

Duch Final Judgment: Justice and Humanity

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Introduction

Nearly thirty years have passed since the genocide occurred in Cambodia, when approximately two million people died from execution, starvation and overwork. Throughout these years Cambodians have endured the physical and psychological suffering from the genocide period. Many of those whose family members perished and those who survived the Democratic Kampuchea regime have awaited for a measure of justice to help them heal and reconcile with the past. The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) has been mandated to deliver the truth and a sense of justice to all Cambodian people. Cambodian survivors, including those who have served the Khmer Rouge (KR), have tried to make sense of what happened to them and their families. Many though are still struggling to regain their strength, their value as human beings, and restore their dignity that had been lost due to the treatment of the KR. While victims may have waited too long to see justice prevail, former KR cadres have also worked hard to acknowledge the collective guilt and make up for what have been lost to them.

Justice: Restoring Human Dignity



Participants wait in the queue at the ECCC's Courtroom entrance to attend the pronouncement of Duch Appeal Judgment

For over three decades, justice for survivors of the Khmer Rouge has been delayed, causing them to live in an extremely traumatic past. Similarly, the case also applies to surviving former KR cadres. The past has been haunting them in many different ways. Under the rule of the KR, as a human race, victims were treated inhumanly. They were degraded of human dignity and humiliated gravely. In a society where the rule of law is practiced, protecting and promoting the human race and dignity is one of the key principles to humanity. The term “Humanity”¹ is used to recognize the value of being human. During the KR regime, there were many different aspects that serve as haunting testament of man’s inhumanity. Forced labor, execution, torture, and many other frightening aspects of the regime were forced upon the Cambodian people.

For instance, atrocities that occurred at Tuol Sleng are revealed in the obvious inhumane treatment of victims who were arrested, detained, and executed there. Perhaps one of the most frightening characteristics of S-21 or Tuol Sleng Prison was the process to detail the organized murder that was undertaken. Detainees were transferred to Tuol Sleng, photographed, and interrogated to confess before being executed. Many of these photos remain on display at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. The look of fear on the faces of the victims stirs up deep emotions of revulsion and anger, which breaks through the mind as one takes in the hundreds of portraits of the dead. Even worse is the knowledge that these photos represent a small fraction of the total number of lives which perished in the name of an insane ideology.



Chum Mei, S-21 Survivor

Inhumane and cruel acts committed at S-21 encompassed a variety of methods of torture, including electric shock, pulling out finger nails, clubbing with bars, and drowning the detainees. As described in an article of *Searching for the Truth*² about an S-21 survivor, Chum Mei said that upon arriving in the prison compound he was blindfolded, shackled, and sent to a prison cell where containers for urine and excrement were his only belongings. He was tortured to extract confessions and sometimes had to invent stories to reduce the intensity of torture. Mr. Chum’s memories of those inhumane acts committed upon him cannot help but make him cry and be depressed. Vann Nath, the painter from Tuol Sleng, recently

¹ Humanity is defined as “the human race or quality of being humane,” while humanness is the “quality of compassion or consideration for others.”

² Sorya Sim, “Chum Manh: an S-21 Survivor,” *Searching for the Truth*, Documentation Center of Cambodia, October 2001, p. 13.

passed away before seeing justice done at the ECCC. Vann Nath painted the horrific aspects of KR torture at S-21. His work serves as testament of the inhumane acts committed under control of the KR regime.

Although a legal mechanism was established in Cambodia to bring senior leaders and those most responsible for the mass atrocities to justice, these leaders have not yet acknowledged facts found by the court. Those senior KR leaders purposely turned a blind eye to the face of humanity of Cambodian people. They focused intensely on their propaganda and the policy without taking a look at what Cambodians deserved as human beings. They stripped off human dignity from the victims in order to easily execute their policies. In today's application of the rule of law, the accused's rights are fully protected and the presumption of innocence before any conviction is held and entirely practiced. It is interesting that today the leaders have repeatedly insisted in protecting these rights. However, they have forgotten that these basic human rights were not provided to any victim of their regime. This dichotomy has been more than obvious when the court found out that the atrocities for which they are tried truly occurred during the regime.



Kaing Guek Eav *alias* Duch, former chief of Tuol Sleng prison sentenced to life imprisonment.

Today, it is very important to bring legal accountability for those surviving KR leaders who caused such human degradation to the millions of Cambodians who perished and those who survived the regime. It is even more critical to see justice done for the first time through the



Bou Meng, S-21 survivor

conviction of the infamous head of the notorious KR prison, S-21. In a recent pronouncement for the Supreme Court's final judgment on February 3, 2012, Duch was sentenced to life in prison. For the first time in historical record, the criminal in charge of the KR mass atrocity at the torture and interrogation center was convicted of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and grave breaches of the

