



STATEMENT OF THE CO-PROSECUTORS

Information and input from victims and civil society organizations has led to a Supplementary Submission by the ECCC Co-Prosecutors calling for new investigations into more Khmer Rouge crimes. The ECCC Co-Prosecutors requested Wednesday that the Co-Investigating Judges investigate allegations of crimes committed at a Government of Democratic Kampuchea (DK) Security Centre where many Cambodians were unlawfully detained, subjected to inhumane conditions and forced labor, tortured and executed between 1975 and 1979. “These factual allegations, if founded, could constitute crimes against humanity, and violations of the 1956 Penal Code punishable under ECCC law and we have so alleged in our Supplementary Submission,” Co-Prosecutor Robert Petit said.

The Co-Prosecutors further requested that NUON Chea, IENG Sary, KHIEU Samphan, IENG Thirith and KAING GUEK Eav, who are currently in ECCC custody, be investigated for their involvement in these crimes. No additional suspects have been identified in the Supplementary Submission. Petit said “this submission supplements a previous request to the Co-Investigating Judges to investigate 25 factual situations of a similar nature occurring during the DK period.” That initial request, the Co-Prosecutors’ first Introductory Submission, was filed on 18 July 2007.

The request was accompanied by more than 30 supporting documents consisting of around 1500 pages of analytical reports, witness statements and DK -era documents. Much of this evidence was gathered with the assistance of the Documentation Centre of Cambodia. “Significantly, this request was filed as a direct result of victims providing their information to the court through the assistance of ADHOC, a Cambodian human rights organization,” Co-Prosecutor Chea Leang said. “As a result of the detailed nature and concise form in which the information was provided, we were able to assess and act on this information quickly.” She said the Co-Prosecutors continued to encourage victims to come forward.

Chea Leang assured victims that, while, because of the limited nature of the ECCC, not every crime nor every criminal could be prosecuted, all complaints would be reviewed and assessed for important supporting evidence. “Without participation of victims and witnesses the court’s ability to ascertain the truth regarding the extent of the crimes and those who are responsible for them will be significantly reduced.”