why did Duch come to testify again?" Hak Fatimah, Cham Muslim Woman



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To reach out to and engage people in discussion of Duch's testimony, DC-Cam organized a live screening in Tuol Village, Sangkat Chraing Chamres, Russey Keo District, about nine kilometers from Phnom Penh, which was then followed by a forum and interview session at an attendees' residence. This event was attended by fifteen people, and was

aimed at hosting a small group discussion on the screening, as well as people's experience and other issues related to the KR regime. The site was selected because it is near the town which is often overlooked, which has resulted in the community members having had less opportunities to attend the trial hearing, as well as less

meetings held in their community. Mixed reactions and opinions to Duch's testimony were collected, as well as their views on the ECCC as a whole.

The area is developed significantly. In the 1990s, it was filled with water, surrounded by ponds, and only a few families lived there. The year 2000 saw rapid development in this area. House construction is still going on today. Most of the population consists of new comers who moved from other places to settle there. The community members started to build a *surao*¹ for worship.

Brief Description of the Activity

The meeting was organized in a community hall and facilitated by a youth representative named Rozart Ly, who holds a master's degree in agriculture. The people started to arrive at 8:30 a.m. and most of them were women. Unfortunately, the electricity was cut off even before the start, so the team had to find a generator to start the program. Although the generator was being used for his business, the owner kindly lent it to us.

To open before the live hearing started at 9:00 a.m., Farina So distributed educational documents to the participants and made a self-introduction and explained the purpose of the live viewing. She encouraged the participants to ask questions or provide their reactions on Duch's testimony. After having received the documents, a few of the participants exclaimed, "Oh I used to go to this place, Tuol Sleng [genocide Museum], and the Killing Fields!" and some asked, "Is this Duch?"²



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Main Content of Duch's Testimony and the Participants' Reactions to His Statement

Different from the hearing on Monday 19, 2012, Duch appeared in civilian dress as requested by the sitting judges. His appearance this time represented a witness and

¹ It is smaller than mosque, but it has similar function.

² They referred to the cover of the Trial Observation Bulletin, issue #3

not the accused. He was asked by a national co-prosecutor for the entire day about his role, responsibility, acquaintances, and knowledge of the DK policy. On several occasions, he mentioned Nuon Chea, Brother Number 2, and his authority over the party. It appeared that Duch answered the questions confidently. He sometimes burst into laughter before or during his response.



The participants attentively followed the proceedings at the beginning and then started to recall their own anecdotes and had a quick dialogue when Duch or the prosecutor touched on some points related to daily life under the KR. Maisom, fifty-three years old, said, "Life under the KR was difficult. I lost my husband and my children." In some cases, when Duch said he was married to a woman from the Southwest Zone, they confirmed with me that, "Was it true he was married at that time?" Noticeably when Duch could recall all the dates clearly, some participants said, "He has a good memory." And others doubtfully asked, "Why he would be able to recall all these dates?"

y When asked by the prosecutor about the enemy of the
DK who were sent to S-21, Duch said he got a list of
approximately 300 Thai fishermen sent to the prison
and a list of some Muslims from an Arab village in Tuol
Tumpoung. These people ran a cow butchery.

When the live screening ran until 10 a.m. the participants looked tired because of the hot weather, dust, and the noise of a generator placed near the screening place, but still continued to follow the proceedings. When Duch placed much responsibility on Pol Pot, the villagers were skeptical and said, "They usually point to the dead because the dead cannot argue with them."

Duch moved from one place to another and his final stop was in Samlot District where he was arrested by the military court in 1999 before being sent to the ECCC in 2007. The attendees immediately murmured, "They moved very far away from the town in order to run away from the government."

