

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

Villagers React to Verdict in Case 002/01¹

August 7, 2014

Introduction

On August 7, 2014, the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) sent 20 outreach teams to conduct live screenings of the verdict in Case 002/01 of the Extraordinary Chambers at the Courts in Cambodia (ECCC). In an effort to reach communities that ordinarily may not have access to media coverage of the verdict, DC-Cam's teams provided live coverage for 20 locations in 12 provinces throughout Cambodia. These locations were chosen in accordance with the purpose of this outreach, which was to involve three target communities: former Khmer Rouge (KR) cadres, ethnic and religious minorities, and culturally significant sites.

Villagers from each location eagerly looked on as former Khmer Rouge leaders, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, were convicted of crimes against humanity and handed sentences



Villagers attending a live screening in the center of Sen Monorom city, Mondul Kiri province (August 7, 2014)

of life imprisonment. Each DC-Cam team provided explanations of the complex proceedings where needed, and engaged the locals in discussions on their interpretations of truth and justice. The forums provided not only a platform for interpersonal dialogue and comprehensive analysis of the verdict, but also allowed each DC-Cam team to collect and record various reactions, perspectives, and opinions from the participants.

Overall methodology of the Live Screenings

In a preparation for the historic pronouncement of verdict in Case 002/01, DC-Cam's Witnessing Justice Project took up a wide range of activities in order to provide live broadcasts of the screenings to the general public. Originally, six screening locations were selected to represent the zones of the KR administrative structure¹ and the live screenings

¹ This report was largely based on the data supplied by the individual teams in 20 locations of 12 provinces. Thus, we extend our profound thanks to all staff members, students of Royal University of Fine Arts, DC-Cam's associates, and other interested individuals.

were to be conducted nationwide. However, because many areas already have access to Internet and television, a final decision was made to engage the people from three designated areas: former KR strongholds, ethnic minority groups, and cultural sites. DC-Cam then arranged twenty outreach teams to conduct the live screenings. Each team consisted of DC-Cam staff members accompanied by one architect student responsible for sketching the forums. One team was also assigned to cover participant reactions at the ECCC.

Two weeks before the screenings, DC-Cam obtained permission from the governors of the twelve provinces in which the screenings would be held. The governors' positive responses and ongoing assistance enabled the teams to work closely with district, commune, and village officials. Collaboration within the administrative hierarchies helped each team arrange the screening venues, coordinate villagers' attendance, equipment set-up, and other necessary administrative tasks needed for the screenings. However, there were some challenges



For each of the live screenings, DC-Cam's teams brought along one architect student from the Royal University of Fine Arts to sketch DC-Cam's Public Village Forum. This sketch was made by Ms. Em Thavry and depicts the inside Phkoam pagoda of Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. (August 7, 2014)

in these arrangements. Some locations, namely in areas plagued by issues of deforestation and land grabbing, were less welcoming to the DC-Cam teams. Other teams were quick to report on the unwelcoming reactions from some former KR members, who showed discontent with the teams.

The teams discussed two possible technology options for broadcasting the verdict: the live screenings could be broadcast through the local television station, or, if this first option failed, the screening footage could be retrieved from the Internet. One week before the verdict, Television of Kampuchea (TVK) station confirmed its exclusive live coverage of the verdict, and later many other TV channels (such as Cambodian Television Network (CTN)) did the same. The television broadcast was therefore the most desirable option, given the lack of reliable Internet access in many of the areas chosen.

Each team left Phnom Penh for their respective locations on August 5, 2014, and spent a full day (August 6) setting up LCD projectors, screens, and loud speakers with the assistance of the local technicians. Each team joined the local authorities in informing more villagers about the events and conducting some pre-screening interviews.

Some teams did face challenges, and made regular reports about the progress in their locations. First, flooding brought a slight change to the original plans. Two days before the live screening, two teams, which were supposed to work in the Veun Sai and Andaung Meas districts of Rattanak Kiri province, received reports about heavy flooding, which cut off roads and bridges. In addition to heavy rains, the flooding showed no sign of receding. The

teams therefore chose to work in Kaun Mom and Ou-Chum districts instead. Similarly, the team assigned to work in the Tbong Khmum district of Tbong Khmum province also received reports of waist-deep flooding that made the screenings impossible. This team then made a call to Kampong Cham province's Kang Meas district, where many Cham Muslim people live, but the flooding also had reached that area within hours. This team ultimately chose to work in Roka Po 5 of Tbong Khmum province.

The team of Tbong Khmum province wrote:

Tbong Khmum team faced many challenges. Originally the team planned to conduct live screening in Kroch Chhmar district along the Mekong river. However this year mother nature has a different plan for the team. The rain has fallen an unusually large amount of water in Kratie and Stung Treng provinces and southern Laos. By early August the Mekong river rose to 22 meters and started to overflow its bank. On August 4, Svay Khleang village chief informed the team that our screening location was flooded and that it was difficult, but not impossible, to install a generator for the slide projector. On August 5 the team travelled to the village to decide whether it was still possible to do the screening despite the flood. If the water stagnated and that the water remained about half a meter deep in the pagoda compound it would still be possible. By August 5 sections of the road became flooded and water started to flow across it cutting the paved road from below but it was still possible to drive a car over. Villagers began moving their cattle onto the road, which was the highest place in the villages. The team arrived the pre-arranged screening location in the evening of August 5 in Svay Khleang village, Svay Khleang commune, Kroch Chhmar district. They found that the water rose to about one meter inside the pagoda and it flowed vigorously through its compound away from the Mekong river. The flow created loud crushing noise. This was too dangerous to wade through. Additionally the team could not return documents, which had been sent to the village a few days before as they were stored on a house where the water around it was too high. The team was left with only two hundred copies of magazine and trial observation booklets. The team had to return to Kampong Cham overnight fearing the water would continue to rise, which it did a day later making it impossible to drive on the road completely. The team had to immediately make confirmation with Roka Po Pram commune chief so that he had ample time to invite people, find a suitable screening location and we could set up equipment. Despite the challenges and limited preparation time, we were able to find an appropriate place in the commune to complete our tasks.

In other locations, heavy rains also reduced the number of individuals who were able to participate. The Pailin team noted that less than seventy villagers attended, given the downpour of rain. As anticipated, many hill tribal people and ethnic groups, such as the Phnorng, Kreung, Tumpuon, had difficulty following the verdict's announcement. However, the teams were equipped to clarify the verdict for them and even received several reactions from these participants.

The Verdict in Case 002/01

The Trial Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia found Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan guilty of crimes against humanity committed between 17 April 1975 and December 1977 and sentenced them to life imprisonment. Specifically, the ECCC found that the two defendants participated in a joint criminal enterprise to implement a rapid socialist revolution using extreme measures. The verdict comprised of convictions of crimes against humanity for three distinct periods of the Khmer Rouge Regime: phase one, forced transfer; phase two, forced transfer; and the Tuol Po Chrey operation. For the forced transfer that occurred during phase one, the defendants were found guilty of murder, political persecution, and other inhumane acts like forced transfers and attacks on human dignity. For the forced transfer in phase two, the defendants were found guilty of political persecution, forced transfers, and attacks against human dignity. Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan were also found to have planned, instigated, and aided and abetted (1) the extermination crimes that occurred during both forced transfers and (2) the enforced disappearances during the movement of population in phase two. For the Tuol Po Chrey operation, the defendants were found guilty of murder, extermination by execution, and political persecution of Khmer Republic officials at Tuol Po Chrey. The ECCC specifically found that Nuon Chea was responsible for ordering these crimes because he was a full rights member of the highest decision making bodies of the CPK, sometimes acting as Prime Minister in Pol Pot's absence. As such, Nuon Chea was deemed responsible as a superior for all crimes committed in the course of the forced transfers and those committed at Tuol Po Chrey.



A local leader extending his warm welcome to DC-Cam's team and the forum participants, and introducing the live screening in Banteay Ampil district, Oddar Meanchey province. (August 7, 2014)

The ECCC considered a variety of factors in the sentencing of the two defendants. The Court considered the gravity of the crimes; the geographic scope of the crimes; the temporal scope of the crimes; and the lasting impact of the crimes on the victims, their families, and Cambodia in general. The Court found a number of aggravating factors that supported heightened sentencing, and only a few mitigating circumstances that could lessen the sentences.

Some of the aggravating factors included the defendants' high education level, the defendants' abuse of their power, and the victims' vulnerability.

The ECCC recognized that as a result of the defendants' crimes, the Civil Parties to the case, as well as a significant number of additional victims suffered immensely and were entitled to reparations. The Court endorsed the following 11 (out of the 13 proposed) reparations projects: a National Remembrance Day project; the construction of a memorial

in Phnom Penh to honor victims of forced evacuations; a testimonial therapy project; self-help groups; a permanent exhibition; a mobile exhibition and education project; the inclusion of a chapter on forced population movement and executions at Tuol Po Chrey within the Cambodian school curriculum; the construction of a peace learning center; a booklet on adjudicated facts and civil party participation at the ECCC; two editions of the verdict in Case 002/01; and the inclusion of Civil Party names on the ECCC website.

While the judgment affirmed that the defendants were complicit in some of the worst human rights abuses of the second half the 20th century, due to the severance of the trial, the verdict is quite narrow. The verdict does incorporate many aspects of the Khmer Rouge regime's atrocities like cooperative work, starvation and forced marriages. A second trial is then planned to investigate the remaining charges, including the crime of genocide.

Notably, all parties have the right to appeal the judgment. The defendants will likely appeal the life sentencing they received, but the prosecution also is likely to appeal some



Mr. Top Mo, a villager from Koas Kralah district, Battambang province, was interviewed by the local media near the entrance of the ECCC's courtroom after the life imprisonment sentences were handed down to Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan. (August 7, 2014)

legal aspects of the judgment. However, given the gravity of the crimes alleged, the defendants will remain in detention during any appeals trials.

Overall, the judgment is a historic milestone for Cambodia. The judgment not only brings closure to many survivors, but it illustrates the hybrid Court's capacity to perform its duties of providing a fair trial with due process standards.

Grassroots Perspectives on Justice

The term "justice" is quite broad, encompassing various subjective meanings that differ from among survivors. Although the verdict was not often viewed as justice in and of itself, most of the live screenings' participants believed that the verdict and sentencing of the former Khmer Rouge leaders was a necessary step toward justice and reconciliation. One participant, Vik Nhouy, 48, from Rattanak Kiri province, stated that the verdict "reflects that our country has laws that can bring justice to people." However, the notion of justice meant, for most, much more than simply the verdict before them. For some respondents, the Court could never provide justice, because the harms they suffered were simply too great to be remedied through the judicial process, or through any mechanism for that matter. Others believed justice was delayed through the Court's proceedings, and felt that what the verdict was, perhaps, too little, too late.

Punitive Justice: The Verdict & Sentencing

Overall, the guilty verdict was widely supported and accepted by the participants of the live screenings. For many, the verdict exemplified justice or "karma" in action. And while some participants believed verdict and sentencing to be "enough," many others believed that while the verdict was necessary for the pursuit of justice, it was not sufficient to be, in and of itself, justice. Despite overall satisfaction with the verdict, a number of respondents

felt that their suffering, both past and present, was so severe that nothing—neither the verdict nor the sentence—could remedy the losses they suffered.

Although no participant expressed outright disagreement with the verdict itself, some villagers questioned the Court’s sentencing decision. Most of the participants expressed satisfaction that the convicted perpetrators received the life sentences, the highest possible sentence from the Court. Several respondents did not think that a life sentence was harsh enough and wished to see the former Khmer Rouge leaders sentenced to death, by hanging or stabbing. Many participants questioned the fair treatment of the perpetrators while they were imprisoned or detained, and believed that the human rights and livable conditions afforded to the former Khmer Rouge leaders was unjust given the beatings, starvation, and other massive human rights violations they imposed on their victims. But such vengeance was not sought by all of the participants. Mr. Lay San, 51, from Koh Ker, explained that the death sentence “would not bring back what we have lost,” and believed revenge was not the answer because then, “such vengeance never ends.”