1949 Geneva Convention.

Regrettably justice may come too late for some victims. Duch's prosecution and conviction were perhaps most welcomed by many Cambodians, particularly those who survived the KR notorious prison camp S-21. There is however still debate over to what extent this final judgment will help victims achieve justice and consequently restore their dignity as human beings since they were gravely mistreated under the reign of the KR. The case of Vann Nath, one of the survivors from S-21 who passed away before seeing justice done, is one of the examples of justice delayed. In 2009 Vann Nath testified against Duch at the ECCC. His testimony at the court revealed to the world that truth and justice are so important. "I hope that by the end of the tribunal that justice can be tangible, can be seen by everybody," Vann Nath quoted in a news report as he testified.³ Former S-21 detainees like Vann Nath, Bou Meng, Chum Mei, were terribly treated as if they were animals. Vann Nath testified, "...We ate our meals next to dead bodies and we did not care anyway because we were like animals. I lost my dignity."⁴ In September 2011, Vann Nath left the world forever without knowing for how long Duch would be convicted. In his case justice might not be tangible. As Bou Meng, a survivor of S-21 whose wife was executed at the prison, noted, "I feel regret for losing Vann Nath. He died without knowing that justice has been done for him."

Thus, justice serves as an indispensable measure for victims. When justice is achieved victims might be able to leave their painful memories behind and move forward. It is, though, difficult to define justice as a single notion since it means many different things to different people. For Vann Nath, his soul might possibly rest in peace by seeing the criminal brought



to trial and sentenced. For Sek Say, a daughter of S-21 victim Chan Kim Srun, she might not see this verdict as a compensation for her parents and brother's life. But it at least helps her to understand the truth behind what happened at S-21 and to see the leader of the prison held accountable before the Cambodian people. So, Bou Meng's concern over the lateness of justice did open a valid question as to the extent to which justice would be

Sek Say, a daughter of S-21 victim Chan Kim Srun, attends the pronouncement of Duch's Appeal Judgment. After the Judgment reading, Sek Say said, "I felt relief after hearing about this appeal verdict. If my mother were alive, I would have had a chance to go to school and become educated."

³ http://news.monstersandcritics.com/asiapacific/news/article_1660943.php/Vann-Nath-survivor-of-notorious-Khmer-Rouge-prison-dies-aged-65

⁴ Ibid.

achieved by victims or whether justice is done on time.

Verdict: Individual Guilt

In addition to challenging the significance of the criminal court in the aftermath of the atrocity, Cambodian survivors challenge some notions about individual accountabilities of all their actions. Whether individual accountabilities are necessary for the healing process or reducing the sense of guilt for lower level cadres is still a subject of debate. The verdict clearly found Duch guilty for the crimes committed at S-21 and the grave violations of human rights. Not only victims whose dignity was stripped off under the treatment the KR, KR lower level cadre's humanity was also devalued, given they directly committed the crimes during the course of the KR regime. It is unclear though whether Duch's guilt would reduce a sense of guilt for those cadres or if they should be held morally, if not legally, accountable for the suffering of the victims.

Mr. Prak Khan, a former cadre who was in charge of interrogating the prisoners at S-21 during the Democratic Kampuchea regime said, "I still feel embarrassed for what I have committed during the KR regime, although Duch was found guilty. To some extent, the judgment helps relieve my worry and reduce some sense of guilt that always haunts me, but I still feel embarrassed for my involvement in the work of S-21."



Prak Khan at the ECCC

Mr. Prak wishes to put his past memories behind to move on from this embarrassment. However, he still values the importance of sharing personal experience with younger generation as it would help them "to learn from this lesson."

Similarly, Mr. Soam Met, a former guard at S-21 explained the situation in which he was pressured to do what he was ordered. Mr. Soam described the fear he had during which he served as a guard at the prison. He said, "I feel guilty for I used to be involved in the atrocity and took part in such mass killings. But after Duch was found guilty, I feel so much relieved and that the sense of guilt over what I have committed is partly reduced." He continued to explain that his neighbors have come to understand about his experiences living with the KR. They even "encouraged me to provide testimonies to the court about my experiences and what I know about the time I worked at S-21," added Mr. Soam. Mr. Him Huy, once a transporter of prisoners to be killed at Cheung Ek killing site and a deputy chief of S-21 guards, admitted that he had killed five people by clubbing them with iron bars. He said in



the exit interview that he was satisfied with the final judgment as it brought justice to him and the Cambodian people in general. His value or dignity was lost, given the fact that he was involved in killing. He has had to live under suspicion and hatred from his community. The trial process however helps explain the truth and the situations that lower level cadre were in. Mr. Him opined, "I think the judgment would have a positive effect on me and other lower-level cadres. This verdict helps to bring back my dignity and value as a human being."

In addition to the importance of knowing the truth about what led to the genocide in Cambodia and who was in charge, victims need

to see the lower level cadres held to moral accountability to the extent possible. Besides legal accountability, victims want to see lower cadres taking such responsibilities as giving an acknowledgment of the factual truth and findings, acknowledging their personal responsibilities for having committed crimes, expressing good attitude toward people in

Soam Met watches the judgment reading from a TV outside the courtroom in ECCC compound.

general, serving the community, participating in religious ceremonies... etc.

