

Reflection Paper

My name is Say Solyda and I am a senior of University of Cambodia majoring in law. After listening to the episode 7 of the “Voices of Genocide” Radio program organized by DC-Cam, I gained so much knowledge regarding famine than I originally anticipated.

At first, whenever I heard famine, my mind would immediately create the image of thousands of people being in great hunger or dying from starvation because of the natural disasters such as drought, flood, or any kind out-of-human-control occurrences as well as the rapid growth of population in specific region. I would say my definition of famine somehow is quite similar to the one given by scholar Robert Malthus, and it had never crossed my mind even once that the starvation happened during the Khmer Rouge was also classified as famine. I have to admit that my definition of famine was very narrow and it was no different with Malthusian's one since this theory just defines famine as a situation in which a country has too many people or the failure of producing sufficient food products.

Through the program, I learnt that the definition of the word famine goes beyond from what defined by Maltus. Political, social, and legal factors all contribute to the occurrence of famine. To be precise, famine can be cause by human being, themselves, and the classic examples would be the famine in Ukraine, Ethiopia, Dafur, Somalia, North Korea and more specifically Cambodia. Under the Khmer Rouge regime, millions of people constantly starved and it was not because Cambodia hit by natural disasters or any kind of act of God, but the Khmer Rouge starved people which was definitely classified as famine. I found it a little bit shocking that ECCC does not charge the Khmer Rouge leaders with causing famine in Cambodia that claimed many lives. No different from the others, I also truly hope that the law on the famine would implement one day and such law can prevent the any possible mass starvation in the near future.

To sum up, it is really great of DC-Cam that they broadcast such valuable radio program regarding the Khmer Rouge regime because I and my fellows can learn so much about these regimes through the program. In my opinion, it would be even better if DC-Cam consider about the possibility of broadcast the program more than once in a week so there will be more options for the audiences to choose from. Lastly, there is no doubt in my mind that the Voice of Genocide Survivor radio program is worth everyone while to listen to.