A few respondents, namely former Khmer Rouge cadres from Anlong Veng province, believed the former Khmer Rouge leaders should simply be released because of their advanced age. Because punitive justice has come so late for survivors, and because of the advanced age and poor health of the perpetrators, it is not surprising that the life sentences



A villager expressing his opinions on the verdict shortly after the live screening in Banteay Ampil district, Oddar Meanchey province. (August 7, 2014)

handed down to Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea are not entirely satisfactory for all survivors. One survivor, Ms. Chan Thida, who attended the proceedings at the ECCC, hoped for a hundred-year sentence. She explained that a life sentence imprisons a perpetrator for only the short time he has left in *this* life, and then he will be a free man; but a hundred-year sentence would follow a perpetrator on after this life.

Truth Seeking

The extent to which the participants believed they had exacted the truth from the ECCC proceedings, namely the verdict, varied to some degree. Most of the participants believed that the proceedings helped them to learn about the crimes for which Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea were found responsible. Because many of the respondents said that they were unaware of what was happening outside of their own community at the time that these crimes were committed, they were interested to learn more about the scope of the Khmer Rouge atrocities. Most of the participants believed they learned details about the crimes committed and the perpetrators’ involvement in those crimes from the proceedings, but also from the outreach projects that provided access to and clarification of the

proceedings. Nevertheless, many participants wished to see Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea face justice and hoped for admissions of guilt and explanations directly from the perpetrators themselves. The majority of participants did not call for more trials to be pursued, some believing that the trial process took too long, others fearing that they, as former cadres, may also be tried. But a few participants did suggest that further investigations be conducted, not only of lower ranking cadres, but also of other individuals or countries potentially responsible for the crimes committed under the KR regime.

Furthermore, many participants emphasized the importance of documenting the evidence exposed in the proceedings and recording the proceedings themselves. They believed this was important not only reveal the truth, but also to validate the experiences of those who suffered under the Khmer Rouge regime and educate younger generations of children who may not believe the stories their relatives have told them.

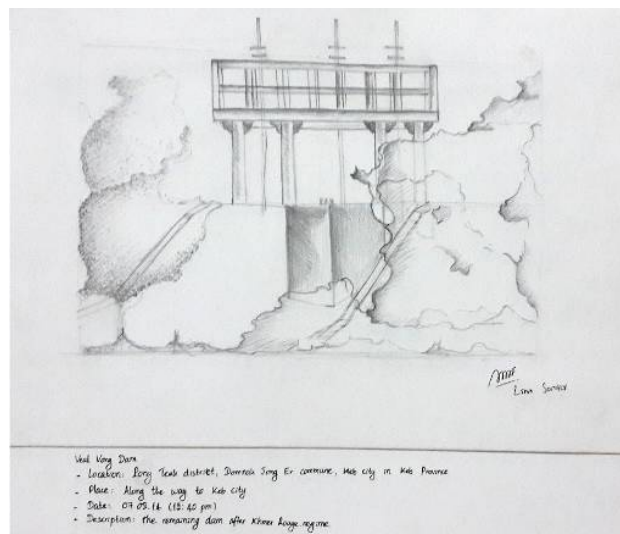
Reparative Justice

Some participants did not understand what was meant by the word “reparation,” likely because the Court, in its broadcasted verdict, did not provide a comprehensive explanation of the reparations projects. But many participants, once they understood what was meant by the term, suggested various forms of reparations projects that they desired including roads, religious centers, memorials, monuments, hospitals, clean water, publication of the proceedings, public apologies, and schools.

Many participants expressed a very strong desire to ensure that children of the next generations are taught about the Khmer Rouge regime, especially to prevent its reoccurrence. Accordingly, some participants requested better schools, in which the genocide is taught, and some participants suggested systematic changes in the law and government to prevent the KR atrocities from reoccurring. Prevention, for most of the participants, was of the highest priority when asked about reparations.

Though not often mentioned in the context of reparations, the participants’ emphasis on public apologies when asked about the proceedings was overwhelming. Many participants had really hoped that the trial would result in Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea admitting their wrongdoings and begging for forgiveness, but this did not occur. One participant, Mr. Lach Yoeun, 69, from Koh Ker, called for greater public awareness of the KR survivors’ experiences, believing that the trial gave too much global attention to the KR leaders, while the Cambodians who suffered and died violently during the KR regime did not receive the same attention and honor.

Only a few respondents suggested that the perpetrators should be responsible for providing reparations projects to survivors, but this may be because the perpetrators in this



This is a sketch by Mr. Linh Somaly, an architect student of Royal University of Fine Arts. Mr. Linh joined DC-Cam's Phnom Voar team. He wrote in his description: "the remaining dam after Khmer Rouge regime."

case, as well as Duch in Case 001, were found indigent, and thus unable to pay for reparations. Accordingly, some respondents believed the government, NGOs, and the international community should be responsible for providing reparations projects.

DC-Cam's Role in Transitional Justice

Most of the participants appreciated not only that the live screenings with DC-Cam's staff helped them to understand the proceedings, but also that they brought the community together to discuss the verdict. With the exception of a few, most of the participants said that they did not have a television, only a radio, and that the live screenings allowed them to see the proceedings for the first time. Participants felt it was helpful to have DC-Cam's staff present to explain the complexities of the proceedings that they did not understand. Many believed the live screening was especially useful in educating the younger generations.

The live screenings provided more than just an opportunity for participants to observe and learn about the verdict—they also provided a forum for open discussion. Mr. Thon Thoeurn, 36, from Koh Ker, believed that the facilitation of discussion promotes democracy. Many participants also viewed the screenings as an opportunity to come together as a community. One participant, Mr. Phrok Noeun, 64, from Kratie, said the event made the proceedings “more real” for him.

The following are selected observations from various teams during the live screenings:

Svay Khleang team, Tbong Khmum province: Overall the villagers welcome live screening in this pagoda, which is near their homes. They could watch TV at home, but by coming together on a special day it allowed a sense of community to flourish and collective thought to grow for crimes, memories and experience they shared as a community during the Khmer Rouge time. They like the location at the dining hall of the pagoda. It provides shade, [...] power supply, [and] protection against rain and hot sun. It is quiet and safe for all to come. The sound and image shown was adequate for listening and viewing. The [participants] only hope[d] that they [could] each receive more handouts from us, but we could not provide [these] because most of our materials were stranded in flood at the original pre-arranged screening location.

Phnom Voar team, Kep province: The forum was productive as it helped raise more public awareness of the KR regime and provided a chance to the people to express their thoughts.

Sambo district team, Kratie province: The screening was important for Kbal Daumrei commune because [the] majority of the villagers do not own a television and they had never followed the proceedings before. Two minority groups, Phnong and Mel, dwell in this commune.

Kaun Mom district, Rattanak Kiri province: It is important to note that such a screening with many people gathering is to take place at pagoda, the place all people respect and accessible without discrimination. Even though they did not understand fully the verdict they participate actively without money in return for their attendance, which is not like other activity that pays them to come. We anticipated that not all participants

understood what the verdict was, but this live screening provided the only chance ever for them to see KR leaders' faces and trial which, helps bringing their memory of KR regime back and live.

Svay Chek district team, Banteay Meanchey province: The live screening of verdict pronouncement in Case 002/01 against Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan shed another light for Cambodian people in the quest for justice. It was another step Cambodia took in dealing with the past. Justice was not wholly delivered when people defined it differently. Only individual person could judge whether this kind of justice is acceptable.

Conclusion

The live screenings effectively allowed hundreds of villagers in 20 selected locations to view the verdict in the ECCC's Case 002/01 against former Khmer Rouge leaders, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea. The opportunity to not only see the proceedings, but also analyze and discuss them was widely appreciated in the provinces. Overall, the selected locations successfully incorporated a significant presence of former Khmer Rouge cadres, ethnic and religious minorities, and culturally relevant sites. While the participants expressed varying views on the verdict, truth, and justice, many were eager to share these ideas, contributing to constructive and informative interpersonal dialogues in each location. These discussions are essential to the establishment of an informed Cambodian people, able to engage in democracy and human rights protection.



A group of children at DC-Cam's live screening inside a Buddhist monastery in Tbong Khmum district, Tbong Khmum province. They are holding DC-Cam's "Searching for the Truth" magazine and Trial Observations booklets.

APPENDIX I: The Pronouncement of the Verdict, Case 002/01: Prompt Reactions from the ECCC and DC-Cam's Live Screenings in the Field

Team at ECCC: Hope you have known about the verdict already, but just to make a short note that: Both Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan were sentenced to life in prison.

Bo Tep: I want to send this note to THANK YOU for your kindness and hard work on behalf of the Cambodian people. You and your organization have helped me and my family with the information you provide. On the news of the court decision, convicting Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan, for their crimes against the Cambodian people (my family included), I want to express my appreciation to You and Your Organization for your continuing work.

Vinita: Hi Terith, Was good to hear you from Anlong Veng and watch it on TV here in Singapore. Well done! You gave a nuanced picture of reactions on the ground and kept the focus on victims. Was great.

Jane: Tony and I have just heard the verdict, we are in France. To say congratulations is incorrect but surely the work you have tirelessly offered to support the work of the ECCC must make you feel this is a positive outcome.

Della: Just read the news about the verdict. I know that legal justice has its limits but I can't help but feel incredibly moved that finally they have been convicted. And I know that none of this would have been possible without your tireless work -- collecting documents, assisting the prosecution with legal memos and witnesses, etc. Thank you. Today is a happy day. Though I confess, I can't stop crying. All best to you and DC-Cam

Jean: Youk -- So pleased about the verdict!! Congratulations for all your hard work. It would seem it never is too late for justice.

Monychenda: Dear Mr. Chhang Youk, I love your interview in CNC about KR tribunal today.

APPENDIX II: Reactions from ECCC and Live Screenings

ECCC TEAM:

Mr. Teu Matt, 69, of Kampong Thom province said **the verdict** on Case 002/01 was a great decision to wrap things up, however, as one of his relative's entire family was killed off, the verdict was limited in that it could not compare with the loss. But he welcomed this decision. Regarding **truth**, Mr. Teu could not remember any truth telling from the trial proceedings. Mr. Teu believes he has not exacted the truth from the proceedings, and he wanted to hear directly from the KR leaders who were behind the KR movement and the source of the KR's creation. Regarding **reparation**, Mr. Teu said it would be great if there were any reparations to build roads and religious institutions. The community would benefit from these reparations. When asked who should be responsible for providing reparations, Mr. Teu decidedly left it to the abilities of the Cambodian government, non-governmental organizations, and others.

Mr. Top Mo, 55, of Kampong Thom province, having attended and heard **the verdict** on Case 002/01 inside the courtroom of the ECCC, found out that the two KR leaders committed numerous mistakes. Mr. Top said that as a leader, one should closely monitor their subordinates' conduct, or else be held accountable. He explained that it was unacceptable that those KR leaders argued that they were busy re-organizing Phnom Penh, and therefore unable to take close control of their junior cadres—that was a weak leadership. Mr. Top believed the life imprisonment of the two KR leaders was most appropriate as millions of Cambodians died of various unnatural causes. Mr. Top was satisfied with this sentencing. Regarding **justice**, Mr. Top explained that when the KR leaders encouraged young, uneducated and inexperienced cadres to execute their orders, this bred numerous injustices. Regarding the **truth**, Mr. Top said what he heard was the KR leaders'

repeated refusal of having committed any wrongdoings. Mr. Top asked, “Why do they refuse?” and wished to learn the truth about why their regime caused so many people to die. Mr. Top recalled witnessing the killings of some people picking tree leaves to wrap tobacco for smoking, for which one individual was killed instantly. Mr. Top explained that for minor mistakes you could be killed, and said he witnessed 50 people being killed. Regarding **reparations**, Mr. Top had no idea who should be responsible for the reparations projects. If reparations were possible, he preferred to have roads.

