

**Building Democracy in Cambodia through Legal Education  
Witnessing Justice 30 Years Later**

**Financial Support Guarantees Justice**

March 4-7, 2013

**Introduction**

Financial issues have further hindered the already slow legal proceedings at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). The same monetary issues also disappointed twenty individuals from five communes in Cambodia who travelled to Phnom Penh to watch the proceedings on the morning of March 4, 2013. It is becoming increasingly normal for villagers, who travel to Phnom Penh, to have two concerns. The first is the possibility of the court being adjourned when the accused are being hospitalized. The second concern is the possibility of strikes by the staff, which often goes unpaid for months due to financial difficulties on the part of the court. The latter situation occurred on March 4, 2013 when the translators went on strike and demanded that their salaries be paid.



The participants invited by the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) have decided to appeal to the United Nations (UN) and other financial stakeholders to pledge funds towards the tribunals. By doing so the international organization and other countries can ensure that justice will be achieved in Cambodia. Some participants expressed their concern about the ill health of the KR leaders, and came up with fund raising strategies to ensure the continuity of the legal process. Provided below are opinions and recommendations of ten participants in regards to the financial difficulties.

**Mr. Dy Leun**, 49 years old, Banteay Meanchey Province.

“I have occasionally followed the legal proceedings at the ECCC, and am aware of the financial issues. I am concerned about how these issues are prolonging an already slow legal process. I want to know when the trials will finally conclude and the accused will receive their punishments. I would like to appeal to the UN to help the courts financially, and

thereby enable the court to provide justice for the sake of the Cambodians who suffered as well as the younger generation. My suggestion to the ECCC is to ensure that justice is provided, and I ask that the international community should assist the ECCC in meeting this goal. I also suggest that the government not interfere with the working of the ECCC. By failing to provide justice, Cambodia will develop a poor image within the international arena.”

**Mr. Thap Buntheang**, 58 years old, Banteay Meanchey Province.

“I am aware of the financial issues plaguing the ECCC. I travelled to Phnom Penh to observe the court hearing but could not do so because of the strikes. I appeal to the UN to support the trial, and thereby ensure that justice is provided to the Cambodian people. The UN should raise funds and encourage the ECCC to complete its work. I would also like to emphasize to the Cambodian government the importance of the value of justice, and therefore it should exercise restraint in interfering. The government also needs to cooperate with the ECCC until the conclusion of the Cases. I am optimistic that both the UN and international community will not turn a blind eye to the financial issues faced by the ECCC.”

**Mr. Tit Sam**, 56 years old, Deputy Village Chief from Banteay Meanchey Province.

“I am concerned about the constant delays in the proceedings of the court. I would like to appeal that steps be taken to ensure a speedier dispensing of justice. The Cambodian government should also mobilize finances from other donors to address the financial issues faced by the national side. My hope is that the ECCC will provide justice, and thereby become an example for the national judiciary in Cambodia.”

**Mr. So Srab**, 48 years old, Banteay Meanchey Province.

“I have heard about the financial issues that may hinder the Cambodia’s journey towards justice. I appeal to the international community to provide financial support to the ECCC and thereby end the long wait for justice. Regarding the structure of the legal proceedings of the ECCC, I believe that it would both be wiser and more reasonable to speed up the trials and thereby cut certain costs. The government should contribute towards the ECCC goal of achieving justice. To address the inability of the participants to independently come and observe the trial, I support any suggested fundraising initiatives. There needs to be financial transparency in terms of the budget of the ECCC, and the court itself needs to show more proof of their proceedings.”

**Mr. Thep Chhlat**, 50 years old, Banteay Meanchey Province.

“Through the media, I have been informed of the financial issues facing the ECCC, and do not think it is easy to just request money from donors. My appeal to the UN and international community is that unless there is transparency and a clear timeline, the efficiency of the court cannot be ensured. In the name of justice, I appeal to the US, United Kingdoms (UK) and Japan to assist the Cambodian people. My suggestion to the ECCC is that it needs to speed up the trial and provide fair and absolute justice. By 'absolute' I mean that those who violated human rights should be sentenced. Cambodian people should also attempt to raise funds to support the court, and thereby ensure justice. The Cambodian people need to unite and make sacrifices as they work towards the common goal of justice for those who suffered during the Khmer Rouge regime.”