Ms. Kim Huoy, a sixty-year-old woman from Pursat, expressed her feelings for lower-level cadres, "I never thought of taking revenge on the former lower-level cadres as they only follow orders. I am glad that they still survived to reveal the truth of what happened at Tuol Sleng." She continued to comment on what the cadre has mentioned, "They should not feel

embarrassed for what they did. In that environment, most of them had no choice but to do they were told to do. I have never had any hatred for them." Peou Sinuon, also from Pursat, shared a similar view. She said, "For those lower-level [cadres] at the community level, I have forgiven them already because they have acknowledged the truth, they have participated in



Peou Sinuon at the ECCC.

community service, and performed religious ceremonies with victims. They also donated to the pagoda and community. They try to do good deeds.”



Norn Chan Phal (left) and Him Huy (Right) sit together outside of the courtroom to watch the announcement of Duch’s Final Judgment.

It might be difficult for those whose family members were killed at S-21 to make peace with the past. Mr. Norn Chan Phal, a child survivor from S-21, lost his parents to the atrocious S-21 prison. He himself was sent to the prison along with his mother. At first, he barely coped with the past traumatic events that happened to him and to his family. Time and the process of the trial have helped him gradually heal from painful memories. It also helps him find closure to the past.

Through justice, Norn is hopeful for an effort to reconcile the past. With regard to the role of the verdict in the reconciliation process, he commented, “I think the former lower-level cadres also have a very difficult time to cope with the past since some of them might have been living with the past for over thirty years and it’s hard for them to get out of this terrible memory. I think this verdict will help the lower level cadres to restore their value since it gives face to the public that this mass atrocity has been held legally responsible for by the leaders and that they have been sent to trial to reveal the truth. The neighbors of these lower-level cadres will gradually understand them.” Norn also agreed with the statement that former KR cadres should do the good deeds to release them from the past sufferings and to make their children feel good about them.

Coming to understand the life experiences of former lower-level cadres is crucial to the process of reconciliation. The trial process has provided an opportunity for lower cadres to share their personal experiences and the reasons why they joined the KR. The trial also provides the opportunity for victims to understand the real faces of those who led the genocide in Cambodia. By learning from different experiences of lower cadres and the trial process, survivors appear to agree that the legal mechanism among other things is an important phase to help restore face of those who lost their value and dignity as a consequence of the KR’s policy.

Conclusion

The KR's legacy has left a big scar on every individual and negatively affects the lives of the survivors as well as former cadre. Both survivors and former KR cadre hope that the legal mechanism would help turn away the "Culture of Impunity" in Cambodia by bringing those senior leaders and those most responsible to justice. For victims, seeing justice done is important for the long process to achieve closure and reconciliation with the past. But justice is not only for the victims, it is also important for rebuilding and restoring the nation. Through justice, some Cambodian survivors believe that their sufferings have been acknowledged and their human dignity has been restored. Similarly, former cadres who were directly involved in the mass atrocities feel that their acknowledgment of the truth and justice done through criminal court are important for them to move from their past and integrate into society. Their actions today are also crucial to building trust among the community. Coming to understand the past would be vital for victims and former cadre to value one another as human beings.



Civil Parties in Case 001 at Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum before the Announcement of Duch's Final Judgment

Media coverage

The participants were interviewed for their reaction to Duch's Appeal Judgment by various news reporters. Participant's reactions are quoted in the following selected news articles:

http://www.voanews.com/khmer/news/kr-issues/cambodia-final-verdict-of-duch-aka-kang_kek_iew-life-sentence-138686609.html

Video reactions of participants produced by Cambodia Tribunal Monitor (CTM)

<http://vimeo.com/36196602>

APPENDIX

General Reactions from the Public to Duch's Final Judgment:

1. Port Souk, 80, Takhmao, Kandal Province.

I think Duch deserves to be sentenced to life in prison because many lives were lost to the regime. This verdict does not really help me relieve my suffering from losing family and relatives to the regime. Still, I think it's important to have the leaders to trial to bring justice to those who perished under the KR regime. During the KR regime, I was imprisoned, tortured, and interrogated, too. I was shackled with many other prisoners.

2. Noeun Siphon, 37, Takhmao, Kandal Province.

I think life sentence is correct for Duch given to the gravity of the crimes at S-21. I am satisfied with this judgment. I think the verdict is justice and that justice is very meaningful for me and my family. I lost my father to the regime. I hope that this verdict would help set a space for national reconciliation in Cambodia.

3. Hang Sun, 67, Takhmao, Kandal Province.

I am satisfied with the judgment. He has caused a lot of death in the prison, he deserves the sentence. I think we are very fortunate to see justice done thirty years after the atrocity. If the court had failed to sentence him, I would be so disappointed as [this would mean that] justice does not prevail in Cambodia. Life in prison is enough in return for his action during the period. I would not want to use violence to deal with him or any other victims. We are living in a state of law.