Mr. Chring Sok, 61, of Kampong Thom province said **the verdict** in Case 002/01 was most appropriate. Mr. Chring said the verdict was extremely significant, believing without it, the people would have lived with great disappointment for their entire lives. Mr. Chring said the sentencing of the former KR leaders to life imprisonment was a relief, although Mr. Chring wished they would have to face the death penalty. Regarding **truth**, Mr. Chring said he learned that Cambodian people of every race suffered enormously and that scope of the killings varied from one place to another, of which the people at that time had no idea. He said the trial proceedings provided more information about the criminal acts in general, however, Mr. Chring wanted to learn more from those who worked right below Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan. Regarding **reparations**, Mr. Chring liked the idea of constructing memorials. He believed that both the Cambodian government and NGOs should work to provide the reparations.

Mr. Ket Roeung of Kampong Thom Province recalled suffering a lot during Khmer Rouge (KR) Regime. While attending the verdict in Case 002/01, he was very happy to hear the Court sentence both KR leaders to life imprisonment; however, he thought that this sentencing decision was not proportionate to what these former KR leaders had done because they killed millions of people. But Mr. Ket still supported the Court’s decision believing it provided justice for all people. Regarding reparations projects, he said that it should be the government’s responsibility.

Mr. Chring Sok, 63, of Tumring Commune, Sandan District, Kampong Thom Province said that after he heard the verdict, he thought that the life imprisonment of former KR leaders, Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan, was not enough for the victims because of the were cruel massacres and killings that took place in Cambodia. He would be more satisfied if the Court had sentenced the former KR leaders a long time ago. Mr. Chring agreed that he could accept the verdict though, because it at least informed all victims and allowed them to know about the sentence. Mr. Chring also said the verdict is very important for all Cambodian citizens because it can help to relieve people’s suffering and anger so that they may live more happily. Mr. Chring also said, “[Reparations] should be [...] any memorial or monument for praying for the victims that were massacred, but I do not know who will be responsible for the reparations.”

Mr. Chea Phal, 54, is from Koas Kralah District, Battambang Province. Regarding to Case 002/01 verdict, he said that it was not enough to sentence both Khmer Rouge (KR) leaders, Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan, to life imprisonment. He recalled his cousin, who used to serve as a Lon Nol soldier in Serey Sorphorn District and was killed in Battambang, as well as his wife’s parents, who also were killed under the KR regime. “I will tell my wife about this verdict when I come back home,” he said. Mr. Chea wanted to thank the Court that

rendered this verdict and sentenced them life imprisonment and said that the Court's verdict is very important for next generations to know that this regime was real and did exist in Cambodia. Regarding reparations, Mr. Chea said that the Court should decide. Last, he requested that the Court to find out who established the cruel KR regime because it could not have existed without people.

SEN MONOROM TEAM:

Venerable Sav Yan, age 80, Patriarch of Sen Monorum Pagoda, originally from Treang district, Takeo province, Venerable Yan, said he became a truck driver when he was 20 years old, and moved to live in Phnom Penh. On April 17, 1975, he was evacuated to his hometown, however, he was held up along the way and never reached home. He was forced to transplant rice during the regime. Given his driving experience, he was called to help with transportation in Monduliri province. Venerable Yan contributed significantly to the re-establishment of Monduliri provincial administration after the Khmer Rouge collapsed. Venerable Yan was happy to hear that the Khmer Rouge leaders were finally convicted for crimes against humanity. Although he emphasized that vindictiveness is not paid with vindictiveness, he said this trial is not about revenge and that the wrongdoers must receive these results.

Ms. Chan Sinan, age 46, originally from Svay Rieng and moved to Monduliri in 1998. Her father was a Lon Nol medic who was killed by the Khmer Rouge in 1975. She said it was good to hear the Khmer Rouge found guilty, but believes the sentence is too little and is not appropriate. She said the following:

"I still feel hurt; no closure yet. I wanted them to repay back our damage. I want them to be responsible for the future of young generation. Many of them became orphans after the regime. They should rebuild the country and ensure no more atrocity. I don't want to see this again. I want the country to be developed."

Ms. Saom Vanna, age 50, agreed that life-sentences are welcome, but do not heal her wounds. She said, "I want them to receive death penalty because they killed my father and tortured us." Vanna is originally from Svay Rieng province. She was about 12 years old when the Khmer Rouge came to power. Her father was accused of having a "Khmer body, Vietnamese brain" and sent to be killed. She herself was identified as Vietnamese since she used Khmer language mixed with Vietnamese words, but she escaped. She said if the former KR leaders were dead, then she would feel a closure, but because they are still alive, she still feels pain. She said that at least she now knows that they are finally found guilty and stated, "they all need to accept it because their deeds were too wild."

Mr. Yuos Ra, age 40, and an NGO worker originally from O-Reang district, said he was evacuated to Koh Nhek. He welcomed the verdict. He said that this is how the law works. His father, who was the chief of a group during Lon Nol regime, was targeted and killed along with his other uncles. Mr. Yuos said, "I am happy to see that they are found guilty. This guilty verdict met my expectation. It helps search for the truth and justice." He thought

the sentence was appropriate, but the punishment was still light. He suggested that instead of putting the convicted in an air-con room, they “should be kept at Tuol Sleng cell in order to experience this hardship as the former prisoners did.” He added that although the verdict could not bring back his deceased father, it helped end the culture of impunity through legal justice. He said, “I feel closure. I usually followed the Court and learned that it costs a lot of million dollars and some people also passed away. I only saw Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan and I am wondering if there are only two living KR senior leaders. If the rest have passed away, I’d feel better; otherwise, I still have doubt.” Ra believes that research and documentation are important because these help find the truth and support the tribunal. He said, “For me, this is justice. If we forgive them, then it does not mean justice, especially for the victims like my father. This verdict also teaches young generation that if you committed wrong, you have to face it.”

Mr. Chhum Sory, age 40, Sen Monorum Commune Chief felt that the sentence was appropriate because the two defendants were found guilty for the crimes committed during their rule. But he disagreed with Ra (respondent above) regarding punishment of the convicted: He said, “we don’t need to torture them as they used to do to the victims. They are too old and we don’t want to commit inhumane acts against these persons. This will enable us to seek reconciliation.”

Mr. Ri Chhaom, age 73, also agreed that the sentence was appropriate and believed that it would help heal his wounds. He said, “I feel some sort of justice now.” He wants young generations to learn about the history so that they would know it in detail. Mr. Ri said that this education would be an effective mechanism in preventing the past atrocities from happening again. He stated, “I don’t want anything more but to include this history in the curriculum.”

Mr. Sroeurv Sokha, age 52, and a farmer originally from Oreang said he was evacuated to Memang, Mondulkiri to transplant paddy rice. In total, Mr. Srouerv said that 5 persons in his family lost their lives during the Khmer Rouge. He said, “I heard about the tribunal from the verdict today and I am happy to hear that Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan were sentenced to life imprisonment. I feel a closure. It is appropriate. I want young generation to learn about the trial and the Khmer Rouge regime, so they know the truth.”

Ms. Klaem Yin, age 39, Yuos Ra’s (above) wife, also originally from O-Reang, said she was evacuated to Koh Nhek district at nighttime. She said her grandfather and uncles were accused of having ties to the Vietnamese and were killed. After the five of them were shot, she recalled feeling pain when she heard about this story from her mother. For this reason, she felt that the verdict was appropriate, but it never could bring back her lost loves. She said, “Perhaps reparations would be able to rehabilitate my family. I want the Pol Pol [regime] to repay me and my family. If I ask you to pay this, it does not make sense because you are not guilty. Given my current situation, I want individual reparation.”

Mr. Pyramid, age 34, motordup driver, said the Khmer Rouge regime was brutal because people were killed without any proper reasons or Court of justice. He heard about the establishment of the Court in 2006. Regarding sentencing, he said, “It is inappropriate; it is too little because they killed millions of people. Justice alone does not help the victims. There should be some reparation schemes.” He added, “These schemes should be comprehensive rather than just a symbolic one.” Commenting on the expenses of the Court up to now, he said he had no comment because he did not know the politics behind this and needed more detailed information before making any judgment. He wanted other countries that were allegedly involved with the Khmer Rouge regime help rehabilitate Cambodia. More specifically, he wanted those donor countries to focus on the following fields: education, health, and telecommunication. He also said, “I strongly support the history teaching because this helps broaden their knowledge on the atrocity in order to prevent it from happening.” He continued, “This verdict can be used as a mirror for the Khmer Rouge leaders to reflect their own deeds. It may also help strengthen Cambodian domestic justice system.”

Mr. Nherch Mil, age 42, chief of Pou Tang Village, originally from Keo Seima district, said he was evacuated to Koh Nhek. He said he was very young during the Khmer Rouge regime and he did not know much about it, so he left this to the Court to find the truth and justice for him. He said he does not want anything else but justice. His brother was tortured after he was accused of stealing cassava. Mr. Nherch said life sentences are appropriate for him. He said, “in a metaphoric term, they are just paying their debt. They committed wrong doing, so it makes sense.” He does not know whether the guilty verdict could be measured with the expenses, but he is happy with the verdict. He wanted children in his village to learn about the regime. Mr. Nherch said, “Throughout the history, we never experienced any such destructive policy. I’d like to request your organization to show the Khmer Rouge films to young generation to help them learn and remember about the regime.”

Ms. Haut Poun, age 80, said her family was sent to Koh Nhek district where she was asked to dig canals and build dams and the Khmer Rouge banned her cultural and traditional practices. Poun lost about 20 relatives to the Khmer Rouge. She said “I heard about verdict through radio, but I did not know about the details.” She was happy to hear that the two defendants were handed down life imprisonment and she felt a closure now. She also wanted young generations to learn about this history to avoid this mistake. (Note: Her reaction is translated from Pnorng to Khmer by Pou Tang chief of village).

Mr. Mlaing Chorn, age 49, Vice Governor of Sen Monorum, originally from Keo Seima district, Mondulkiri, was evacuated to nearby district. He said that this verdict was appropriate:

“This is justice for me and I believe it is also for most of the people here. This is not different from death penalty because they will be imprisoned until the end of their life. I don’t know much about the expense and I can’t tell whether it makes sense or not, but I know that they spent so much effort to find justice for us.”

He said the guilty verdict helps heal his wounds to some extent. Mr. Mlaing said, “I appreciate the government that is cooperative with the ECCC. I think that this history is important, especially for young generation.” He also noted that several history questions appeared in a recent Baccaulaureate exam which took place on August 4th and 5th. He continued:

“Given the importance of the live screening, I met with all the four commune council chiefs two days ahead and we invited the villagers to come to the screening. I expected more villagers than this, but the reason that the turn out rate was low was because they were busy at home and some of them preferred to follow the verdict at home since they have their TV.”

Chorn suggested that Ieng Thirith should also be tried according to conspiracy theory, and said, “If she did not join the plan, we would not be traumatized like this.”

ANLONG VENG TEAM:

Nheb Neav, 60, former Khmer Rouge soldier: “I am not very interested in the trial proceedings against former Khmer Rouge leaders. I feel that it is Khmers putting Khmers on trials, while the foreigners were left alone. Although I don't want this tribunal, it is already in existence. Also, prosecuting them will not bring back those who died. I would be very happy if those who died could come back to life. I lost my family members too; but I cease my anger. I think without having to impose a life sentence, their lives come close to an end, anyway. My guess is that they could live for another two years at best. Talking about this tribunal, many former Khmers Rouges are scared. My superiors are scared; but I am not. Some are scared to the extent that they stay away from their houses for a limited period of time and return home when feeling safer. We are living in a former Khmer Rouge area, as you know it. When the superiors are chaotic, the subordinates do too. I am not sure what they scared of. You know, during the Khmer Rouge period, when one is in trouble, others would be implicated too.”