**Mr. Horn Roem**, 55 years old, Banteay Meanchey Province.

"I have often heard about the financial issues facing the court. What concerns me the most is the continuity of the trial if the process is constantly interrupted by adjournments and strikes? As Cambodia needs justice, I appeal to the UN and other countries to provide financial support to the ECCC. While I have very little money of mine I would be happy to contribute to national and local initiatives in relation to the ECCC."



*Villagers watch a film "A River Changes Course" at DC-Cam*

A River Changes Course wins World Cinema Documentary Grand Jury Prize at Sundance, 2013

[www.ariverchangescourse.com](http://www.ariverchangescourse.com)

**Mr. Nun Sopha**, 63 years old, Banteay Meanchey Province.

"I am extremely concerned about the constant postponements in the legal proceedings of the ECCC. I would like to appeal to the international community to support the tribunal financially. My wish is that all the cases conclude with the provision of justice, and the ECCC itself be an achievement in Cambodian history. I also want to take part in the judicial process by sharing my experiences during the Khmer Rouge, and thereby informing the whole world of the regime's atrocities. I am also willing to contribute my own money to the court because I believe that is important that every individual involve himself or herself in helping the legal process. My hope is that the trials become an example of a fair judicial process. The government should also support the tribunal both emotionally and financially."

**Mr. Chheun Chheum**, 54 years old, Banteay Meanchey Province.

"Through the media I occasionally follow the legal proceedings at the ECCC, and am aware of the lack of funds and constant delays. During this trip to Phnom Penh I expected to watch the proceedings and was extremely disappointed that the proceedings were delayed due to the ill health of Ieng Sary. I often feel that justice will never be delivered. It is therefore my hope that the donors will continue to financially support the Khmer Rouge tribunal and thereby help in the provision of justice. If necessary I am willing to donate money to the tribunals."

**Ms. Sreb Sokha**, 53 years old, Banteay Meanchey Province.

"I have occasionally followed the legal proceedings at the ECCC. However the constant delays make it difficult for many to follow the legal developments. As a victim of the Khmer Rouge regime I appeal to the international community to provide financial support to the ECCC. I to am willing to donate money to the ECCC because I want to see the trials reach a conclusion. Once the ECCC receives fund I hope that the money will be used to conclude the case as fast as possible. I would also like to suggest that the government provide financial support to the ECCC."

**Ms. Se Sos**, 59 years old, Banteay Meanchey Province.

"I often follow the legal proceedings at the ECCC, and whenever I see the faces of the Khmer Rouge leaders I feel only anger. The tribunals are exceedingly important and should not be postponed so often. I am willing to donate money towards the tribunals but would also like to see the government show some initiative in regards to fundraising for the ECCC. I therefore appeal to the government to provide financial support the tribunals, and thereby speed up the pace of the legal proceedings. I would also like to strongly suggest to the ECCC that it wrap up its work as quickly as possible since many people are awaiting the final verdict.

## **Conclusion**

The sudden strikes and the ill health of Ieng Sary on March 4, 2013 have dimmed the hopes of the Cambodian people that justice will be provided for the suffering during the Khmer Rouge regime. With this fear in mind many of the participants have made appeals to both the government and the international community to provide financial support, and thus prevent the derailment of justice. The participants are also unanimous in their willingness to donate money of their own. They also stressed the need for financial transparency and heightened efficiency at the ECCC. These appeals and recommendations stem from a common wish that a final judgment be reached.

**APPENDIX:**

**Documentation Center of Cambodia**

**Building Democracy in Cambodia through Legal Education  
Witnessing Justice 30 Years Later**

**... A RECONCILIATION TRIP, IF POSSIBLE...**

**List of People Invited for the ECCC Hearing on March 4-7, 2013**

<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Story</b>
1	Kh mim Chak	M	<p>Chak, 55 years old, was born in Kok Thom village, Bo Sbauv commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meachey province. He has 5 siblings. His father died during the Lon Nol regime and his mother in 1975. During the Khmer Rouge period Chak was placed in Kok Thom district mobile unit, and made to work from dawn to dusk. Allowed only two bowls of rice soup per day, he was severely deprived of food. There was fighting almost daily in the region.</p> <p>As he is busy earning a living for himself, Chak has never followed the legal proceedings at the ECCC. However, he is willing to attend the trials because he seeks answers to two questions. The first is will the people of Cambodia receive justice for what they suffered under the Khmer Rouge? The second is what will happen in the future if this trial does not finish?</p>
2	Phat Tol	M	<p>Tol, 51 years old, was born in Bo Sbauv village, Bo Sbauv commune, Preah Netr Preah district Banteay Meanchey province. He has 7 siblings. During the Khmer Rouge regime he worked in a mobile unit digging canals and building dikes for the paddy fields. Food was limited, and he told the team that people would be killed if they could not complete the work assigned by the Angkar. He recounted that he would tremble with fear when he saw people being taken away to be killed. Tol lost two older brothers and his father during the Khmer Rouge years. He stated that the worst memories he has are of his life under the Khmer Rouge, who bought only suffering to the country.</p> <p>After the fall of the Khmer Rouge he served in the Armed Forces of the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) until 1980. He lost both hands while he was demining.</p> <p>He hopes that the ECCC can surely provide Cambodian citizens with the compensation they deserve.</p>
3	Im Keuy	M	<p>Im Keuy, 64 years old, was born in Bo Sbauv village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. During Khmer Rouge Regime he was made to live</p>