4. Yim Mai, 84, Meanchey District, Phnom Penh.

I am glad that Duch is now sentenced to life in prison, not a thirty-five year sentence like the previous verdict. I think he deserves such sentence because thousands of victims were tortured and killed at Tuol Sleng Prison. This verdict is very meaningful to me as it helps bring justice to my family. I lost four children and a grandchild to the regime.

5. Doek Poeu, 55, Phnom Penh.

I never observed the trial at the ECCC but have followed Duch’s trial on TV. I am satisfied with the appeal verdict announced this morning [February 3]. I think this verdict is correct. When he was sentenced in the previous judgment to thirt-fivey years I was reluctant to accept that judgment. Now I feel happy about this appeal judgment.

6. Uy Bunnarith, Male, 51, Phnom Penh.

I support the appeal verdict 100 percent. I think the previous verdict which sentenced Duch to thirty-five years and reduced to nineteen years was not enough compare to the crimes that he committed. I think life sentence would help him to be aware of his own guilt. The judgment is very meaningful for me, my family, and the younger generation. It sets an example for the younger generation that no one would be able to get away with their guilt. It will help my children to understand that a country leader will not get away from law if he committed wrongdoing.

7. Sman Ros, Male, 67, Pornhea Leu, Kandal Province.

I also have relatives who died at Tuol Sleng Prison. I have heard of the trial for the senior leaders. I wasn’t sure how many years Duch was sentenced. It’s only clear today that he’s sentenced to life imprisonment. Since it is the longest and most serious sentence for the criminal, I feel so satisfied with this judgment. If the judge decided to reduce the sentence to fifteen to twenty years, it would be so unjust. I think the history of the genocide, especially Duch’s story and trial, should be preserved to teach the younger generation and other nations.

8. Lim Saret, Male, 64, Chbar Ampov, Phnom Penh.

I think this judgment is very correct as it brings to justice the criminal who committed the crimes at S-21. I think the court is doing a great job to bring to trial those who led the genocide in Cambodia. In Duch’s case, Duch has caused a lot of people’s deaths. I think victims of the prison would feel relieved from painful experiences since the court has found Duch guilty.

List of People Invited for the ECCC Hearing on 3 February, 2012

No	Name	Sex	Status	Reaction
1	Him Huy	M	Huy joined the KR revolution in 1973. In 1977, two years after the KR took over the country, Huy was recruited as an S-21 prison guard. In 1978, Huy was promoted to be the deputy chief of S-21 prison guards. His tasks were	I am satisfied with the verdict as it helps bring justice to me and Cambodian people as a whole. I have lost a brother to the prison. Before Duch was arrested, people accused me of being the head the prison. I was detained in prison for

			to arrest, guard, and transfer the prisoners to Choeung Ek for execution. Huy confessed that he had killed five people with an iron stick used for making oxcart wheels. Because he could not bear the emotional strain, Huy once asked Son Sen to be reassigned to work as a soldier. However, Huy's request was rejected, and he continued his work at S-21 until the fall of the KR. Huy was a witness at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, testifying before the trial chamber during Case 001 against Duch, his former superior and the head of S-21.	some years. When I gave testimony at the court, people who saw me on TV began to realize that I did not work there according to my own will, but was forced to commit the wrongdoing. I think this court's decision is very fair and reasonable compared to what Duch committed at S-21. I think the judgment will have a positive effect on me and other lower level cadres. I think this verdict will help to restore my dignity and value.
2	Saom Met	M	In 1972, Met voluntarily joined the KR revolution at Kandal Province. Met served as a KR soldier in Division 12. Because he feared the gunfire, Met decided to defect and return home. Met was later arrested at Office 13. He was then assigned to deliver cooked rice to the soldiers at the battlefield. Met was occasionally trained on military technique with Hor. When the KR liberated the country, Met was moved from Division 12 to Division 703, where [Ta] Nat was the division chief. His unit was based at Sa-ang Koh Thom. In 1977, Met was selected to work as guard at S-21 Prison.	I feel very relieved that the court decided to sentence Duch to life in prison. I have a brother who was killed at Tuol Sleng and I myself used to work there. I understand very clearly how hard it was to work at Tuol Sleng. We all worked and lived in fear because we didn't know when it might be our turn to be killed. Many people regarded me as the head of the prison because they knew that I used to work there. My community members have often encouraged me to provide testimony to the court regarding what I experienced during the time I worked at S-21. They have come to understand that I was just a lower level cadre. I feel guilty that I was involved in such atrocious mass killings. However, after Duch was found guilty, I feel very relieved.
3	Lach Mien	M	In 1971, Mien entered the monkhood at Chhuok Pagoda. In 1974, he left his monkhood and voluntarily joined the KR revolution. He	I participated in Duch's trial only once. I was not satisfied when I learned about Duch's verdict in 2010. I feel more satisfied with this appeal