Reactions: Skepticism and Hope

After the screening, the floor was opened to the participants to ask questions or give their opinions. Hak Fatimah, sixty-seven years old, was the first to share her thoughts and story. "Duch's testimony today was helpful to the court because he was cooperative. But he conspired with the KR to do bad things during the era." She

believed that this court will help deliver some level of justice for her. Fatimah recalled that her husband died when he took care of a corn plantation in Stung Trang District in 1976 and that her four children passed away due to exhaustion and disease. She is now living with her daughter and one grandson in a small house built on a piece of land that belongs to the surao. Fatimah was eager to attend such a forum to better her understanding on the KR tribunal and seek justice for herself. She said, "Knowledge is like a bright guidance" With knowledge, one can seek a bright future." Some other people viewed Duch's response differently. Ka Yum, forty-five, converted to Islam after she married a man in the village. She was born in Vihear Suor District. She felt skepticism about the testimony and said, "It is hard to know whether his response is totally true. But I feel that since he used to do bad things in the past, he did not dare to provide an incorrect answer." She said she did not understand what Duch said much, but could grasp an overall meaning. However, she raised some questions during our conversation at her house, including:

- 1) Why was Duch asked to testify again?
- 2) Why was Duch imprisoned for so long before he was tried?
- 3) When does the tribunal conclude?
- 4) I never saw Duch during the KR period. Where was he?
- 5) Why did the KR starve people?

Along this line, Khadijah, age seventy-five, Cham-Pakistani said that she was not convinced by Duch's or the other KR leaders' testimony because they do not tell the truth. "I am not sure about their statements. I think their ideology remains in their mind. They never give up." Khadijah's father was Seth Djalal, Pakistani. He married her mother, Fatimah, and lived in Cambodia. She does



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not remember her father's face because he died when she was very little. Seh No in Svay Khleang Commune, Kampong Cham Province, adopted her and her siblings. After she got married, she moved to live near Olympic Market. She was evacuated to Prek Dach Commune, Leuk Dek District, Kandal Province. Her family was called back to Phnom Penh to be screened as they were half Pakistani. They were imprisoned overnight at the Criminal Court near Psar Thmei, Phnom Penh. Being unable to find any evidence to accuse her, the KR released the whole family and sent them back to

their old cooperative. She lost her husband in 1976 due to disease. However, she was able to keep her seven children alive.

The majority of the attendees; however, believed that Duch's testimony this time was important for the Court to move forward and get the accused to react. They want to see justice rendered to the victims soon.

Conclusion

The live screening and forum was significant for the community like Tuol Village as the villagers have had little chance to observe the hearing at the ECCC and rarely shared their experience in a group like this. The participants' big question, "Why Duch came to testify at the Court again after he was convicted?" was answered during the forum. Duch's testimony this time as agreed by most of the attendees will provide essential information for the Court and speed it up to deliver justice for the victims. In addition to providing knowledge on the ECCC, this event also increased their understanding on the KR era and encouraged women to share their story and engage in the discussion. Rozart acknowledged that this screening and forum is good and useful for him and his community. He welcomed our return for future events. "Thanks for doing the live screening in the community. We will try to join you to work in changing our society."

There wasn't any big challenge noticed during the live screening, except the cross examination was sometimes hard to follow when the question asked or response provided did not match. Additionally, the distracting sound of the generator, the dust, and the hot weather outside made the participants easily tired. However, the participants were told to capture the overall meaning of the witness's response and stayed until the hearing concluded for the morning. Since they were interested in it, they followed accordingly.

Impressions of the Chhvaing Community toward Duch's Testimony Chhvaing Commune, Ponhea Leu District, Kandal Province

Background of Chhvaing Commune

Chhvaing Commune is located about thirty kilometers from Phnom Penh, which is at a close distance but has limited access to such information as progress of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal. The commune is composed of a population of approximately eight thousand people spread out across sixteen villages. The commune is extended to a range of hills where an infamously known site of one of the KR killing fields is located, namely Phnom Basit mass grave and killing field. Today we observe that the location has been turned into a pagoda and a Stupa was built in 1985 to place and

preserve the thousand human remains left behind as a result of the KR's brutal execution. During the KR regime, residents of Chhvaing Commune were relocated to different districts in the nearby provinces, and labeled as the New or April 17 People. The KR replaced the village with a group of residents whom they trusted or those who used to reside in their revolutionary area. Only after 1979 were the villagers able to return home and rebuild their new lives.