apart from his family for 3 years 8 months and 20 days. He worked as a farmer, and never received enough food to eat. He recounted his feelings of fear when the Khmer Rouge arrested, detained and killed people in Trabek pagoda or Boeng Kok Thom. Keuy stated that he rarely follows the ECCC, but he is confident that after attending a hearing he will learn more about the ongoing legal process, and how it may provide justice for all the Cambodian citizens.

- |   |             |   |  |
|---|-------------|---|--|
| 4 | Ping Chou   | M | No phone number  |
| 5 | Mak Lam     | M | No phone number  |
| 6 | Tam Saroeum | M | <p>Tam Saroeum, 53 years old, was born in Char village, Ov Laok commune, Banteay Ampil district, Banteay Meanchey province. Currently, he is living in the East of Kok Samrong village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Tmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. During Khmer Rouge Regime, he lost two brothers and father. He worked as a farmer, building the dike and dam in the rice field, and farming. The yields from farming were taken by Angkar and he did not receive enough food rations. At that time, what he was worried and terrified the most was the fighting between Khmer Rouge and Government and the fire shells from Thailand.</p> <p>He follows the proceeding of the ECCC once in a while. He wants to attend hearing because he still remembers about suffering during Khmer Rouge Regime, and his families who were killed by Khmer Rouge. No one can compensate for what he lost during that time. He hopes that ECCC can provide justice to Cambodian people killed by Khmer Rouge.</p>  |
| 7 | Dy Leun     | M | <p>Dy Leun, 50 years old, was born in Pong Ro village, Banteay Neang commune, Mongkol Borei district, Battambang province. He is currently living in Pong Ro village, Banteay Neang commune, Mongkol Borei district, Banteay Meanchey province. One of his 9 siblings was killed by the Khmer Rouge. During the Khmer Rouge years, Leun was made to work in Kanh Choh Young unit where he built the dyke, carried earth, and performed other heavy work without enough food. He states the Khmer Rouge fed them only gruel. During the violent years he was tortured using electric shocks and often beaten. Leun saw how the Khmer Rouge killed people using hoes, and told the team that he was terrified.</p> <p>Leun kept abreast of Duch's trial. With regards to the court hearings, he wishes to attend the courts to both watch the proceedings and look on the faces of the senior KR leaders as throughout the regime he heard only their names. He also wants to know whether they will face justice, or die before any conclusion is reached. Last he wants to share information about the Khmer regime and trials with the next generation.</p> |

- 8 Nun Sophal M Sophal, 63 years old, was born in Prey Svay village, Prey Svay commune, Mong Russey district, Battambang province. Currently, he is living in Pong Ro village, Banteay Neang commune, Mongkol Borei district, Banteay Meanchey province. Between 1975 and 1979, his parents and all of his sisters died of starvation and disease. During this period he was made to build dams, and perform other forms of physical labor without having enough food. Sophal told the team that he would often see the Khmer Rouge bringing to Rong Masin Chhas (Old Garage) to be killed.
- In regard to the tribunals, he has never followed the proceedings before. However, provided with the opportunity to do so he is keen to witness the proceedings first-hand, and decide for himself whether justice and compensation is being provided to the people. Sophal stated that he would like to emphasize to the court that it should not be tolerant in the final judgment concerning the leaders as they never showed any mercy to the people of Cambodia.
- 9 Sreb Sokha F Sokha was born in Pong Ror village, Banteay Neang commune, Mungkul Borei district and Banteay Meanchey province. During the KR regime Sokha was ordered to transplant rice in the paddy fields. She was overworked and only allowed to eat gruel with water-green. One day when she could no longer work, the Khmer Rouge cadres got ready to take her away to be killed. Fortunately, her father knew a Khmer Rouge guard who saved her.
- Sokha was enthusiastic about being selected to watch the trial as she wants to learn more about the legal proceedings against the Khmer Rouge leaders. Furthermore she wants to if possible suggest to the court that they pass a judgment against the leaders as soon as possible.
- 10 Nay Thom M Nay Thom, 51 years old, was born in Pong Ro village, Banteay Neang commune, Mongkol Borei district, Battambang Province. Two of his 5 siblings died of starvation and disease during the Khmer Rouge regime. Between 1975 and 1979 he was the chief of a children unit, and was made to perform hard physical labor without being provided adequate amounts of food. He also witnessed first-hand the extreme violence of the Khmer Rouge, which included torture and mass killings.
- He expressed his keen desire to attend the court hearings in person. Thom explained that it is important for the next generation to be educated about the Khmer Rouge. He also stated that his fear is that many of the leaders will die before a final judgment is passed. This he said would prevent justice from being delivered to those who suffered and died under the Khmer Rouge. Finally he added that only a judgment can lessen the anger he feels.