Vong Ko, former Khmer Rouge soldier of Anlong Veng: “I don't disagree with the tribunal handing down the verdict. I don't want additional prosecutions. Former Khmers Rouges are scared. As you know, now we have case 002, then case 003, 004 and ... maybe 010. We are scared because of these additional prosecutions. I joined the Khmer Rouge in 1985 and, therefore, I am not scared of these prosecutions. In my village, the elders are afraid of being put on trials. As you know, they are old now and get sentenced to life. I feel they should be kept outside [the prison]. I think that this tribunal has some advantages and that is its deterrence effect.”

Tho Lun, former Khmer Rouge soldier under Ke Pauk: “I believe this is about Karma because they did bad deed. Now, this is the issue for the Court. To the extent that I have a grasp of this community, fear is all around – me and the rest of the villagers, in particular former Khmers Rouges. The fear is about revenge and more prosecutions, Case 001, 002, 003, 004, 005. This has become a disease in our mind. For me, I am scared, very scared. You can ask them; they too are very scared. First of all, [I am] scared for being former Khmers Rouges. Second, [I am] scared of more prosecutions. I became a village chief in 1995. During the Khmer Rouge regime, I was a soldier. I was in senior position, but the fear was due to being former Khmer Rouge. Nonetheless, I think that this tribunal has its advantage in that it

deters the younger generations from following. But, yes, I am scared. I know that the tribunal only prosecutes top leaders of the regime, but still I fear.”

Mr. Chin Vorn, 60, former Khmer Rouge cadre: “As far as my opinion is concerned, it is the right thing to prosecute and award this sentence. Leaders must be held accountable for their acts that had resulted in dangerous consequences on their own people. Life prison term is not too heavy; I believe it is appropriate. They are in their 80's now and may not last longer than 1 or two years. I support this tribunal; this is for those leaders who commit the crimes against the people. I think the tribunal should stop after Case 002. More prosecutions will not change anything. These three leaders prosecuted so far were the machineries and this should be enough. More prosecutions will implicate larger and bigger to include those countries as USA, China and Russia. Let's finish it here.”

Mr. Hem Hong, 68, former Khmer Rouge village economic staff member: “Let the Court do with it. It is not up to me as to whether the tribunal prosecutes them. I agree with whatever was handed out. I have no opinion with regards to this life sentence. This was handed out by the Court, and I have no problem with it. I have heard about this tribunal on radio for a long time now, but I understand that this tribunal is struggling with funds. As far as I am concerned, I don't want to see our Khmers having further problems. I rather like to see it stop at this stage. I am not scared of the prosecution because I was not involved. But, yes I do have some fear due to the trauma. I think the tribunal will bring closure to the victims. I don't want to see more prosecutions; we are all Khmers.”

Uch Phirun, 47, Khmer Rouge's former Phnom Penh port worker: “Prosecution is the right thing to do. I agree with the verdict as they committed crimes against our people. Life sentence is appropriate. They are old now; heavy sentence should be no problem for them. I want the direct hands [to be prosecuted]. I myself suffered. I was re-educated and reassigned to look after about 100 young children. It was a difficult job. When Phnom Penh fell, I ran without any directions. I ran because I was afraid of being killed when caught. My comrades were wounded and killed by landmine on the run. During the civil war [1970-75], I was a military medic, fighting the war. Living on Dangrek Range was very harsh. I used to attend in a meeting with Uncle Khieu Samphan. He said, ‘Our comrades, given the situation of our county, please act in accordance with the situation.’ They did bad things to many Cambodians and, thus, let the laws do its job. I personally want more direct hands to be prosecuted. I was severely mistreated. I am not scared of this tribunal because I suffered during the regime. People in my village are not scared. They told me they are not involved with Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea. I only hear about Case 002. I don't know about other cases; I live too far remote, having no access to this information. I think this tribunal is good for the victims who lost relatives. It is also good for the county; people know about the prosecution.

Mr. Pun Rin, 19, Anlong Veng: “I think that the sentence awarded against them is just. They were the leaders and they must be held responsible. I really think that this prosecution [is] good lesson for the future leaders. I wholeheartedly support this prosecution. The sentence, I believe, is just – not too much and not too lenient. Most importantly, this prosecution brings healing. The word ‘justice,’ I think means ‘just,’ and the tribunal is just. During the

Khmer Rouge period, I lived in Siem Reap and was a member of a mobile unit, digging and carrying earth and constructing canals and dikes.”

Mr. Phonn Phoeun, 32, former Khmer Rouge soldier: “Although the sentence awarded was a good thing, I feel in my heart that these are old men. They would not last that long in the prison. Nonetheless, I believe that prosecuting the wrongdoers is the right thing to do. I support the trial, but that support goes up to Case 002. We have now had Case 001 and 002. I am afraid that there will be Case 003 and 004 and, if these will be the case, it is too much. I believe the prosecution is a good lesson for the young generation. I think that the sentence decided by the tribunal is too much, given that they are old now. I approve of it and support the tribunal. I think that this tribunal will deter such things from happening again. I also think that this tribunal offers justice.”

Ms. Prum Sarang, 37, Anlong Veng: “As far as I am concerned, prosecuting them is the right thing to do so that younger generation will not follow them. I think it is good that the wrongdoers are punished. The sentence is not too much; they will not last too long, though, in prison. I approve of the tribunal and believe that this tribunal is important in that it helps educate younger generation in that they will not follow these footsteps. To me, justice means freedom for the people and fairness in that the wrongdoers must be punished. I didn't know much about what happened. I lived in Kampot and moved here about 6 years ago.”

Ms. Rith Phuon, 64, Anlong Veng: “I don't understand much and the prosecution does not matter much to me. I am just a regular villager who knows nothing. Nonetheless, I think the sentence was quite appropriate. I am not certain as to whether this sentence is too much or too little. I think that the prosecution is important. Now people know that they were handed life sentence. To date, the people do not know much. I believe justice has been served. I lived in Oddor Meanchey during the Khmer Rouge regime. I was assigned to build dikes and dig canals. I tried to rebuild myself, wanting to see my parents. Unfortunately, they were perished during the regime.”

Ms. Mei Thy, 45, Anlong Veng: “I moved to Anlong Veng five years ago. I think that this prosecution does good for all of us. I approve of and support it because it was hard during the regime. The sentence was quite appropriate for the mistakes they did. I approve of the fact that they are now sentenced and put in prison. For me, I feel closure and so do all other people. Justice is served. I was in Pursat during the Khmer Rouge regime.”

Mr. Ngim Kheng, 37, Anlong Veng: “I am a former Khmer Rouge. As far as I am concerned, I support the tribunal and this prosecution. Leaders must be held accountable for the mass killings. If without prosecution, I am worried that young generation will follow. The sentence was appropriate and, even if I want heavier or lesser sentence, is impossible. I support this prosecution and they deserve this sentence. What is important to me is that we must avoid the recurrence of this regime. For me, justice means what was delivered by the tribunal; but I am not sure what others think. The wrongdoers deserved this.”

Ms. Khoeun Borey, 23, Anlong Veng: “I moved in from Kampong Thom. I don't know much about history. I sympathize these old men who were awarded life sentence. On another

thought, they deserve the sentence. I support this prosecution for these men who had committed mass killings. On the other hand, I don't support this sentence for they are very old. If possible, please release them. As far as the Court is concerned, the sentence is not too heavy; but, for their families, this sentence is heaviest since they are old. The importance of this tribunal is a lesson for younger generation not to follow. For me, justice means no corruption, doing things fair and just with intellect. If possible, please release them for they are old. I was born after the Khmer Rouge, but was told about it by elders.”

Nuon Romono, 23, NGO worker, Anlong Veng: “I came from Prey Veng. I moved here two years ago. I think the sentence is good, but does not meet my expectation. I want the true culprits who had brought about the Khmer Rouge regime be brought to justice. I don't know who they are; but I don't believe that only two of these guys can bring about such regime, killing Khmers. So, we need find the real truth, which who had really created this 3 years 8 months during which Khmers were killed. Life sentence does not seem as significant to me because they are old now and will not last long. The tribunal too is not very significant as the true culprits do not seem to be revealed. I don't want to discuss deeper than this. As you know, our democracy is so little that it appears to me that people rather like to hear lies than the truth. These two men are old now and should have no reason to fear life sentence. As far as I am concerned, I believe they do not want to be recorded in history as the ones who had killed Khmers. There still is mystery we do not know about and the Court failed to make thus come out.”

KAMRIENG TEAM:

Mr. Chum Horn, village chief of Kamrieng village, Kamrieng commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province: “I have never followed up the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC) , just heard from other people in the village. I saw sometimes on the TV when I turned on the TV but I rarely turn on the TV when it was not necessary. I had no idea about the decision from the trial to sentence Nuon Chea and Khiev Samphorn to life in prison because it depended on the law who found mistake they committed. It is impartial because it has been researched before making the verdict. I observed that the procedure of the trial is a bit long for finding the justice; however, it is not good if it is quit short. The money and time the ECCC spent to process their work is acceptable because everyone knew and experienced this evacuation. Putting them to life in prison is good because this is the compensation to the victims. Any victims who got suffer by them will be healed and no anymore wonder. This is the historical event therefore; the young generation should be informed and avoided.”

Mr. Srun, Kamrieng village, Kamrieng commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province: “I was born in Kampong Chhnang province. Before Lon Nol coup d'état, I was 21 years old. Later on, I became a political propagandist to overthrow Lon Nol regime. Between 1975 and 1976, I was a famer in Kampong Chhnang province. Yim was my chief and follow him I became a transporter in Unit 1, southwest zone. My work is to transport injure people. There were many people who came from different places in my group. As my view, Nuon Chea and Khiev Samphorn had no mistake because both of them obey order from other people. I knew both of them clearly. I used to work with Ho Yun, Ho Nim, Khiev Samphorn, Nuon Chea, Ing Sary but the top leader and most powerful person during Khmer Rouge

regime was Pol Pot and Shihanuok. I knew a lot about them but I did not want to talk about them. According to the documents, some young generations might know already about such killing during Khmer Rouge regime but this killing is the killing of enemy.”

Mr. Toeun Phat, second deputy commune chief in Kamrieng commune: “I live in SraloavTorng village, Kamrieng commune and Kamrieng district, Battambang province. I have followed up every event of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC) and I have heard about trial is planning to have case 003. My question is that: what is the level of Nuon Chea and Khiev Samphorn’s detention? Even they were sentenced to life in the prison but it is not necessary if they live in better life than the other prisoners. Therefore, I would like to ask the Court to be seriously on this. Even I don’t understand much about the national and international law, the most important thing is we want justice. Sentencing only two people is not enough and it should have more than this. I want the younger generations take seriously on this sentence because it the historical event.”

Ms. Ham Huy, Kamrieng village, Kamrieng commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province: “During Khmer Rouge regime, I was in the women mobile unit. I was assigned to work in the field and transplant the seedling. After the verdict of trial in case 002/1, I have no idea. It depends on the Court decision. I was an ordinary person. I don’t know any laws.”