			<p>served as a Thlok Vien militiaman. In 1975, when the KR liberated the country, he was sent to Phnom Penh. There he was assigned to raise pigs at Boeng Tum Pun. In August of the same year, together with other colleagues, Mien was selected to be a KR soldier. He then received military training at Ta Khmao for four months. After the training, he was assigned to guard the prisoners at Ta Khmao, before being transferred to S-21 to work as an interrogator.</p>	<p>judgment, as it helps me to reconcile the past. I think this judgment is correct because it helps to bring justice to the victims of S-21. I found my work at Tuol Sleng very frightening. I never had a working day without fear, due to Duch's strict direction at the time.</p>
4	Prak Khan	M	<p>In 1973, Khan voluntarily joined the KR revolution, serving as a soldier in Brigade 12 under the supervision of Nat. In July 1976, Khan was recruited to work at S-21 as an interrogator. Before performing his duty, Khan was trained for several weeks on how to interrogate the prisoners. Khan recalled that there were both cold and hot methods utilized to elicit information from the prisoners, and he had to obey his superior. Every piece of information from the prisoners had to be noted down and reported to his superior.</p>	<p>I am satisfied with this judgment sentencing Duch to life in prison. It met my expectation. During the investigation phase, when I was called to provide information to the investigating judge, Duch refused to admit that he knew me. I was annoyed with him because he didn't acknowledge who I was at that time. I feel safe now that the judgment has turned out well. If he had received a lesser sentence, it would have been difficult for me, since I testified as a witness at his trial. This final judgment helps bring a sense of justice to me. I was lucky to survive the regime. Many of my coworkers were arrested and killed.</p>
5	Ly Hor	M	<p>In 1972, Um Soeun, a village chief, recruited Hor to join the Khmer Rouge revolution and serve as a security policeman in Prek Sdei Commune. Between 1972 and 1975, he served in the Khmer Rouge Army. However, he was eventually arrested in Koh Thom District, Sector 25, when he went into a house searching for food because he was suffering from starvation and overwork.</p>	<p>I decided to file a complaint form with the ECCC because I had endured so much suffering during the KR regime. I wanted to seek justice. I was disappointed when Duch previously denied that I was a former Tuol Sleng prisoner. I feel justice was served when Duch was sentenced to life imprisonment. Moreover, I have now been accepted as a</p>

			<p>He was detained and tortured at Office 15 for quite a long time. Near the end of 1976, he and ten other prisoners were sent to the psychiatric hospital prison in Ta Khmao. They were loaded onto a boat to cross the river, then put into a vehicle and taken to the prison at Ta Khmao. During his one-month detention there, he was interrogated three times, being tortured each time. He was then blindfolded and transferred to Tuol Sleng (S-21) by vehicle. They left in the afternoon and arrived at the Tuol Sleng compound at about 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. There he was shackled, but did not have to change his clothes. He was detained next to the place where the KR cadres cooked rice for guards and prisoners.</p>	<p>civil party in Case 001, which means that my suffering has been acknowledged by the court. This was what I expected as I was traveling from home to the ECCC. I feel proud. When comparing the reparation and the sentence, I think the sentence was more important. Reparation cannot replace what I lost during the KR regime, nor can it compare with justice. This is what I believe. I can forgive the lower level KR cadres who worked under Duch's supervision.</p>
6	Nget Uy	F	<p>Beginning in 1970, Uy's husband, Prakk Part, was conscripted as a Khmer Rouge soldier. She remembers that Part visited home once during the dry season in 1976. He was serving in Regiment Number One, based in Phnom Penh, and asked her to move to Phnom Penh with him. He promised that eventually they would live together again at home in their village. She has been waiting for him to return ever since, yet he has never appeared.</p> <p>In 1979, soon after the liberation of the country by Vietnamese troops, one of her husband's nephews visited her and delivered heartbreaking news – her husband had been killed at Tuol Sleng Prison. He had</p>	<p>Seeing Duch being sentenced to life term imprisonment, I feel so delighted and satisfied with this final judgment. Yet, at the same time, I am disappointed with the inadmissibility of my civil party status. At the end of the day, my name was not listed because I didn't have enough documents to support my case. I don't want to stop here and that's why I continue pursuing this CP status in Case 002. When I first filed the victim information form, what I wanted was financial reparation in order to hold some kind of religious ceremony dedicating to the soul of my husband; however, after several years of this process, I realized that what I really need is justice. And now, Duch received life sentence which mean I could have something to pay tribute to the</p>