- 11 Thoab Buntheang M Buntheang, 58 years old, was born at Banteay Neang commune, Angkor Borei district, Banteay Meanchey province. During the Khmer Rouge regime he worked in a mobile work brigade as ordered by the Khmer Rouge. He worked all day and was severely malnourished. He told the team that Banteay Neang pagoda was used as a prison, and the nearby area was a killing field. During the Khmer Rouge regime, he explained, many people were killed and separated from their families. Buntheang said that he follows the proceedings quite frequently. He wants to attend the trials in person to judge for himself whether the proceedings can bring the leaders to justice, and hold them responsible for their crimes.
- 12 So Srab M So Srab, 46 years old, was born in Banteay Chhmar village at the southern part of Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puork district, Banteay Meanchey province. During the Khmer Rouge regime he was placed in the children unit. Throughout the four years he was constantly fearful of death, and suffered constantly from starvation and disease. In regard to the trial, he does closely follow the proceeding. However, he is keen to attend the hearings in person so he can see how justice is being provided to the country.
- 13 Chhim Samnang M Chhim Samnang, 56 years old, was born in Kbal Spean village, Prah Panlea commune, Serey Sophorn district, Banteay Meanchey province. During the Khmer Rouge regime he worked in a commune mobile work brigade in Lvea village, Mongkol Borei district. He recounted that fortunately there were some chiefs of the brigade who were kind so did not suffer as much as others in Cambodia. He has always closely followed the proceedings, and says that he has already forgiven the leaders because they are old and alone.
- 14 Phek Huok M Phek Huok, 48, of Preah Ponlea village, Pong Sat commune, Angkor Borei district and Battambang province. Huot said that the Khmer Rouge killed both his father and grandmother. During the regime he was in the children unit but was made to do the same work as the adults. Deprived of food, he would often eat grasshoppers and duck bran. Huok recounted that during the fighting between the Lon Nol and Khmer Rouge troops, the Khmer Rouge would force people to escape to the forests. Those who dared oppose the order would be suffocated using palm leaves, or shot cruelly. He follows the trials closely, and wants to attend them in person because he suffered and lost so much under the Khmer Rouge. He wishes that the court pass a sentence against the Khmer Rouge as soon as possible, and thereby prevent history from ever repeating itself. Finally he wants the next generation to learn exactly how the Khmer Rouge period has shaped