Live Screening of Duch's Testimony

The event began with a brief welcoming speech from a member of the commune council, Mr. Saut Sim, who introduced the screening and encouraged people in the audience to closely observe the proceedings on the TV. The screening took place at the village's community and religious hall which local villagers usually use for communal and religious gatherings. Following an introduction to the ECCC's case and the trial proceedings, the CTN local television network started to broadcast a live graphic image from the ECCC's media center. About fifty villagers, half of whom were women between thirty and eighty years old, were sitting in the hall and watched closely as the national co-prosecutor questioned Duch, the witness. The screening continued to take place for about an hour and a half before the first break of the day.



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Upon the first break of the proceedings, CTN television changed their program and began their live interview with a guest speaker. The DC-Cam team then turned to the audience and a discussion began. Most people in audience were impressed with Duch's clear memories of the events during the KR regime, including names, locations, and dates. Some were familiar with the locations he described in the testimony since they had

been moved to live in those places during the regime. While many found the testimony important to reveal the truth about responsibilities of the senior leaders, a few in the audience viewed Duch as a person who takes the opportunity to speak in good terms on his own behalf. The team questioned the participants for their opinions regarding what was discussed during the proceedings and the behavior of the witness. The following statements are from several people, all of whom have

experienced firsthand life during the regime, reacted to the Duch's testimony and extended their talk to describe their experience during the KR regime.

Chhvaing Population Reacts to Duch's Testimony

Ham Kong, female, seventy-three, said, "During the KR regime, I was sent to live in Taing Kmaoch Village, Kampong Speu province, where one of my children died. I lived there from 1974 until 1975 when I returned to my home village. After that, the KR sent me and my family to Koh Longvek, not far from Sala Lek Pram, where I endured the lack of food. We were absolutely alone on the island where we needed to look for additional food to fill our stomachs. I think Duch is an important witness because he knows the whole story about the KR regime. I myself know only the story of my part. I did not realize that Duch used to live in this area, in Kampong Speu Province. When he comes to testify, we are also informed of what happened during the time. We have never seen or heard of the word Angkar. We only heard about them in the recent time. I'm satisfied with the court proceedings since the accused person has been put on trial. Duch looks different now. He looked older than when he was in trial."

Thach Soty, female, fifty-five, said, "My father was a banker before the KR came to power. The fourteen of us who were evacuated from the city to the countryside died one after another. I am the only one who survived the regime, my entire family was executed. Because I wanted to take revenge, I became a soldier after 1979. To me, I think Duch testifies to make it look good on him. The other three have not spoken, so we don't know if what he testifies was true or not. I think Duch is a very important witness because he is the one who knows more than anyone else. His testimony helped the proceeding to move faster. My only concern for this trial is that the accused are too old to stand the trial. I am concerned that the senior leaders are getting sick and unable to stay to the end of the trial. Nevertheless I am optimistic about the ECCC. I am hopeful that this trial will bring justice to me, my family, and Cambodian people as a whole. I hope I will have the chance to directly observe the trial in the courtroom."

Chan Sam, male, sixty-nine, lives in Taing Sdock Village said, "I first heard about Duch in 1998 when he was arrested and sent to the military prison. Since then I have occasionally followed news about Duch. I think it is correct to bring the KR senior leaders to trial. During the KR regime, I was evacuated from this village to Kampong Chhnang. I am the only one who left who survived the regime."

Pauch Tith, male, fifty-four, from Svay Village said, "I have followed news about the KR tribunal on radio and TV. The positive thing I have observed is that, Duch has now selected to become a witness for the trial in Case 002. I am a survivor who has tremendously suffered from the KR treatment. This testimony and the trial

proceedings are particularly important to me because it helps me to achieve justice. What I found interesting the most is that Duch has mentioned about Son Sen during his testimony. For those KR senior leaders, Nuon Chea, Khieu Samphan, Ieng Sary, or Ieng Thirith, I believe that they will never get away with the crimes that they committed. If the accused persons die before the trial ends, they will still carry the shame with them. I think Duch's testimony is very important as he revealed to the public what he knows about the regime. I think we will be able to find the real killers of Cambodian people sooner or later. If somebody outside of the Communist Party came forward to testify about their relationship with the senior leaders, it would be hard to prove if the testimony is true. However, Duch was the one who was the party member and directly involved in the regime. So I believe he gives a true testimony. This trial is very meaningful to me since I have lost my family members to the regime. During the KR regime, I was still very young. I was assigned to work in the children's unit and moved from one place to another. So it helps alleviate my suffering that I endured during the KR regime.