			<p>been accused of betraying Angkar as a CIA or KGB agent.</p>	<p>soul of my husband. I feel a sense of relief. After all, I am satisfied with my years of participation in this process. I don't think I get angry with Duch anymore because he is now convicted and would die in prison. He would suffer the way my husband did.</p>
7	Thiev Neap	F	<p>Neap's husband, Heng Choeun, joined the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1973 as a member of Office 870. Later, in 1975, he served as a soldier during the fighting between the Khmer Rouge and Lon Nol forces at Phnom Penh. After the Khmer Rouge victory on April 17, 1975, Choeun was assigned to work near Psar Thmei Market, in charge of the economic system. In 1978, at a time when many Khmer Rouge department heads were arrested, her husband was promoted to work at Office 870 again. Unfortunately, he worked there only one month when he was arrested at his office on the north side of Psar Thmei Market. At the time, Neap was about 100 meters away from him and saw that he was talking on the phone. Shortly after the phone conversation ended, three Khmer Rouge cadres drove up in a Jeep and stopped in front of his office. Her husband joined them in the Jeep and they drove away, however she had no idea where the cadres were taking him. She later learned that Angkar had arrested her husband, although she had no idea why he was arrested.</p> <p>An hour later, she was evacuated in a truck, along with other women whose</p>	<p>My civil party application was rejected once more by the Supreme Court, however, I was not very sad concerning the rejection. Instead, I was satisfied with Duch's sentence. Regardless of whether my application was accepted, Duch was still brought to justice. I noticed Duch looking very sad upon hearing the sentence announced. He did not even turn around to see us outside. I will still continue to follow the ECCC proceedings, though Case 001 is finished. I would like to say thank you to the ECCC, which has helped us in seeking justice for these crimes committed in the past.</p>

			<p>husbands had also been arrested. They were sent to Chey Oudom Pagoda at Ang Snuol District, Kandal Province. There, they were ordered to work on the farm. Later, they were transferred to Battambang Province, where Neap delivered her baby girl. At the end of 1978, she was living at Thepadey Mountain, Battambang Province, where she witnessed many ordinary people being tortured by the Khmer Rouge through overwork. At night, those exhausted people would be taken to the foot of the mountain and executed.</p>	
8	Lim Yun	F	<p>In 1977, Lim was imprisoned at Wat Baray Sandek Prison, together with her husband, Khaol Khon, and her mother, Heng Yean. They were all arrested by En, the cooperative chief. Her mother was 60 years old at the time. Sen, the chief of Wat Baray Sandek Prison, told Yun that she and her husband and mother were accused of supporting the enemy of Angkar. They were imprisoned there for almost ten days before the prison chief realized they were innocent.</p> <p>During her stay at Wat Baray Sandek Prison, Yun witnessed a prison guard kill inmates by hitting them on the nape of the neck and pushing them into nearby pits which had been dug previously. The children who accompanied their parents were killed by being thrown against a wall of the pagoda. There were about 120 inmates with diverse ethnicities of Cham, Chinese,</p>	<p>I was satisfied with Duch's sentence, regardless of whether I was accepted by the Court as a civil party. I was nervous before hearing the sentence. I would have been very disappointed if Duch had not been sentenced to life imprisonment. I was pleased with my participation with the ECCC. The rejection of my application was based on insufficient supporting documentation to prove my relationship with my older brother. However, I had decided to file the complaint form with the ECCC to seek justice for my lost loved ones, not to seek revenge against anyone.</p>

			and Khmer. Most of them were accused by the cooperative chief of supporting the enemy of Angkar.	
9	Norng Sarath	M	<p>Two of Sarath's uncles, Norng Saruoth and Norng Sang, were arrested and killed at S-21 Prison.</p> <p>Norng Saruoth joined the revolution as a soldier in the early 1970's and served in Unit 7, Region 203. In 1977, Sarath discovered that his uncle had been arrested and taken to Tuol Sleng Prison. He did not witness Saruoth's arrest, because he was working far away from home.</p> <p>Norng Sang served in a logistics unit of Division Number 3, Region 203, before being arrested and taken to Tuol Sleng in 1977. Sarath does not know what crime his Uncle Sang was charged with having committed. Sarath believes Sang was dedicated to fighting for the protection of his motherland. He feels it is impossible that he was a Vietnamese sympathizer. Norng Nit, Sarath's cousin, witnessed Sang's arrest. Based on the uniforms of the cadres, the cars they drove, and their modus operandi, Nit and Sarath learned that they came from the most notorious prison in Phnom Penh, Tuol Sleng.</p> <p>After the arrest of his uncles, Sarath's entire family dared not make any comment, because the Khmer Rouge were constantly on the lookout for traitors to the regime. They lived in constant fear, because</p>	<p>I was very disappointed when my civil party application was rejected by both the trial chamber and the Supreme Court chamber. I was satisfied with Duch's sentence of life imprisonment, but I feel the court should reconsider my case, particularly in light of my suffering. Two of my uncles were executed at Tuol Sleng Prison. I decided to file a complaint form with the ECCC to seek justice for my lost loved ones. Justice, to me, means that my suffering has been acknowledged.</p>