Mr. Lay Nai, 66 years old, used to live in Kampong Speu, Po Mariel village, Po Mariel commune, and today lives in Kamrieng village, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. When he was 13 year-old, Mr. Lay became a monk at Mariel Village later was assigned to live at Phnom Penh as head monk until 1973, when the Americans bombed the country and he came back to the village with another four monks. Those monks were accused of being Lon Nol troops and later were killed. Mr. Lay said he was also brought to be killed, but his cousin, who worked as a Khmer Rouge soldier, helped him (though later his cousin was accused of working for Lon Nol and killed by Khmer Rouge as well). Nai said he later was disrobed and became a normal person. He was married at age 30 with an actress’s cousin named Dy Sokccorn. He said Dy Sokcorn was a singer and an actress who won awards in Lon Nol regime, but she later disappeared. His brother in law, Min Kan, also disappeared during evacuation from the city to Battambang. Nai said another cousin, Pol Sokeim, a pilot at Lon Nol regime, and his family were killed at Choeung Ek. Nai followed the Khmer Rouge tribunal sometimes. Although he came late to the live screening, he completely agreed with the sentencing of Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan to life imprisonment because he suffered during the regime. The sentencing to Nai represented justice for Cambodian people who used to live through and experienced the regime. The proceedings seemed to be long, but he was still satisfied with the process because he lost his relatives. He wanted the younger generation to learn about the Khmer Rouge regime, especially the verdict, because they can learn that how their grandparents died in regime. He said he did not want anything else from the Khmer Rouge tribunal because those two were sentenced for their whole lives.

Ms. Teing Side, 56, lives in Kamrieng village, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Teing used to live at Dumlounng village located in the jungle in Battambang province and later moved to Kamrieng because of poverty. She was married, along with other 10 couples, by Angkar. She worked in Youth United and her position was to transport injured solders to the hospital, but later she was assigned to work at communal hall. Teing said she did not suffer

much from the regime because she worked as cook and later was move to work with her husband in the hospital. She witnessed many wounded people who died after lacking medicine. She had no thoughts after watching the live screening because she did not know much about law and she had enough food during Khmer Rouge regime and not suffer much from the regime. Teing only said that Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan were getting older and older, and that even if the Court did not sentence them this way, the two will die one day soon.

OU-CHUM TEAM:

A 43-year-old participant named **Ham Meoun** said:

"This forum is really helpful for people in my community. Most people in my village could not access the process of the KRT because of the lack of media system. This forum not only helps us villagers to know about the final verdict for which we have been waiting to hear so long, but it is also a productive work for my children and other young people to learn about the regime. Pictures in the live-screening, publications and the simplified presentation are fruitful strategies in making the young people who are participating in the forum today believe in what really happened during the harsh regime that I and millions of other Cambodians will never forget. If possible, I would like the team to continue to do such activities longer than this, so that other villagers who are busy and could not join us today would have a chance to join this helpful forum in the future. I strongly support this final verdict and this satisfies me for justice." ⁱ

A 31-year old woman named **Dam Kahourch**, living in Tong Bleng Village, Ou Chum Commune, Ou Chum District, Ratanakiri Province, said:

"This is my first time to watch television. Hence, I often follow the judicial proceedings via the radio as my father told me about [...] life under the Pol Pot regime. My father has told me the story about my grandma who was killed by the Khmer Rouge. I think it is really good that the Khmer Rouge Tribunal can bring justice to the victims, and this would be a very good example for other leaders not to follow what the Khmer Rouge has done. Imprisoning [Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan] is still an excuse for them because they could still have food to eat and nobody punishes them as what they have done toward millions of Cambodians during the time they were in power. To me, I want to kill them, yet our country does not have such punishment. I think that it is very important to tell and educate the younger generations about what happened during the Khmer Rouge time. Live-screening and many other relevant materials are really helpful for the participants to understand and learn about the history."

A 40-year-old Kreung minority named **Meang Lbak**, living in Tong Bleng Village, Ou Chum Commune, Ou Chum District, Ratanakiri Province said, "I am really satisfied that these two ex-Khmer Rouge leaders were sentenced to life in prison. They both should have been put in jail long time ago as they were very cruel and killed a lot of Kreung people in my village."

Vik Nhouy, 48 years old, living in Ou Chum Village, Ou Chum Commune, Ou Chum district, Ratankiri Province:

“I sometimes listen and follow the judicial proceedings on the radio, but it was not very often as I am busy with my rice field tasks. I strongly support the pronouncement that sentenced Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan to life in prison because under their control, millions of people were killed. In 1970, my family escaped the killing from Ratankiri to Stung Treng. Life under the Khmer Rouge regime was really horrible. I want to forget this memory, but I cannot. We did not have enough food to eat, and we were fearful in every single second. Life was like being in the jail without walls. This final verdict satisfies me, but I am very disappointed that the judicial proceedings on this case [Case 002] was a little bit slow and could not bring all the four Khmer Rouge top Leaders to be punished before Ieng Sary had died and Ieng Thirith had been found to have a mental disorder. Moreover, these two Khmer Rouge leaders [Noun Chea and Khieu Saphan] are very old. For me I think, I, my family and all KR survivors have received justice because the persons who had led a beautiful country in to a bloody one must receive such punishment. It reflects that our country has laws that can bring justice to people. It is very useful and important that law can bring justice to the victims, and they may appreciate this. It is crucial for the younger generations to learn and remember the past in order to prevent this from happening again.”

A high school teacher named **Vilea** said the following:

“I strongly support the final verdict and this would satisfy millions of survivors; however, I am curious about the attendance of the judges and lawyers in the Court. The Khmer Rouge Tribunal is sentencing the leaders of a communist country (Democratic Kampuchea); therefore, we should have the attendance of judges and lawyers from communist countries like China or Vietnam. If we had had the involvement from the communist side, I think the verdict would have changed.”^v

BANTEAY AMPIL TEAM:

Ms. Theng Sorvy, 46, from Sithserei Thmei Village, Kuok Mon Commune, said that she thought the verdict was fair. She said she was satisfied with it but that it could not completely fulfill her needs and return the brother she lost during the Khmer Rouge regime. The life sentences were important for her as well as her whole community because it helped many people living the remote area and young generations to understand more about the regime. She said that after they learned from the fair trial, the proceedings could prevent the regime from happening again. Moreover, she said the trial helped her to have sense of closure. Ms. Theng liked this kind of screening because she believed it brought updated information to people as well as enhanced their knowledge, since she found majority of people in the village did not understand much due to their limitations. She said it especially helped young generations become more aware of hardship their parents endured during the Khmer Rouge because she found that many of them did not believe what their parents told them. Moreover, she said this screening could be useful for her community to gather people if they have anything or current issues to discuss in the village. Sorvy said that she

followed the Khmer Rouge tribunal through radio, but she did not remember much. However, she was happy that the tribunal sought the truth that proved those Khmer Rouge leaders committed the crimes. She thinks it would be great if the tribunal could provide any useful reparations to the Cambodian people. What she wishes is that the government could teach young generations about this regime so the atrocious regime would not happen again.

Mr. Rak Chhleub, 57, from Thnol Bot Village, Kuok Mon Commune said he found result of the Khmer Rouge tribunal unclear, but he was satisfied with the life sentence and the verdict. Mr. Rak said the decision was important because it was made based on rule of law. He perceived the verdict as justice already for Cambodian people. He requested that the government to preserve those documents, including the pronouncement of the verdict, as historical evidence. He also said the government should teach younger generations to understand deeply about the Khmer Rouge atrocious regime. He also said, “although the Khmer Rouge tribunal took so much time and spent a lot of money, it is still appropriate.” He compared the process of tribunal to each stage of cultivating rice. He said farmers did not gain a ton of rice immediately; instead, it took a lot of time to look after the rice field in order to rice. This was why he was happy with the life sentences and verdict.

Mr. Then Sovann, 67, of Prey Veng Village, Kuok Mon Commune, said that he was fairly content with pronouncement. The verdict was important to him because he believed the tribunal had sought justice for people. He said based on this significant event, his children would believe the hardship he endured during the Khmer Rouge regime. He further mentioned that he could feel sense of closure through attending the verdict screening because he had never attended or watched the Khmer Rouge tribunal before. He believed young generations would learn from the Khmer Rouge regime and would not follow in this atrocity’s footsteps. Most importantly, he thought this verdict could help better heal Cambodia for a healthy society. However, because the tribunal took so much time and spent so much money, he said justice meant to him “achieving closure.” He hoped there would not have been such starvation and mass killings in the future. He recalled how painful it was to lose his two sons, and for that reason, freedom was most important. He wished the tribunal could help Cambodian people by providing schools and clean water, so they would have better quality of life in this remote area. Mr. Then said the screening was visually very helpful because he was able to watch tribunal for the first time, while before he used to listen to the radio only. In addition, Mr. Then liked that there was an explanation from the DC-Cam’s staff along with the screening because it allowed him to understand more about the proceedings. He said that when he listened to the radio, he did not understand much. What he remembered was that Khieu Samphan did not acknowledge his guilt. He said Khieu Samphan was not taking responsibility at all, and that it was shameful because he was a leader. Mr. Then asked, “If it was not hi[s], [then] whose order to kill?”

Mr. Sim Meach, 36, from Romchek Village, Kuok Mon Commune considered the verdict to be fair enough. During the screening, he heard that some people had different reactions to the verdict, where some said the Khmer Rouge leaders were old, so there was no need to try them. He said that a few people expressed that there should be revenge taken on the children of Nuon Chea because they wanted him to experience losing his own children as they suffered. Mr. Sim was satisfied with the verdict because life sentence meant enough and was historically recorded. He personally considered the life sentences to be justice for

him. He said in the long run, the judgment would provide significant research documents for the next generation, so that they could prevent this regime from happening again. He further stated that this verdict also meant a lot for Cambodian people, as they did not need to wait for it anymore. To him, it meant the dark-age of Cambodia was over. Sim Meach said that most people in the villages could access to only radio, but during verdict screening they could see tribunal through TV and big screen. He said this screening was very useful for people to follow the tribunal visually, so they could see the picture and discuss amongst themselves. Moreover, he said the forum would help them remember this event since they could actively participate in discussion, whereas if they only listened to radio, they may forget it easily. According to him, it also helped the community to prepare for any events in the future because in the commune it was rare for such a gathering. Through the Khmer Rouge tribunal, he said he could learn about the background of the Khmer Rouge leaders, and the number of crimes they committed. Through this, he also said he was able to know about what happened in the courtroom. Without the trial, according to Mr. Sim, he would know nothing about the proceedings. He thought it was necessary for Cambodian people to learn about the tribunal because it encouraged people, especially young generations, to believe the atrocious Khmer Rouge regime happened.

Mr. Leu Leurm, 61, of Prey Veng Village, Kuon Mon Commune expressed that he was very happy to attend verdict screening. This historical event meant a lot to him because he believed the tribunal helped Cambodian people discover the real perpetrators of the Khmer Rouge regime. To him this meant the Cambodian hardship during the regime was not ignored or forgotten, and he satisfied with result; he said it was correct, and he could achieve closure. This verdict was very important, he said, because he lost 6 relatives who died from being imprisoned and killed during the regime. Since he lived under very hard conditions, as he said, there must be a jail sentence for those who were most responsible for the regime. Moreover, he believed the trial could help people to more understand about the regime and tribunal, and young generations could be aware of the hardship their parents endured. Leu Leurm said that he wanted to have this kind screening and gathering in the community next time because it was helpful for local people and young kids to learn and improve their general knowledge. To him, listening to radio was not enough because it did not help him remember well, whereas through the screening he learned that Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan got life sentences. He wanted to learn more about the trial proceedings how it worked.

Mr. Peang Lim, 46, from Kuok Sangkeuch Village, Kuok Mon Commune said she thought the verdict came a bit late. Since she had waited for so long, she said she had already taken the time to comfort and heal herself, and now she felt nothing about past. As she recalled, she lost her father during the Khmer Rouge regime, and when he died, no one was allowed to see him. At that time, she asked the Khmer Rouge to go to see him, but she was not allowed. She recalled being blamed and told, "It is useless to see your father." She was happy to attend the verdict screening and believed it could provide more knowledge on the development of the Khmer Rouge regime and tribunal for young generations and local people here. She said before the screening she had never followed the tribunal at all.

