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Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia Chambres Extraordinaires au sein des Tribunaux Cambodgiens

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TRIAL CHAMBER

Date: 26 January 2015

TO: President of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia

FROM: President NIL Nonn, Trial Chamber

CC: All Trial Chamber Judges

Trial Chamber Senior Legal Officer

All Parties, Case 002

SUBJECT: Forwarding of ECCC Trial Chamber decision entitled "Order to Refer Conduct of Counsel for KHIEU Samphan to Appropriate Professional

Bodies"

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia ("ECCC") is a court established by the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia to try senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea and those most responsible for the crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge regime. The Trial Chamber of the ECCC is currently seised of Case 002, involving Mr. KHIEU Samphan, who has been charged with crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Convention and genocide. I attach links to the following ECCC framework documents for your reference:

The Law on the Establishment of the ECCC:
 http://www.eccc.gov.kh/sites/default/files/legal-documents/KR Law as amended 27 Oct 2004 Kh Combination .pdf

• ECCC Internal Rules: http://www.eccc.gov.kh/document/legal/15232

Mr. KONG Sam Onn, member of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, represents Mr. KHIEU Samphan in Case 002. Case 002 was severed into two separate trials, each addressing different sections of the indictment. The first trial, Case 002/01, has concluded and a judgement was rendered against Mr. KHIEU Samphan and his co-Accused, Mr. NUON Chea, on 7 August 2014. Further information on Case 002 can be found in the following documents:

- Closing Order in Case 002: http://www.eccc.gov.kh/document/court/14885
- Case 002/01 Trial Judgement: http://www.eccc.gov.kh/document/court/30547

Trial hearings in Case 002/02 were scheduled to commence on 17 October 2014. On that date, counsel for KHIEU Samphan indicated that they were unwilling to participate in the proceedings in Case 002/02 until they had filed the appeal brief against the Case 002/01 Trial Judgement. Counsel then abandoned the courtroom, following which the Chamber adjourned the proceedings.

Despite efforts made to accommodate the Accused and clear instructions given to his lawyers to attend court, the Chamber has been confronted with a refusal to attend proceedings and a lack of cooperation of the lawyers which forced it to adjourn the proceedings until January 2015. To avoid a repeat of this situation in future, the Chamber appointed one international and one national Court Appointed Standby Counsel for KHIEU Samphan.¹

On 19 December 2014, the Trial Chamber found that counsel for KHIEU Samphan's violations of court orders to attend scheduled hearings amounted to an obstruction of the proceedings requiring the imposition of sanctions, pursuant to ECCC Internal Rule 38.2 The consequence of their refusal to attend court hearings is, to date, the loss of 25 trial days over the course of 10 weeks. The Chamber has addressed, and will continue to address, this misconduct under its own Internal Rules, but given that the behaviour of this lawyer may also raise issues under the authority of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Chamber has decided to refer the conduct of Mr. KONG Sam Onn to the President of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the Council of the BAKC to take appropriate measures in accordance with the Law on the Bar, the Code of Ethics for the lawyers of the BAKC and other rules and procedures of the Kingdom of Cambodia.. For these reasons you will find attached to this letter the Trial Chamber's recent decision on this matter, as well as a list containing information on additional relevant decisions, for your consideration in order to allow you to take any action you deem appropriate. I would therefore appreciate it if you would inform the Trial Chamber in due course of the outcome of this referral of misconduct and of any action taken in consequence of it, through its Senior Legal Officer.

Attached to this letters are relevant documents for assistance to the Bar Association in considering the matters. If you have further questions, or require additional information from the Chamber, please address your enquiries to: Mr. Ken Roberts, Senior Legal Officer of the Trial Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia through his email address: roberts13@un.org

Decision on the Appointment of Court Appointed Standby Counsel For KHIEU Samphan, E321/2, 5 December 2014.

Order to Refer Conduct of Counsel for KHIEU Samphan to Appropriate Professional Bodies, E330, 19 December 2014, paras 29-31.