Sum Sok, male, fifty-nine, Pong Ra Village, said, "When I have time, I follow the ECCC's trial proceedings on TV and radio. What impressed me the most about Duch's testimony is that Duch knows clearly about the KR regime and provides a clear date for each event. So he is an important witness who can contribute to the truth about the KR leaders. I also believe that this trial will be successful and bring justice to the Cambodian people if the court does not delay the proceedings. I want to see those senior leaders stand trial to the end after which a final judgment is issued. My concern is that these leaders may be dead before we can reach a judgment. This trial is very important for me. It helps me to feel relief from the suffering I have endured. I think Duch's testimony is not only important for me but also it is necessary for Cambodian people in general to gain a better understanding about the KR regime. In 1975, I was sent to Trapeang Khchao Village. I was

questioned regarding my own biography. They questioned me many times because they suspected me of being a soldier. I kept denying that I did not serve in the army for the previous regime. I told them I was only a farmer and palm tree climber. The KR did not believe me, so they tested me by sending me to climb and clear palm trees. I was almost arrested because they were not satisfied with my



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work."

Chuop You, female, sixty-four, Sdok Ta Chan Village, said, "I think Duch's testimony and the trial is very important for me and my family. It is important because Duch has spoken what he actually committed during the KR regime. He is very brave in coming forward to speak to the public and reveal the truth about the regime."

Saut Sim, male, fifty-eight, Chhvaing Village, said, "I think Duch's testimony is very important and he provided significant information that contributes to building the truth about the KR regime. I think his testimony this morning is very interesting



because many of the locations he mentioned are familiar to us. For example, one of the locations, namely Damnak Smach, is commonly known to the villagers for they have worked and lived there during the regime. Personally, I believe that Duch's testimony is very important because it would help implicate the role of the accused persons in Case 002 during the KR regime. I have a brother who was imprisoned and executed at S-21. Even so, I am now satisfied that Duch is sentenced to life in prison. I feel that the sentence is enough and appropriate for what Duch had committed during the KR regime. I believe that this court will bring justice to Cambodian people as a whole since it conducted a thorough investigation before bringing the accused persons to trial."

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Van Yang, female, seventy-three, Prasat Village, said, "The KR evacuated me to many different locations during the KR regime. I have never followed the proceedings on TV since I do not have a means and time to do so. I came here today because I wanted to know what is happening at the court and how the proceedings are going. This is my first time to see Duch's face and those of the other leaders, I have only heard their names. It is important that he admitted about what he had done during the KR regime. I hope that this proceeding will move faster since there are potential witnesses and much evidence to help the proceedings."

Duch Testifies Against Superiors Preah Nipean Commune, Korng Pisey District, Kampong Speu Province

"Weak, weak and weak," exclaims Im Sophat, fifty-one years old, when describing former KR leaders' persistent refusal to reveal or accept the truth on the mass

atrocities between April 17, 1975 and January 7, 1979. Nuon Chea, former ideologue, Khieu Samphan, former head of state, and Ieng Sary, former foreign minister, either remain silent and uncooperative or beat around the bush, while Duch, merely one of the nearly two hundred prison chiefs, showed the court his cooperation and disclosed a certain degree of truth about his work and responsibility within his direct vicinity, which is Tuol Sleng Prison, or S-21. He took his own courage to confess the guilt and even seek apology for having caused the deaths of 1,623 people.

In fact, Ms. Sophat does not have the same level of expectations from the three leaders. During the gathering of over thirty people who watched Duch's testimony live in the afternoon of March 20, 2012, most respondents just wanted them to learn how to be brave and accept some sorts of truth. A common question raised by the participants pointed to the reason why they totally rejected. Were they fearful and under threat, or confident that their past conduct represents the nationalist conduct, and thus deserves appreciation?

