



អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
Chambres extraordinaires au sein des tribunaux cambodgiens

អង្គភាពគាំពារជនរងគ្រោះ

Victims Support Section
Section d'appui aux victimes

ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

Royaume du Cambodge
Nation Religion Roi

Phnom Penh : 24 February 2011

Press Release

The Victims Support Section (VSS) organized its third regional forum this year for Civil Parties (CPs) of Case 002 and Chhne Tonle Meeting Hall in Svay Rieng Province for about 300 Civil Parties (CPs) in Case 002 from the Eastern part of the Mekong River, including: Prey Veng, Kandal, Kampong Cham, and Svay Rieng. Participants also included public officials from various sections of the Court, Civil Party Lawyers (CPLs), representatives from Intermediary Organizations (IOs), and the Deputy Provincial Governor from Svay Rieng Province.

This forum was organized specifically for CPs in order to promote their awareness on mechanisms and ways from which CPs can participate in the proceedings of Case 002 as well as to provide CPs with an opportunity to meet judicial officers of the ECCC and their respective lawyers to get the court updates.

On the day before the forum, the CPs were invited to visit a stupa located at Wat Tlok pagoda, where about 1,500 people had been executed during the KR era. The memorial site was built to commemorate those victims who had died during that era. After that, the CPs were invited to watch a documentary film about seeking truth and justice, organized by the Public Affairs Section of the ECCC.

The next day, the forum started in the morning with a playing of the National Anthem of the Kingdom of Cambodia before the Buddhist Bangskol ceremony, which was dedicated to the souls of the victims of the KR, delivered by 5 monks. The event was attended by Mr. RONG Chhorng, Chief of the VSS, Mr. Som Soheat, Deputy Governor of Svay Rieng Province, Lauk Chumtov Chea Leang, National Co-Prosecutor of the ECCC, Mr. William Smith, Co-Deputy International Prosecutor, Mr. Nhem Samneang, Official from Witness/Expert Support Unit (WESU), Mr. TAN Visal, Project Manager of the VSS, Mr. LONG Khet, Executive Director of Youth for Peace (YfP), Mr. Latt Khy, Program Coordinator of the KRT program at ADHOC, Mr. Chy Terith, a representative from DC-Cam, Dr. Muny Sothara, Coordinator of the Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Mr. Net Phally and Ms. Hav Sophea, who were

CPs of Case 001, Mr. PICH Ang, National Lead Co-Lawyer, and Madame Elisabeth Simonneau Fort, International Civil Party Lead Co-Lawyer.

Mr. RONG Chhorng welcomed the participants and enhanced the participation of victims by encouraging them to take this opportunity to clarify any concerns or questions, while updating them on the current status of the Duch verdict, which will be released in March 2011. Mr. Chhorng introduced the Deputy Provincial Governor of Svay Rieng, who shared his experiences during the KR era and feels that the Court has contributed to his sense of justice even if he is not a CP. Among the guest speakers, Mr. REACH Sambath reassured the participants that the Duch's Appeal will be starting in March and regardless of the sentencing, he will remain in prison for a long time. Mrs. CHEA Leang and Mr. William Smith both spoke on how hard and efficiently the Prosecution office, which is consisted of staff members from various countries, is working to achieve justice for millions of victims under the Cambodian civil law system and ensuring a fair trial. The National and International Co-Lead Civil Party Lawyer, Mr. PICH Ang and Mrs. Elisabeth Simonneau Fort spoke on their section's role and responsibilities concerning CPs.

Recently, this type of regional forum had accommodated 1,050 CPs from 15 provinces. The regional forum is one of the outreach activities funded by the Foreign Office of Germany through the Agency for International Development (GIZ). The VSS will organize other regional forums in other parts of the country before the trial of Case 002 starts later in 2011 in order to let all of our 2,000 CPs meet with their legal representatives.

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