Mr. Moel Khuon, of Kuok Mon Commune said that he was happy with the pronouncement of the ECCC's verdict believing that it sought justice for Cambodian people. Khuon expressed

that this was first time for time to watch live screening through TV. Before, he heard of the Khmer Rouge tribunal from only local people and the radio. He added that it was very good to organize the screening for local people.

Mr. Keo Saratt, of Kuok Mon Commune felt sense of closure after he watched the verdict screening. He said he heard the judges decide that the top Khmer Rouge leaders got life sentences. Saratt said that even though the tribunal spent a lot of money and time, local people could achieve some closure from the trial. He hoped that this would be a very good example for future leaders of the country and young generations to learn from and to help prevent the country from falling into war again and again.

Mr. Kong Chea, from Kuo Village, Kuok Mon Commune said that it was good that Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan were punished with life sentences. However, it seemed to him the verdict was not enough if he compared to what those leaders committed during the Khmer Rouge regime. He said there were a lot of mass graves, and people endured great hardship. To him, the tribunal would be a model for punishment, so the next leader would be careful not to lead the country like the Khmer Rouge did and so that young generations would not follow in the Khmer Rouge's footsteps. Mr. Kong also said that since many local people could access to radio only, this kind of screening was very helpful to enhance the community's general knowledge.

Mr. Lon Lurn, of Kuok Mon Commune said that after he watched the live pronouncement of the verdict he was very satisfied with the verdict and life sentences for the two Khmer Rouge leaders. He said this would set a very good model for other leaders and younger generations to learn more about those who committed the crime, and how they must be held responsible. Mr. Lon said the verdict also helped Cambodian people who suffered hardship to achieve closure. As he recalled, he often shared his story during the Khmer Rouge regime with his grandchildren, but young people nowadays did not believe in or care about this sad story. Lurn also said that this kind of gathering was helpful for discussing about what happened during the Khmer Rouge and protecting the country from genocide in the future.

SVAY CHEK TEAM:

Ms. Chong Noeung, age 56, is a farmer living in Svay Chek District, Banteay Meanchey Province. During the Khmer Rouge Regime, when she was 22 years old, she lived in women's unit. She said in early 1976, the KR put women to work at Chhoeung Kros Village nearby Banteay Chhmar, and they ordered her to carry the soil and find thatch for roofing the house. Later then she said she fled to her hometown, but that in 1977, the KR forced her to get married at Tries, and they made her and her husband live separately from one another. From 1978 to 1979, she and her husband still carried the soil until the KR collapsed. She was very delighted when the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (KRT) sentenced senior KR leaders, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, to life imprisonment. She said she does not know them clearly, as a victim during the KR regime, but she was satisfied with KRT and the level of sentencing. "They badly treated many Khmer people although nowadays they are old, so life imprisonment is a suitable punishment," she said. Ms. Chong thought that the verdict announcement was very important to her community because she believed that the KRT

could find justice and truth for Khmer people. Moreover, she also claimed that live screening was useful for her local people because as her community is very far away from the town and has no electricity, so she is not able to follow the KRT. She said the DC-Cam forum allowed her to see the process of the KRT, discuss it with other people and predict what will happen next. She is very happy to see the staff of DC-Cam get along with people in community and she wishes to have this forum again.

Mr. Seit Sroum, age 31, is a farmer living in Phkoam Village, Phkoam Commune, Svay Chek District, and Banteay Meanchey Province. Mr. Seit said when he studied in grade seven, he used to study with Duch, his Mathematics teacher. He said that even though he was not born in the KR regime, he still knows that the regime was very bad and that elder people and his parents endured hardship. He is interested in and satisfied with verdict of the KRT sentencing of Khieu Samphan to life imprisonment. For the previous case, Mr. Seit said he felt regret because he never thought that his respectful teacher was prison chief of S-21, but when the truth was released, he had to accept it. After the sentencing, he does not want anything from the KRT because he thinks that the verdict and sentencing are enough. In addition, he also defined the word “justice” as “correct” and “without bias.” He said that the KRT could help to find justice and truth for Cambodian people because they have taken long time to investigate in each case. In short, he was thankful to the KRT and DC-Cam for living screening and for teaching new generations in the village about the KR history.

Mr. Man Chaun, age 58, lives in Phkoam Village, Phkoam Commune, Svay Chek District, Banteay Meanchey Province. From 1974 to 1975, he was a soldier and fought a battle against Lon Nol soldiers. In 1976, the KR put him to work at O-chrao and to guard the border. Mr. Man said he was accused without reason, arrested and taken to Banteay Neang, security center, in Banteay Neang Commune, Mongkol Borey District. In security center, he tried his best to work and, according to him, when the KR knew he was hardworking, they decided to release and put him to work in the kitchen unit. He recalled that while he was working in this unit, during a meeting with Ros Nhim, a chief from region 5, he raised the idea that people should get enough to eat. He said because of his statement, they closed the meeting immediately. At nighttime, Lat, a cadre, ordered him to cut the bamboo in the forest with four other people. In fact, Mr. Man said, this was trickery in order to have him arrested, because along the way, at Komping Village, he met with soldiers who arrested and took him again to Battambang. They forced him to confess that he was enemy and treated him badly in the prison for 28 days. Mr. Man himself did not know what he did wrong. Luckily, he met with Mao, who was a commander in Battambang. Mao asked him why he was arrested and Mr. Man explained what had happened. Mao was angry and went to Banteay Neang to kill Lat. After being released from Battambang, Mr. Man said the KR took him to be reeducated again at Kor Koh and forced him to get married, but he was still in the prison unit 1979. After the KR collapsed, the Vietnamese soldiers came into his village, but he and his family still escaped from them to live nearby the border until 1985 because he knew that the political in Cambodia was unstable. Mr. Man says he will not forget the three years when he was still in the prison, but he feels lucky that he survived until now. He is satisfied with the verdict, and said it is justice and is suitable, but that the truth has not been released yet. According to Mr. Man, Khieu Samphan was good leader, but what was the problem were the lower subordinates, who acted differently from their leader’s orders. He also stated that there are differences between Case 001 and Case

002/01 because in Case 001, Duch admitted that he killed many people in S-21 because of his commander's order; but in contrast, for case 002/01, Khieu Samphan did not admit that he killed Khmer people during the KR regime. Mr. Man thinks that there is still something behind the truth. He wanted the KRT try to investigate more. He was thankful to DC-Cam for giving him a chance to join the discussion and interview. Mr. Man is very please to share his experiences with next generation to know more about the KR history. He wants to have this forum again in his community because he believed this forum is beneficial to countryside people, as it can engage knowledgeable and unknowledgeable people to become closer and learn from each other about history.

Mr. Huon Phy, age 42, is a farmer living in Veang Yeang Village, Phkoam Commune, Banteay Meanchey Province. Mr. Phy was not totally satisfied with the judgment and would like to see other former Khmer Rouge cadres brought to justice. He said these few leaders' convictions are not enough to render justice for the Cambodian people. During the Khmer Rouge Regime, Mr. Phy was a young boy who was ordered to collect cow dung and tree leaves for fertilizer. Mr. Phy said he did not lose any siblings or parents to the Khmer Rouge, but his grandparents and his uncle's family members were killed by the Khmer Rouge.

Ms. Sam Leu, age 56, is a farmer, living in Phkoam Village, Phkoam Commune, Svay Chek District, Banteay Menachey Province. She lost her left leg because of landmine explosion in the 1980s in the rice field. Ms. Leu believes that the Khmer Rouge Tribunal has brought her some justice. She said the pronouncement was another important part of Cambodia's history. She said that the young generations, born after the Khmer Rouge Regime, should learn and remember this history so as not to let it happen again. Ms. Sam Leu stated, "History is never old. Everyone has to remember their own history."

Ms. Chhean Nhan, age 63, is a farmer living in Phkoam Village, Phkoam Commune, Svay Chek District, Banteay Meanchey Province. She was very happy to join the live screening of verdict pronouncement and felt satisfied with the sentencing. She believes that justice has been done by bringing the former Khmer Rouge leader to trial. During the Khmer Rouge Regime, she was put to hard labor doing farming, carrying earth, and digging canals. Ms. Nhan says that if there were no Khmer Rouge Regime, she would have become a teacher by now. Ms. Nhan had just finished lower secondary school when the war broke out.

Ms. Theav Moeun, age 63, is a farmer living in Mao Village, Phkoam Commune, Svay Chek District, Banteay Meanchey Province. During the Khmer Rouge Regime, in early 1977, about 6 of Mr. Moeun's family members were killed by the Khmer Rouge. Mr. Moeun's parents and siblings were accused of being KGB agents and were killed at Prapeang Pluoh in Phkoam Commune. The most memorable event of the Khmer Rouge Regime for Mr. Moeun was the starvation. He wondered why the Khmer Rouge starved their own people when there were many crops. Mr. Moeun used to think that the trial of Khmer Rouge leaders was just a show since it took too long to bring justice to people, so he was delighted to see the Court issue its judgment against former Khmer Rouge leaders.

PAILIN TEAM:

Ms. Meas Khoun, 75, was born in Battambang and evacuated here. She said she really wanted to follow the proceedings at the Court, but since her family's condition was not good, she did not have enough time to be involved in the trial. Khoun was not satisfied with the released verdict because she did not understand how the leaders controlled and treated people differently in each region. Honestly speaking, she said her region was led by Khieu Samphan, but she had never seen him torturing people there. She said until cadres from the southwest region came to control and Khieu Samphan left, did they mistreat people in the village and evacuate villagers from place to place. Khoun wanted the Court to release Khieu Samphan, even though she did not know what he did when he left her village. Khoun thought screening was important for younger generations to realize what happened and who was treated well and badly during Khmer Rouge regime, but not to confuse different leaderships during that time.

Ms. Saing Yan, 77, said after the verdict was released she talked to young people sitting next to her who were trying to learn Cambodian history, especially about Khmer Rouge regime, to not follow in their footsteps.

Mr Om Leap, 75, born in Battambang, escaped to here, Pailin, and thought think that Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan did not make so many mistakes, but rather these mistakes were by lower ranking individuals. Nevertheless, Leap did not ask to release those leaders believing that they also took part in the crimes. Om Leap hoped this released verdict was the final one because those who used to commit these crimes are too old.

Mr. Un Phoeun, 61, viewed this judgment as the right act to deal with huge losses. In spite of not having known Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan, he said as leaders, they would have discussed and directed before acting, and it was their responsibility to prevent the crimes that happened. He said having the tribunal is crucial and a model for next generations. Phoeun said that there were many former Khmer Rouge cadres in Pailin and that they were willing to join us. The reason they were absent here, he said, was because of heavy rain and work in the rice fields.

SAMBO DISTRICT TEAM:

Ms. Khiev Sinat, a 38-year-old farmer from Sre Sbov village, Kbal Daumrei commune, Sambol district, Kratie province, said that she was fully satisfied with the judgment and the justice has been served. She said both offenders deserved the life sentence for what they did. Although she was quite young during the KR regime, she still remembered vividly the suffering that she went through. She said her relatives, along with scores of civilians perished during the three years, eight months and twenty days the regime was in power. According to her, one of the KR legacies was the detrimental impact on economic sector leading to the slow development of Cambodian society today. She said for all the damage that Nuon Chea and Kheiu Samphan caused, they should be responsible for the reparations projects.

Ms. Net Sithan, a 60-year-old villager from Sre Sbov village, Kbal Daumrei commune, Sambol district, Kratie province, was not satisfied with the sentence passed by the ECCC. She said that Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan deserved to be stabbed to death considering

the number of lives had lost under their leadership. She felt that the judgment was not important to her because it was too light. Despite not really being happy, she still thought that the judgment was somehow justifiable. The reparation project she liked the most was the publication of booklet on Case 002/01 proceedings. She believed that the reparation initiatives benefit everyone and the KR tribunal should pay for the reparations. Another type of reparation that she thought the society deserved was the establishment of a school that taught about the KR history.