			whomever the Khmer Rouge declared as an enemy or traitor was sure to be killed. In late 1978, Sarath's family and a majority of people from Svay Rieng Province were forcibly relocated to Pursat Province. Fortunately, he was able to survive while living in Pursat.	
10	Peng Poan	M	Poan was invited to testify at the ECCC regarding Duch's character and to share his experiences with Hang Pin (Duch). Poan met Hang when he was recruiting teachers to work at Phkoam Secondary School. Poan described Hang as an honest and intelligent teacher. Hang taught several subjects: mathematics, chemistry, physics and French. During teacher meetings, Hang offered constructive comments and thoughtful ideas. Peng admired Hang for his hard work and contributions to the school. Hang was addressed as <i>Kru Ta</i> ("Grandfather Teacher") because of his superior teaching skills and intelligence. He taught at Phkoam for over a year.	I was asked to testify before the court during the trial of Duch, although before that time, I had no knowledge of Duch's KR background. After I learned about his personal history, I was a bit afraid of him. I was satisfied with today's sentence compared with the previous sentence. Duch should be responsible for what happened during the KR regime, particularly the loss of Cambodian lives. The appeal verdict meant a lot to me, as well as to all Cambodians, including those who died during the KR regime. Students can also learn from the appeal verdict. We should not take any revenge against each other. We should start to reconcile with others (former KR). I felt justice was achieved through this appeal verdict. I will share my experience with my students and my neighbors when I return home. Concerning reparation, I do not think we can expect Duch to pay. The reparation I wanted the most was justice. Ultimately, I would like to share my view that KR history is very important for students. They should understand and remember in order to avoid any reoccurrence of these tragic events.
11	Chiem Sochoeung	M	Chiem Sochoeng moved to Phkoam village in 1993 after Duch was already a teacher at Phkoam Secondary	I am satisfied with the judgment. The sentence is exactly what he deserves. I think the verdict helps

			<p>School. He recounted an episode where Duch declined to attend the provincial pedagogy school inauguration where H.E. Tol Loh, the Minister of Education, was to speak. Later, Duch told Chiem that he and Tol were friends in high school. Following the coup d'état in 1970, Duch asked Tol and join the revolution, but he refused to join and left the country. According to Chiem, Duch has three sons and one daughter. Duch was strict with his children and conservative with his finances. Duch was quite wealthy in comparison to other villagers and owned a lot of property, including a house, farm land, seven or eight cows, and a small rice grinding machine.</p> <p>Chiem recalled that Duch never talked to him about his past personal experiences, he only discussed teaching methods. "I didn't have any idea about his background. I didn't even know that he received his baccalaureate before the Khmer Rouge regime. However, I recognized his ability in teaching students and his vast knowledge of history and other subjects," said Chiem. He also remembered Duch's skill in narrating stories about historical figures, such as Dap Chhuon or Preap In. He explained topics to his students very clearly and never used violence.</p>	<p>survivors of the Khmer Rouge to feel justice and relief from the painful past. The verdict also represents the initial legal judgment charging a KR leader with responsibility for the atrocities committed under the Khmer Rouge.</p>
12	Sek Say	F	<p>Sek Say (known as Sek Sothy) was the oldest daughter in her family. Her father, Sek Sat, (known as Sek Prak) and her mother,</p>	<p>This was my first visit to the ECCC. I had heard that Duch was previously sentenced to 35 years imprisonment. I did not follow the Duch trial very</p>

		<p>Chan Kimsron (known as Sang) began serving the revolution before the Khmer Rouge won complete control of the country. When the Khmer Rouge defeated the Khmer Republic on April 17, 1975, the KR named their regime "Democratic Kampuchea." Sek Sat, Say's father, worked as a secretary in Region 25 and Chan Kimsron, her mother, was the chief of a textile factory. In May of 1978, Prak, his wife and his one-year-old son were arrested and sent to Office 21 by Angkar. They were all later executed. Say, her sister, and all of her relatives who maintained relations with her parents were sent for re-education at the office in Chrey Opnov. Many of her father's relatives were permitted to go back to their hometowns. Only Say's family was separated from each other. Say's younger brother died from measles while he was escaping from the office in Chrey Opnov to Kien Svay District with his aunt. Say escaped from the office in Chrey Opnov and went to Kampong Speu Province.</p> <p>When recalling her childhood, Say has only a few memories of the time she spent with her family during the Khmer Rouge regime. Say remembers that her parents worked in Tram Knol District, Takeo Province. During that period, Say's grandmother cared for her in Kampong Speu Province. It was a very long time before her father was able to take her home.</p> <p>Once, when Say had a</p>	<p>often, for I was busy earning a living. During the KR regime, I was too young to remember anything. I can only recall that when I was separated from my mother, I cried and went around searching for her. However, I could not find her. Later on, I found out that my mother, Chan Kimsron, and my brother were brought to Tuol Sleng and executed there. I was satisfied with Duch's sentence of life imprisonment, which he deserved. I felt relief after hearing the appeal verdict. If my mother had lived, I would have had a chance to go to school and become educated.</p>
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			<p>serious illness, her grandmother sent her to a hospital in Kampong Som Province. As soon as her father heard that she was ill, he took her to a hospital in Phnom Penh located near the Preah Monivong Bridge. When Say recovered, she asked her mother if she could return to Kampong Speu Province to live with her grandmother.</p> <p>Later, Say's parents moved to Ta Khmao town and they were able to take her along. Say recalled that when she was reunited with her parents, her mother had just had another baby boy. In Ta Khmao town, Say did not receive porridge regularly because she was unable to work as much as her peers. To ensure that she would be able to eat regularly, her parents arranged for her transfer to a textile factory where it was easier for Say to work like the other children her age. Say lived in Ta Khmao town for only two or three months. After that, she was sent to work at the Som Pan Hospital in Kandal Province.</p>	
13	Peou Sinuon	F	<p>Sinuon is a Khmer Kampuchea Krom. She witnessed the Khmer Rouge arrest her parents and take them away on a truck. She was certain that her parents were sent away for execution because they were originally Khmer Kampuchea Krom and accused of being allied with the Vietnamese, thus betraying the country. Sinuon's other relatives were later identified and executed also. The Khmer Rouge accused her uncle and aunt</p>	<p>I am familiar with the Duch trial, and I attended the hearing once. Today was the pronouncement of the appeal verdict against Duch, who was the head of Tuol Sleng Prison. I did not expect much when I traveled from my village to attend this pronouncement. I was not sure if the sentence would be as long as what I wished. However, when I heard the sentencing decision, I felt justice being served. Duch was sentenced to life in prison. There were so many</p>