Amid the court proceeding on Case 002 related to three KR leaders, Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, former chief of S-21, was called to testify against the three leaders. An ongoing mission of the Trial Chambers of the ECCC is to work toward the sentencing of the three KR leaders. Numerous witnesses and experts and an avalanche of evidence have been brought to present before the court. Duch was one of the significant witnesses, who would reveal his work responsibility and chain of



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command during the KR regime. This worried Nuon Chea for fear that Duch's testimony would provide a clear picture of the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK)'s leadership, policies and governing structures. In the afternoon of March 20, 2012, Nuon Chea even used a strong word to describe Duch as unreliable and stated that it would be useless to let him testify.

It is going to be a long process, as generally expected, and some participants at Reussey Village, Kampong Speu Province murmured that they feel less interested in the court. To the lay persons, it looked the same and boring. Legally, the court is mandated to ensure that a due process of fair trial should be provided to both the victims and the accused. So, the prosecution and defense undoubtedly argued back and forth to present their own rationale to the judges, who would sentence the three. This process could take years, not months.

In an effort to get the public to stay focused on the trial proceedings, DC-Cam reached out to villagers and students in Preah Nipean Commune of Kampong Speu Province. Over thirty people who had been invited by the local authority were present at a gathering in the morning of March 20, 2012.

The villagers watched the two-hour live screening of Duch's testimony and then began a thoughtful discussion on the extent of their interest, understanding, and reaction on the trial. Most respondents expressed content with the clear answers given by Duch. To them, they desired to hear some portions of truth and responsibility that the KR leaders should acknowledge. They said Nuon Chea did not acknowledge what he did, nor the documents left behind after the KR regime. The participants even appreciated Duch for his insistence that all the KR leaders should answer fully the nature of the regime.

The nearly two-hour live screening has at least attracted a lot of attention from the villagers. Asked if they would keep following the trial proceedings, most respondents, including Sao Horn, sixty, and Chrech Ken, sixty-nine, said they began to be impressed by the trial. It was evident that they involved themselves in heated debate on who would be the real leaders, who would be held accountable. Kum Sokhon, sixty-one, argued that the three leaders are the ones most responsible. It would not be appropriate to just put the blame on the late Prime Minister Pol Pot. Thus, all the respondents such as Khieu Yan, sixty, and Tim Koam are hopeful that the KR leaders would be tried in accordance with the evidence proving their guilt.

Outreach to Students: Duch's Testimony before the ECCC The Royal University of Agriculture



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At the Royal University of Agriculture, twelve miles northwest of Phnom Penh, there were over 100 students who participated in the live screening of the trial chamber hearing of Duch's testimony. The students ranged in age between eighteen and twenty-eight years old and one fifth of the total participants were women. This live screening was provided to students for

the whole day.

Live Screening of Duch's Testimony at the Trial Chamber on 20 March, 2012

The live screening of Duch's testimony was provided to students at the starting time of the ECCC at 9:00 a.m. in the conference hall of the Royal University of Agriculture. The live screening ran until the first break of the trial in the morning at 10:30 a.m.. The students paid a great attention to this live screening. It was fair to say that almost all of them have never seen such a live screening of the trial before, though they have learned about the ECCC through occasional TV and radio programs. They confessed that their study schedule is busy and that they find it hard to follow news on the ECCC's proceedings. Generally, the students felt very happy to see this live screening of ECCC's trial hearing. Most of them confessed that this was the first time that they had a chance to watch the hearing broadcast live from the ECCC's courtroom.