Mr. Sok Noeun, a 65-year-old farmer from Sre Sbov Village, Kbal Daumrei Commune, Sambol District, Kratie Province, thought that the punishment was too light for the crime that the offenders committed. But, because the judges had already made the decision and the verdict was already announced, he said would accept the judgment. He commented that the verdict was very important especially to the younger generation who did not go through the KR regime. Regarding **justice**, Mr. Noeun defined it as fairness and truth. The verdict of Case 002/01 did give him and other victims a sense of justice because the judges' decision on life imprisonment was made without any interference. He believed that the verdict was very beneficial to the whole society because it showed that if you commit a crime and no matter how long it was, you would be prosecuted. For the **reparations projects**, he thought that the national government and NGOs should be responsible.

Mr. Ouk Kom, a 58-year-old farmer from Sre Treng Village, Kbal Daumrei Commune, Sambol District, Kratie Province, said that a lot of his relatives perished during the KR regime because his family members used to be civil servants of previous government. He was not satisfied with the verdict. He felt that the judgment did not bring any sense of justice and he wanted the two offenders to be hanged instead. The live screening allowed him and other villagers to watch the trial proceedings, whereas he used to hear about the former KR leader prosecution but had never watched the hearing on the screen like he did today.

Ms. Ngin Sdaeng, 38, from Sre Sbov Village, Kbal Daumrei Commune, Sambol District, Kratie Province, felt very upset while she was watching the announcement of the verdict because it brought back the memory of her father who was killed under the KR regime. She said life imprisonment was not enough and she wanted the death penalty for these two former KR leaders. But, she was still happy with the punishment. Ms. Sdaeng defined **justice** as fairness and said the verdict and the reparation projects provided her the sense of justice. She said no one other than the two offenders should be responsible for the cost of reparation projects. Lastly, she wanted the construction of one monument in her village so that the villagers could have a place to worship and pray at any time that they wanted.

Mr. Phan Pa, an elderly from Ou Ta Neung Village, Kbal Daumrei Commune, Sambol District, Kratie Province, applauded the verdict of Case 002/01. He felt that the punishment was very appropriate due to the advanced age of the two offenders. Mr. Pha defined **justice** as fairness and said the judgment indeed provided him a sense of justice. Although he did not lose any relatives like most victims, he was forced to work very hard, so he believed the thirteen reparations projects were enough. He thought the reparation should be the liability of Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan.

Mr. Phrok Noeun: “I was extremely happy and the judgment was totally something to celebrate for,” said **Phrok Noeun**, a 64-year-old chief of Ou Ta Noeng Village in Kbal Daumrei Commune, Sambol District, Kratie Province. He said the verdict was enormously important because too many lives had been lost and because of the hardships Cambodians had endured under the offenders’ command. The village chief defined the term **justice** as fairness. He claimed that the announcement of verdict was a means of delivering the justice because it seemed perfectly fair that both Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan were sentenced to life imprisonment. He thought the ECCC should be responsible for the reparations projects. When asked reparations should be made, he replied that the thirteen reparation initiatives were more than enough. With no television, he said he would follow the news about the KR trial on the radio once in a while but it was not enough. He was very happy that DC-Cam came to his village to do the live screening of Case 002/01 verdict because it made the KR proceeding and ECCC more real for him. His last comment was that this outreach forum conducted by DC-Cam had long-term effects on human right and democracy because he and the villagers understood more about the regime.

Ms. Phlok Kem, 50 years old, is a villager of Ou Ta Noeung village, Kbal Damrei commune, Sambo district, Kratie province. Her grandmother, uncle and several cousins were died during the KR period. She believed that the verdict was appropriate enough since both of the offenders are already in their old age. She felt justice being served and her trauma being healed for at least ninety percent. She said, “I don’t want anything else, and [there’s] nothing we can take from them. We should teach our children about the KR history so that we don’t fall into that regime again.”

Mr. Kung Chaom, a former Khmer Rouge cadre, is a villager of Sre Sbov village, Kbal Damrei commune, Sambo district, Kratie province. He was truly satisfied with the life sentence that these two former KR leaders received. Regarding **justice**, he defined it as the act of being accurate. To illustrate, Mr. Kung Chaom gave an example: He said when two people are accused of doing something bad, and we knew clearly one is innocent, justice could happen only when we find out who was truly innocent and who was not. He said that the thirteen reparations projects of Case 002/01 were appropriate.

Ms. Seng Sambath, a member of Phnong minority group from Ou Ta Noeung village, Kbal Damrei commune, Sambo district, Kratie province, was satisfied with the verdict. As Khmer Loeu, she was treated badly during the KR regime. To her, **justice** means development. She believed that the judgment delivered justice to the people in general. She said she had no comment regarding the reparation projects because she was illiterate and did not understand what the reparation was. But, she claimed that the NGOs should be responsible for the reparations.

MALAI TEAM:

Ms. Hang Yi, 56, of Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province, said she felt pity for the accused, Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan, because they are too old to stay in prison their whole lives. To explain her compassion for two senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea, she referred to lower-ranking cadres who committed crimes directly on their sites and

reported differently what they controlled, but because these acts occurred under the lead of the offenders, she was satisfied with and followed judges' decision. In addition, she said the judgment would set an example for next generations to avoid repeating wrongdoing. Regarding justice, Ms Yi had no opinion because she had never experienced what other Cambodian people faced under miserable living conditions during Khmer Rouge period. In 1975, she was assigned to work at a salt unit in Kampot province, but she did not face starvation and execution there. Regarding the truth, Ms. Hang defined it as reality and said that she heard of the mass atrocities and mistreatment from other people when she fled to Malai in 1979. Ms. Hang said DC-Cam's outreach and the forum benefitted the whole community, especially younger generations, who will understand more about Khmer Rouge history and the tribunal. She herself she had never been able to follow the proceedings and had limited knowledge on the process, so she too appreciated the forum.

Mr. Hang Khet, 60, of Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province, agreed and was satisfied with the judges' decision because, he said, it means our society respects law, so when someone did something wrong, that person will be punished. In addition, he described his experiences and losing his family members during Khmer Rouge period, and said that he does not want it to happen again. Mr. Hang also emphasized that punishment is important for next generations to learn to refuse to follow Khmer Rouge leaders and recommended that young people study hard to develop the country. Mr. Hang said justice to him meant doing the right thing and not interfering with or confiscating other's rights. He said it was beneficial for all people to have critical thinking skills and discussions, especially before judging someone guilty. Mr. Hang just said he knew about the tribunal from other villagers but did not have much time to pay attention to, listen or watch the proceedings because he had to earn money to feed their family. Mr. Hang welcomed DC-Cam's outreach activity and he emphasized that it is important work to illustrate the crimes and the dictatorial regime under the Khmer Rouge.

Mr. Mao Vanndy, 35, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province said supported the life sentences given to the former Khmer Rouge leaders and thought that the judgment was important for next generations to understand what happened at that time. Regarding truth and justice, Mr. Mao believed that accuracy and fair responses to mass atrocities and crime under Democratic Kampuchea regime were necessary. Regarding the forum and live screening, Mr Mao was satisfied with DC-Cam's outreach activity because it is a good chance for younger generations and village people to increase their knowledge of the process of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal and Democratic Kampuchea history. He also suggested spreading Khmer Rouge history through television broadcasts and integrating it into school curriculum.

Ms. Sum Oun, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province agreed with the judgment because many Cambodian people suffered and faced miserable living conditions because of the accused's actions. She also suggested that some former KR members who were born after three-year, eight month, and twenty day regime would not be satisfied what the judges' decision to sentence their former leaders in prison for life because they were supported with food and materials, and lived happily while under the control of the accused. In addition, she said some people did not experience severe harms like others did during the KR period, so it would be hard hard for them to dislike these senior leaders. Ms.

Sum defined justice as a scale balanced without bias. She added that justice requires all Cambodian people to join together.

PHNOM VOAR TEAM:

Mrs. Dan Kimseu, 23 years old, was born after the KR regime and devoted her time to participate in the live screening of the verdict case 002/01. She lives in the Prey Takoy Village, Pong Toek Commune, Damnak Chang-er District, Kep Province. She stated that she has never experienced the suffering that KR survivors have. However, she joined the forum to gain deeper understanding of the past in addition to what she has been told by the elders, especially her mother. Through the Court she has known about what the KR leaders have done. She profoundly believes that the prosecution is fair enough to be accepted, and the KRT can really help Cambodians search for the truth and justice, by taking the senior KR leaders to be prosecuted and announce in public. However, she was not appreciative with the way that the Court treated the top KR leaders because it is not fair for the victims; in her opinion, the KR leaders should be hit and mistreated as they did to their victims. Lastly, she said that the live screening was very helpful since it could provide knowledge to the next generation for the purpose of preventing a brutal regime from taking place again.

Mr. Chham Leng, 31 years old, and a policeman of Phnom Leav Village, Pong Toek Commune, Damnak Chang-er District, Kep Province, said, “Because Cambodia has no capital punishment, a life sentence is the heaviest prosecution that the Court could make.” He believes that the prosecution is not enough because both of the leaders convicted have severely mistreated the people. Mr. Chham Leng added that he felt so sorry for the old generation that endured this inhumane regime. Other than prosecution, he was strongly in favor of the KRT helping the people seek justice and reveal the truth throughout the scrutinized process of investigation. **Mr. Chham Leng** whole-heartedly supported this live screening believing it could boost the public awareness, particularly for the newer generations. He also requested the DC-Cam to keep working on raising the public awareness to avoid the presence of the regime.

A young policeman, **Siv Vandara**, 25 years old, who lives in the Prey Takoy Village, Pong Toek Commune, Damnak Chang-er District, Kep Province, told the team that that he supported the verdict. He trusted that this verdict could heal the citizens who have been suffering since the regime to a certain extent; the people could know that their suffering is paid a close attention to. Moreover, he also stated that even though the Court had followed the law, the treatment of the KR leaders was not fair for the Cambodian people, because the leaders’ actions were so indescribable. At the same time, he also showed his support to the live screening as well as other programs that aim to raise the public awareness of the KR regime. He said, “It is important to make sure that the cruel regime will never occur again, and this can succeed through widely educating the young.”

Ms. Loek Sok, 73 years old, who lives in O Daung Village, Pong Toek Commune, Damnak Chang-er District, Kep Province, showed interest in the live screening, and believed the verdict from the ECCC was very helpful, for it could heal some pain they suffered. She believed the verdict could help promote the peaceful living of the citizens because it helps to raise the awareness of the people. She also claimed that it is her first time in hearing

about ECCC at all. She never heard of the KRT before. In addition, she supported the verdict and the forum: “It can really heal my pain, and I could not think of any other punishment that should be added. Following the process, the Court has done a nice job. Last but not least, I feel great that I have gotten the opportunity to express my idea through this forum.”

Mr. Mean Hean, 80 years old, was pleased to share his feelings. He said he felt satisfied with the verdict and believed a life sentence is enough. He stated, “The country has the law, so it is great that we follow it. If we believed in the theory that ‘blood should be repaid by blood,’ we and the KR would be no different.” Though he supported the verdict, he did not think that the way the Court treated the KR leaders was just or fair to the people, specifically, to the KR survivors like him. This is because the KR leaders were imprisoned in a comfortable way, unlike he was, as he almost died from the KR’s mistreatment. At the same time, he said that the Court could really provide him, as well as the citizens, justice i.e. the right way of doing thing. He also strongly supported the live screening because he believed it could raise the public awareness and provide him the chance to express and share his views.

