

**FIDH, its two Cambodian affiliated organizations, ADHOC and LICADHO and the  
Collective for Khmer Rouges Victims meet with Extraordinary Chambers  
Representatives**

FIDH, its two Cambodian affiliated organizations, ADHOC and LICADHO and the Collective for Khmer Rouges Victims have met yesterday (20 November 2006) with Extraordinary Chambers Representatives during the plenary session to comment the draft Internal Rules intended to govern the functioning of the EC.

The representatives insisted on the necessity for the transparency of the procedure so that the Cambodian population could widely understand the justice rendered by the Chambers. Therefore, the debates, as well as the personal and dissenting opinions of the judges, should be made public without delay and should be largely disseminated (notably through television). Additionally, all questions regarding the functioning of the Chambers should be resolved within the Chambers themselves and not addressed to the local authorities. For example, the current draft of the Internal Rules allows for the prosecution of witnesses by local authorities for alleged libel. This is not acceptable in the context of the 'extraordinary' nature of the Chambers and of the brief period of time they have been given to accomplish their task. Furthermore, the administration of confiscated assets of the condemned should be placed in an independent 'Trust fund' to provide reparations to the victims in accordance with the statutes of the International court of Justice.

FIDH, its two Cambodian affiliated organizations, ADHOC and LICADHO and the Collective for Khmer Rouges have also emphasized that the victims' participation to the process is absolutely indispensable. This implies that an autonomous Victims' Office should be established and furnished with the necessary financial means in order to provide the requisite financial and legal assistance to the victims. In parallel, an office charged with the protection of the victims (physical, medical, psychological) should be formed within the framework of the Chambers. Finally, a unit within the Office of Administration should be formed responsible for managing the list of qualified lawyers selected on the basis of clear and objective criteria and in accordance with international standards. It is clear that foreign lawyers can only exercise their function (whether as counsel for the defender or the victim) in close collaboration and with the agreement of their Cambodian colleagues.

FIDH, its two Cambodian affiliated organizations, ADHOC and LICADHO and the Collective for Khmer Rouges have insisted on the indispensable role of the NGOs as full parties to the trial process alongside the victims they represent. They have indicated their commitment to continue to participate to the reflection process currently carried out by the Chambers and contribute to the definition of their policy on the issues of outreach and reparations.

FIDH, its two Cambodian affiliated organizations, ADHOC and LICADHO and the Collective for Khmer Rouges have underlined the importance of a rapid adoption of the Internal Rules that will provide the blueprint for the functioning of the Chambers.

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21 November 2006