The live screening of Duch's testimony was not available after the break because the Cambodian Television Network (CTN) was unable to broadcast the hearing live on TV so the students took a break until 2:00 p.m. when CTN broadcasted the hearing again. As a consequence, the students missed two parts of the hearing which were from 10:45 to 12:00 and again from 13:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Student's Reaction to the Live Screening and ECCC's Proceedings

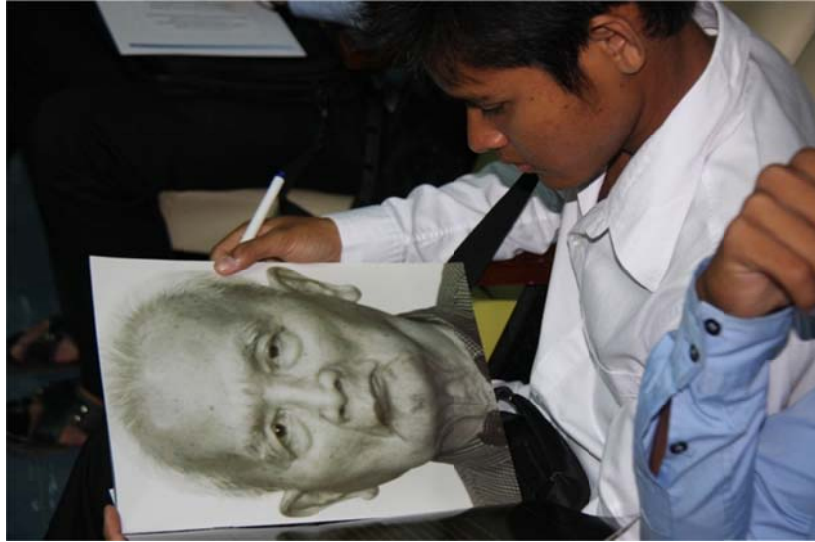
Mr. Man Sophea, twenty-three, studying in the field of Rural Development

So far I have not followed up on this trial very much. And, only this time have I had a chance to watch this trial. I feel very happy and very impressed to watch this trial directly. I understand that the process of this tribunal seems very complicated in trying the KR leaders, but as long as many evidences are proved then the accused will be convicted successfully.

The live screening this morning helps us learn about the root of KR's CPK. I do not understand much about the process of the court but I think the process goes quite well and wish the court will achieve justice as soon as possible.

Mr. Voeun Vinichai, studying in the field of Land Management

I used to hear about the ECCC a little bit. I understand certain events through Duch's testimony at this time, and it makes me think of the KR's rules of Cambodia. I think that the process of the court looks very difficult but it greatly benefits the next generation to learn about reality of the society and experience from the past so that they can prepare themselves to move to a better future.



ocide"

The live screening this morning is a kind of way of integration of KR history so that the youth understand about that regime and that we ought to study about this history. It is better to watch such a live screening this morning rather than giving youth the opportunity to see skulls and bones that creates a feeling of hatred within the youth.

I see this trial as very important not only to deliver justice but also to reconcile the society and compensate the suffering of the victims of the KR regime.

Mr. Chhan Vibol, studying in the field of agronomy

In regard to the live screening this morning I learned that it gives us an understanding about the ECCC, leadership of the [KR] regime, and senior KR leaders. It is a way of learning a history of DK because it reveals the leadership of the society in the KR regime.

Mr. Neang Piseth, twenty, studying in the field of animal science

In regard to this live screening this morning I feel happy to watch this screening. I think it is good for students in learning about history. Through this screening I have learned about dictatorship and leadership of the KR regime.



Mr. Ke Phalla, twenty-three, studying in the field of rural development

To me, the live screening of Duch's testimony provides an opportunity to students to learn about history and the truth of genocide [during the KR regime]. I think it is good for me.

Miss. Thuch Nimol, twenty-one, studying in the field of rural development

The live screening impresses me a lot, especially when the court called a convicted person to come to testify in court as witness. Through this screening I have learned about the way the KR ruled the country.

Miss. Ley Sotheary, twenty-two, studying in the field of Agro-Industry

I feel that this live screening tries outreaching as much as possible so that students can learn about leadership during the [KR] regime and experiences many people had been through. However, I don't understand the court's proceedings much. It is the first time I watch the trial like this.

Miss. Rin Sorya, twenty, studying in the field of Agronomy

So far I didn't pay much attention to the trial because I was busy with my studies. After I watched the live screening of [Duch's testimony], I felt that I like it very much. It makes me eager to learn more about the trial. So, from now on I will follow the trial even though my study schedule is busy. Some of my friends have the same feeling like I do.

END