Choek Ieng, 60, a survivor, who lives Chamkar Bey Village, Pong Toek Commune, Damnak Chang-er District, Kep Province voiced the following opinion:

“I wish the KR leaders could live longer to suffer their lives more and to see how others lead the country to development, unlike them. The verdict is fair enough to me, but I have no idea about the others. I do not think I should add any other punishment, for the Court has done its great job. Moreover, the Court took long time to figure out if the case is good, and it is not a good choice to beat or harm them because the country has law. I also support the live screening, for it helps the people not to forget about the regime, and it also raise the next generation’s awareness. Reminding about the KR regime, to me, it is just like yesterday.”

Mr. Chan San, 79 years old, a survivor living in Phnom Leav Village, Pong Toek Commune, Damnak Chang-er District, Kep Province, told the team that the Court had done a great job in providing justice and truth to the general public, but the ordinary people as him, did not want the former KR leaders to be imprisoned, but instead to have them killed immediately. Moreover, he also felt negatively about the way the Court provided human rights to the KR leaders by having them prosecuted based on the law. He thought that it was not fair because they never provided any rights to the people. He stated, “I do not know about other people, but to me, justice is not provided.” Regarding the live screening, he expressed enthusiastic support. In his opinion, the screening was very helpful because it could raise the new generation’s awareness of what their elders have encountered, as some of the youth did not believe that this cruel regime had taken place.

Mr. Om Yik, 66 years old, a survivor in Chamkar Bey Village, Pong Toek Commune, Damnak Chang-er District, Kep Province, told the team that he appreciated that the Court processed the prosecution in a fair way. He believed he received justice. Conversely, he was a bit disappointed that the KR leaders were detained comfortably, unlike when he was imprisoned in La-ang Prison. He has also followed the process of the Court, and appreciated it. He said, “The live screening is very useful in spreading out the knowledge of the regime to

the next generation, and I could also have a chance to share about my experience during the KR Regime.”

Mr. Siem Saroeun, a 65 year-old Chie of Chamkar Chek Village, which is located in Pong Toek Commune, Damnak Chang-er District, Kep Province, said that the process of the KRT was fair. He believed that the Court selected the right people—the KR leaders and not the low-ranking KR—to be prosecuted. He believed both justice and truth were delivered to the people, i.e. the wrong doer would receive what they have done and announce to the public. Moreover, he believed the live screening to be vital to help transmit the knowledge related to KR regime to the public. At the same time, he was glad that he was given the chance to express his view. He concluded, “I absolutely support both the verdict and the forum.”

Han Hour, 50, who lives in Prey Takoy Village, Pong Toek Commune, Damnak Chang-er District, Kep Province, expressed the following:

“I trust in the Court. Though it cannot stop the anger of losing a relative in that brutal regime, at least the prosecution proves that the survivors were not left alone, so we somehow feel a bit relieved. The law says it all, so I have no idea what other punishment should be added. Furthermore, I am all in favor of the screening activity that you have done; it is absolutely beneficial for the nation. The knowledge of that regime would be reached by the young through this forum.”

SVAY KHLEANG TEAM:

For **Mr. Lay Lim Heang** in Tapav village, 64, justice was not served. He believed that the Khmer Rouge leaders were responsible for mass crimes happening under the Khmer Rouge regime, but that there were so many other Khmer Rouge officials who were also accomplices in the killing of people. He did say these lower ranking officials have to be brought to justice as well, and need to be punished to life imprisonment as the ECCC has done with Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan. Mr. Lay Lim Heang lived in Kampong Cham province when the Khmer Rouge controlled part of the province rural area in early 1970s. He worked for the Khmer Rouge, supplying them food and logistics, trading with others in Kampong Cham provincial town between “liberated” and Lon Nol areas. But like many other people involved in trading at the time, he was accused of being too capitalist by the Khmer Rouge because he had too many connections with people in the Lon Nol area, and the Khmer Rouge also suspected him of being a spy. The Khmer Rouge later attempted to arrest him but he fled to the Lon Nol area and served the regime’s government. His brother was killed by the Khmer Rouge. For Mr. Lay Lim Heang, the punishment of Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan for the killing of Lon Nol officials, soldiers, police and civil servants in Pursat province serves a symbolic justice for the death of his brother.

Mr. Mat, 67, was upbeat about the punishment of Noun Chea and Khieu Samphan to life in prison. When asked about what he thinks regarding the two convicts, he said, “Keep them in prison and throw away [the key]. Never let them out! If they come out they will repeat the killing again. They are not repentant.” Mat suffered terribly under the Khmer Rouge, and he is now partially deaf. Many of his relatives and friends died under the Khmer Rouge. He said because life imprisonment is the limit of punishment of crimes under Cambodian law, he is

satisfied with this sentencing. But when someone suggested alternative punishment, such as doubling life imprisonment and cuffing the bodies of the two convicts after death, he welcomed that idea.

SAMLAUT TEAM:

Mr. Hing Och, 57, village chief of Anglong Puok village, Ta Sanh commune, Samlaut district:

“During the Khmer Rouge (1977-1979), I was a marine responsible for telegram translation in Tang island of Kampong Som province. From my point of view, they should be released as they are already very old. I used to study about politics with Nuon Chea in this Samlaut district, and never face[d] any hardship. Since I regarded them as my parents, I do not want them to stay in jail. I personally do not want to have the tribunal, but I also do not reject people’s desire for justice. Talking about justice for the victims, the verdict is enough. As for effort and money spent on the Court, to me, it is a bit long. I am worried that if one regime, which fell from power, will be tried by the new regime then Cambodia will be in trouble. I assume that no leader is perfect and does all the right things. I can exact 80 percent of truth from the ECCC. The re[maining] 20 percent is good deed[s] of the Khmer Rouge that have never been discussed at the Court. I want young generation[s] to know both bad and good acts of the Khmer Rouge. What did the Khmer Rouge do to defend the country? How did they sacrifice for the country? As for reparation, it is enough for the victims. I am satisfied with collective reparation. If we give money to individual, they will spend it all, but collective reparation can last for generations. I think the government should be responsible for deciding on reparation projects, and paying the cost because it is Cambodian issues. Reparation for people in Samlaut, I want to build a road. The screening is good. The participants will then spread the words about cases to their neighbors and relatives, so the whole district will get this information. I read Searching for Truth Magazine to know the trial.”

Mr. Chum Horn, 57, deputy commune chief, from Samlaut district, Battambang province, said he was 16 years old during the Khmer Rouge:

“I was in mobile unit defending Battambang town. I lived and worked for the Chinese in Battambang. I often visited Phnom Penh with them, but never faced hardship or starvation. In 1977 and 1978, I heard of killings of people, but never witnessed any of them. I am satisfied with judgment. This could inform young generation[s] and us that leader needs to be responsible for their acts. The trial can contribute to country development, and bring peace. It is to end genocide. To me justice means [the] wrongdoer should be tried, so the sentence can provide justice to victims. Moreover, with ASEAN integration, [the] trial of Khmer Rouge leaders can inform ASEAN about atrocities happened in Cambodia, and to avoid the same mistake. As for effort and money spent on the ECCC, it is sufficient. We can take one or few days to try a person. We need to find evidence. I from time to time read Searching For

the Truth Magazine sent to the commune monthly. From the reading, I learned some information about the ECCC.”

Ms. Oeung Oeun, 75, living in Ta Sanh village, Ta Sanh commune, Samlaut district, Battambang province:

“During the Khmer Rouge regime, I was 17 April people or New people. 50 of my relatives died during the Khmer Rouge time. As my parents were Lon Nol army, we lived through a miserable life. If [Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea] were found not guilty, I would [have] felt so sad. When hearing the verdict, I am so happy and satisfied. The ECCC is a good model for young generation[s] to believe that the regime exist[ed] and [in] the miserable lives of their parents. Thus, [the] expense and efforts spent on the ECCC is appropriate. I can exact truth from the ECCC for 70 percent because the ECCC cannot reveal every single story of victim and perpetrator. This is my first time to watch the trial of the Khmer Rouge leaders from TV. In the past, I only listened to the radio, but not often. I have no idea about human rights and democracy.”

Mr. Thol Son, Ta Sanh Choeng village chief, said he originated from Kandal Province. Before 1979 he was a teenager who lived near Pochentong Airport in Phnom Penh and also worked there. He said he had never travelled to other provinces. He lost his father, brothers, uncle and all his in-laws. After 1979 he escaped to Battambang, where he lives now. He is satisfied with the sentence. He said that any leaders of any country should take responsibilities for their actions. The Khmer Rouge Leaders’ crimes included mass killing, labor abuses, relocating by force and starvation according to him. He said people were allowed to kill others as they wish, and he admitted that he used to work for the Khmer Rouge. He said it was after 1979 when Phnom Penh was captured that he witnessed the burden and suffering that Cambodian people. He explained that people who lived in Phnom Penh during the war had no idea what was happening in other provinces and that Khmer Rouge propaganda was that people in Phnom Penh must work hard to help those who lived in the countryside, so they had to share their food and eat porridge. He thought the verdict of the Khmer Rouge was important for the nation. He wanted young children to learn that the Khmer Rouge chose uneducated persons to run the country, leading to destruction of the country. He believes that the UN and Cambodia did the right thing and brought justice to this nation as a role model. He has followed up with the process of the verdict from time to time. He thought that the sentence and reparations were enough for people who lost family and relatives.

Mrs. Rean Kun, from Ta Sanh Choeng village said she had lived with Khieu Samphan for 1 to 2 years. She came from Kompot. She thought he was a good person due to what she had witnessed while she was living with him, and that he is educated abroad and has good characteristic. She said Khieu Samphan has never showed violence or cruelty and she was confident that she had never heard him command anybody to killed or hurt anyone. During the war, she was a young adult and she worked as a cook for the Khmer Rouge. To her, the verdict was enough, but she also feels pity for Khieu Sanphan because he is also a Cambodian and she also considered him to be a guardian of the country, and her adviser.

Ms. Chea Yun, 58, a farmer from Anglong Puok village, Ta Sanh commune, Samlaut district:

“Though my relatives also died during the regime, I do not take revenge against the KR leaders. I know Khieu Samphan was not involved in crimes as his defense lawyer said he was painted as a monster. Anyway, I am satisfied with the judgment; I have no comment on it. I think it could provide justice to the victims. As for effort and money spent on the Court, to me, the money could be used to rebuild the country. Since we already spent the money on it, young children could learn about the Court, so it is also beneficial. The screening is good as it could bring attention of our people to the trial because some people are busy with their work. Reparation is enough. I have no more to add. I followed the trial proceeding from time to time via the radio because I do not have TV at home. The screening is part of democracy because it allows people to meet and discuss.”

Mr. Chum Chuon, 55, a farmer from Anglong Puok village, Ta Sanh commune, Samlaut district:

“The trial of Khmer Rouge leaders could provide justice for Cambodian people including our people in this Samlaut district. The truth can be revealed after all. As for life sentence to imprisonment, I am not so happy with that. They are already very old. Also I used to live with them, studied from them, and regarded them as parents. No one is happy to see their parents [punished] though we know that they are guilty. However, I have no objection to the trial and judgment. As for justice, I am neutral. The trial can give justice to victims for the death of their relatives.

APPENDIX III: DC-Cam Teams and Contacts

http://www.d.dccam.org/Projects/Living_Doc/pdf/Live_Screenings_at_20_Locations_August_5-9_2014.pdf

APPENDIX IV: Live Screening of Case 002/01

http://www.d.dccam.org/Projects/Living_Doc/pdf/Live_Screening_of_Case_002-01_Verdict_August_7_2014.pdf

APPENDIX V: Photos by 20 Teams

http://www.d.dccam.org/Projects/Living_Doc/Photos/2014/A_Live_Screening_Verdict_on_Case_002-01.html

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