- Cambodian society.
- 15 Keo Kok M Keo Kok, 72, was born in Ang Snuol district, Kandal province. He lost his wife (died after giving birth), daughter (died as a baby because she did not receive adequate amounts of milk after her mother died), father, sister and a brother-in-law during the Khmer Rouge regime. Between 1975 and 1979 Kok was a farmer and did whatever the Khmer Rouge commanded. He never had enough food to eat, and while he never saw people killed he was ordered by the Angkar to bury corpses. He has often narrated his experiences during the Khmer Rouge regime to his children and grandchildren. He stated that he sporadically watches the proceedings at the tribunals.
- 16 Huon Met M Huon Met, 60 years old, from Banteay Meanchey province was evacuated from Phnom Penh during the Khmer Rouge regime. He was made to carry earth, dig canals and perform other hard physical labor. Like many others he was deprived of food. He told the team that he witnessed the Khmer Rouge killings. Victims, he explained, would be blindfolded and then clubbed to death. Met claimed that he witnessed the killing of Ros Serei Sothea, a famous Cambodian singer. Met stated that he has followed the proceedings at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) on television, and is extremely keen to observe them directly. He hopes that by watching the proceedings in person he can answer one question—have the KR leaders confessed to the crimes they committed?
- 17 Kan Saroeun M No phone number
- 18 Te Sok M No phone number
- 19 Kao Nah F Kao Nah, 74 years old, is currently living in Trapeang Chauk village, Boeng sub-district, Baray district, Kampong Thom province. During the Khmer Rouge regime she was evacuated to Dom village, Bak Sna sub-district, Kampong Thom province, and ordered to work as a farmer. Her husband was made to weld iron for the Angkar. She recounted that soon her family was selected by the Angkar to go to Tmey village. They were told that it was because the living conditions in Tmey were better but this was simply a ploy to kill her and her family. Fortunately, Nah refused to go and told them that she did not have a problem with the hardships she was enduring. Nevertheless, the Khmer Rouge still took away her husband to be killed. Kao Nah has always followed the proceedings of the ECCC on television, and states that any mention of the Khmer Rouge reminds her about her husband. She said that when she attends the hearings at the ECCC, she wants to see first-hand how the leaders live in prison? Furthermore she hopes that they suffer from hardships similar to those inflicted on her

- during their regime.
- 20 Lep Phoas F Lim Phoas, 67 years old, lives at Trapeang Chhouk village, Boeng sub-district, Baray district, Kampong Cham province. During the Khmer Rouge Regime she was evacuated to Bakk Sma village, in Kampong Thom province. She was made to cut trees in the forest, and thereafter ordered to plant sugarcane and vegetables on the cleared land. Her husband was sent to a fishing unit and then, in an attempt to kill him, sent deep into the forests. As he managed to endure these hardships, the Khmer Rouge arrested and then killed him. Phoas occasionally follows the proceedings at the court, and when she does she misses her husband. When she attends the hearings in person she wants to once again see Khieu Samphan, who she often saw while clearing the forest.
- 21 Thet Chhlat M No phone number
- 22 Mat Saopheas F Matt Sophak, 66 years old, lives at Trapeang Chhouk village, Boeng sub-district, Baray district, Kampong Thom province. During the Khmer Rouge regime, she was evacuated to Bakk Sma in Kampong Thom province. She worked as a farmer and cleared the forest and husked the rice. She remembered how she was made to work almost immediately after she gave birth. The most tragic moments during the four years, she told the team, were first when her nephew was accused of neglecting the Angkar's work and executed, and second when her mother died. Sophak does not watch the proceedings on television because it reminds her of her dead nephew, sister and mother. She only wants to attend the trials in person so she can look upon the faces of those responsible for her suffering.
- 23 Van Mun F Van Mun, 74 years old, lives in Trapeang Chhouk village, Boeng commune, Baray district, Kampong Thom province. During the Khmer Rouge regime she was evacuated to Raleab village, Bakk Sma commune, Kampong Thom province. As her father was district chief of Sangkum Reastr Niyum, she one of the 'new people' when the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975. She was therefore ordered to do double the work of the 'base people', and worked in the rice fields. After a period of suffering, she was transferred (because she knew a unit chief) to the garment unit to sew the clothes and raise pigs. This work was comparatively easier. She occasionally follows the proceeding, but has yet to attend the court. She really wants to attend it and to see the real faces of the former KR leaders.
- 24 Huot Roeum M No phone number
- 25 Peus Maisom F Peus Maisam, 64 years old, lives in Trapeang Chhouk village, Boeng commune, Baray district, Kampong Thom province. During the Khmer Rouge regime she was evacuated to Deum

village, Bakk Sla commune, Kampong Thom province. A Muslim Cham, she was ordered to raise pigs and eat pork. However, she refused to do the second, and consequently her husband was sent to Tonle Sap to be executed. On the way he realized this and tried to escape but was shot on the spot. Maisan has never been able to bury his body because it was thrown away in the forest near the village. She recounted that at night the Khmer Rouge would eavesdrop to see if she cried over his death. If she had, Maisom stated, she would have been killed. She stated that she does not follow the proceedings closely but has been desperate to attend the hearings in person as she too was a victim. However, her name has never been on the court's list. Maisom told the team that she sincerely hopes to attend the hearings so she can finally see the men who led the violence between 1975 and 1979.

Compiled by Ly Sok-Kheang, Un Sodavy, and Min Sanas of Documentation Center of Cambodia.

Funded by Office of Global Programs, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL), U.S. Department of State.