

For Immediate Release

July 7, 2014

**COMMUNITY FORUM FOR KHMER ROUGE SURVIVORS:
Update on Final Verdict in Case Against former Khmer Rouge Leaders**

LONG BEACH, CA. On Saturday, July 26, 2014, Khmer Rouge survivors and the public are invited to attend a community forum in Long Beach, CA to learn about the upcoming judgment against the senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime in Phnom Penh. The forum, co-hosted by the Applied Social Research Institute of Cambodia, Incorporated (ASRIC) and the Center for Justice & Accountability (CJA), will be held at 3:00 pm at the **Khmer Arts Academy, 1364 Obispo Ave. Suite 156 Long Beach, CA 90814.**

The Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia, known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) announced that its second judgment against perpetrators of Khmer Rouge atrocities will take place on August 7, 2014 at 9am in Phnom Penh. The case, Case 002/1, is the first trial against senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime: former Head of State Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, second in command under Pol Pot. If convictions occur, then the sentencing of both defendants and rulings on civil party reparation requests will likewise be delivered.

The case against Samphan and Chea originally began in November 2011 and included two additional former Khmer Rouge leaders-- Ieng Thirith and Ieng Sary—who were dismissed from the trial due to mental illness and death. Over the course of two years, the Court heard evidence of crimes against humanity committed during the April 1975 forced relocation of civilians living in Phnom Penh and the subsequent removals to other regions in Cambodia, as well as executions of Khmer Republic soldiers at Tuol Po Chrey in Pursat Province. The August 7th ruling will only cover these specific crimes and the remaining charges against these defendants---including forced labor, forced marriage, and genocide---will be heard in the next trial, beginning later this year.

Dr. Leakhena Nou, Executive Director of ASRIC, will provide an update on their efforts to establish historical records of Khmer Rouge survivor evidence in the United States. CJA Staff Attorney Nushin Sarkarati will provide an explanation of the legal and procedural issues relating to the upcoming August 7th judgment and what it will likely mean for victims. In addition, survivor and Civil Party Sophany Bay will provide her personal account of providing evidence to the Court as a survivor of the Khmer Rouge Regime.

The ECCC is the first internationalized tribunal to permit victims of war crimes to participate directly in the proceedings as Civil Parties. Presently, nearly 4000 victims participate in the proceedings as Civil Parties.

ASRIC submitted the largest collection of victim applications in the United States, and provides outreach to victims residing in the U.S. diaspora. As executive director Dr. Leakhena Nou reminds, those who survived the three years, eight months, and twenty days of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime are “the living witnesses to one of the worst crimes in humanity.”

CJA provides legal representation of the U.S. based Civil Parties before the ECCC. CJA currently represents 45 Civil Parties in Case 002, all members of the Cambodian diaspora community in the United States.

Sophany Bay is the first Cambodian American to testify before the ECCC on the problems of mental health in the Cambodian American diaspora. Mrs. Bay provided crucial evidence on the lasting harms suffered by the Cambodian population as a result of the atrocities committed during the Khmer Rouge regime, and highlighted the fact that even though the war ended over 30 years ago, Cambodian survivors still suffer from physical and psychological harm and these harms are pervasive, even for Cambodians who fled the country.

For more information on this forum, please contact Dr. Leakhena Nou at lnou@asricjustice.com.

About ASRIC:

Founded by medical sociologist Dr. Leakhena Nou, the Applied Social Research Institute of Cambodia (ASRIC) is the only not-for-profit organization of its kind devoted to restoring, distributing, and implementing procedural justice for Cambodian American victims and survivors of the Khmer Rouge.

An entirely volunteer-driven enterprise, the organization has grown considerably since it began under the auspices of New York University's Asian/Pacific/American Institute. It remains the leading independent organization dedicated to giving voice to Cambodian genocide survivors.

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About CJA:

CJA is a San Francisco-based human rights organization dedicated to ending torture and other severe human rights abuses around the world and advancing the rights of survivors to seek truth, justice and redress. CJA pursues litigation to hold perpetrators individually accountable for human rights abuses, develop human rights law, and advance the rule of law in countries transitioning from abuses.

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