

Letter of civil parties in case 001 to the President of Trial Chamber

Phnom Penh 30 August 2009

Attention: Mr. President of Trial Chamber

The civil parties, whose names and signatures are shown below, note with consternation that the ECCC on 27 August 2009 ruled to diminish the role of civil parties and that of their lawyers in the forthcoming debate relative to the personality of the accused.

To date, we have observed many unbalanced treatments between the accused and the victims:

1. Material and pecuniary means are quite disproportionate: while the accused is well fed and live a comfortable life, the victims have to struggle with their living conditions and have no means to follow up efficiently the debate of the tribunal.
2. During the debate, the accused has every right to contest and put value on the statement of the victims and even make insult to the dead at S-21, by reciting verses saying: “moaning, crying, begging is all together coward” while the victims have not the possibility of responding without being interrupted to the accused.
3. The defense counsels are paid by the tribunal a comfortable salary, while the civil parties’ lawyers have to find by themselves the minimum necessary funds.
4. The replacement of the outgoing prosecutor Robert Petit is not made in time, further exacerbating the unbalance between the defense and the prosecution.

To fully receive justice and truth, the victims must have a full understanding of the acts and the intent especially the character of the accused.

Therefore we ask the ECCC to reconsider this decision by allowing the civil parties to fully participate in the proceeding and to put questions relative to the personality of the accused. Failing to do so, we will lose hope in getting justice from this court.

Signed by 28 civil parties