



ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
Kingdom of Cambodia

ទីស្តីការគណៈរដ្ឋមន្ត្រី
Office of the Council of Ministers

ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ
Nation Religion King

STATEMENT BY
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SOK AN
CHAIRMAN OF THE TASK FORCE FOR THE KHMER ROUGE TRIALS

I have the honour to welcome the *Statement of the Co-Chairs of Friends of the Court* of 30 April 2009 on behalf of donors to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and the most recent contributions by Australia, France and Japan as well as the other countries that have supported the budget for the Cambodian side of the ECCC.

I want to express my appreciation for this renewed expression of support and encouragement for the tribunal to continue proceeding in a fair, efficient and expeditious manner, and to overcome any hindrances to achieving this objective.

This support comes at a time when strong progress is being made by the ECCC with the commencement of the first trial, and the wide public interest and support for this long-awaited process of justice for the Cambodian people and for humanity as a whole.

The Statement of the recent 34th Congress of the 5th mandate of the Cambodian People's Party held on 25-26 April 2009 reiterated its continuing strong support for the process:

“The Congress supports the advances made by the ECCC under Cambodian law to bring to trial crimes committed by the senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea to achieve success according to the schedule of the court. The Congress is confident that the achievements made to date constitute a complement to the continuous efforts made by the Cambodian People's Party since the overthrow of the genocidal regime to find justice for the victims”.

The ECCC continues to make substantial progress on the ground with regard to the strengthening of the entire administration. The Joint Sessions continue to meet and to move forward in the elaboration of procedures outlined in the Joint Statement of 23 February 2009 by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations that should be honoured and implemented.

We believe that the proposed mechanism would indeed be credible and effective. Guiding principles are transparency and mutual confidence-building internally, while maintaining strict confidentiality externally and providing equitable free choice to all personnel, including the possibility of anonymity if desired and simultaneity of receipt. We believe that we can develop an appropriate protocol providing full protection of the complainant against retaliation for good faith reporting, as well as ensuring the rights to due process and protection of those against whom complaints have been made.

We trust that this renewed expression of support by the donors will permit the ECCC to proceed smoothly to achieve its historic objectives, and we are pleased to hear that the next meeting of the Friends of the ECCC will be convened in the first half of this month.

2 May 2009