			<p>of stealing coconuts belonging to Angkar. During the DK period, the Khmer Rouge organized cooperatives in order for people to eat collectively. Sinuon did not receive enough food to eat at that time. A can of rice was served to twelve people. Sinuon received only a scoop of watery porridge per meal. In 1977, the food ration got worse and starvation haunted the village. Today Sinuon lives in Rumlech Commune, Bakan District, Pursat Province.</p>	<p>people killed during the KR regime. If the court failed to sentence Duch to life imprisonment, I would have felt the sentence was inadequate. At the prison (S-21), the prisoners were tortured, interrogated, and executed. Even though he is confined by the court, he suffers no ill-treatment, so life imprisonment is an appropriate sentence for his guilt. I believed other KR victims would also be satisfied with the sentence. In general, I feel some sense of reconciliation about what happened in the past. I will share what I know about the pronouncement with my neighbors so that we can all learn and reconcile. When comparing the sentence and reparation, I think the sentence was more important. Concerning reparations, I do not think the court could provide reparations for every victim, since KR victims constitute all Cambodian people living throughout the country. Finally, I hope the court is able to prosecute Case 002 without any difficulties.</p>
14	Kim Huoy	F	<p>Although born in Cambodia, Huoy considers herself Kampuchea Krom. Kampuchea Krom is the name given to ethnic Khmer people who live in the lower Mekong River delta in present South Vietnam. Under the Khmer Rouge regime, Kampuchea Kroms were accused of having "Vietnamese minds with Khmer bodies" and were executed as a result. Kim's parents and siblings were killed for this reason.</p>	<p>I am pleased that DC-Cam invited me to observe the announcement on Duch's final judgment. I am thrilled that the court decided to sentence him to life imprisonment. I feel relieved and peaceful that the verdict turned out well. Unlike the previous verdict, I feel very satisfied now as the court has helped to bring justice to my parents and family members, who were victims of the Khmer Rouge. Although I am not a direct victim of S-21, my family members and relatives, who were originally Khmer Krom, were killed at the hands of the Khmer Rouge. I feel satisfied</p>

				that the court has brought justice to me, my family, and other Cambodian people.
15	Norng Chan Phal	M	Chan Phal is a child survivor of S-21 prison, where Duch was the prison chief. Chan Phal was brought to Tuol Sleng with his mother, who was later executed at S-21. Duch was brought to justice for the crimes committed at S-21 during the KR regime. Chan Phal was a witness at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, testifying before the trial chamber during Case 001 against Duch.	I am very satisfied with this final judgment, as it has met my expectation. In contrast to the previous verdict, this judgment has offered hope that justice will be served for me, as well as for other victims at S-21. My current family, along with the passing of time, has helped to heal my suffering. This verdict will also help to alleviate my painful memories. I feel that the court has provided me and all Cambodian people with justice. I do not blame the lower level cadres for the atrocities which took place at Tuol Sleng. Although they had roles as direct perpetrators, the mass atrocities which took place at Tuol Sleng were so serious that we cannot blame them alone. This verdict is very meaningful for me since it helps to relieve my suffering from the painful past. It makes me feel hopeful, as if the sky has cleared after heavy rains and dark clouds. It's meaningful to me because I feel that it has compensated me for what I have lost during the Khmer Rouge regime.
16	Norng Chan Kimty	F	Kimty is the daughter of Norng Chan Phal, a child survivor from S-21. Kimty is a high school student. She is also a volunteer at DC-Cam, responsible for reading KR documents, collecting names of those who died during the KR regime before adding the names to DC-Cam's <i>Book of Memories</i> , a book dedicated to the lost lives of more than one million Cambodian people under KR leadership.	
17	Huy Senghul	F	Senghul is the daughter of Him Huy, a former prison	

		guard at S-21. She now volunteers at DC-Cam, after spending half-days studying at a university. Senghul is responsible for processing the names of those who died during the KR regime into the computer, storing the data for DC-Cam's <i>Book of Memories</i> , a book dedicated to the lost lives of more than one million Cambodian people under KR leadership.	
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