



Muslims arrive at a monastery used to shelter internally displaced people yesterday after sectarian riots in Lashio, Burma. Security forces struggled to control Buddhist mobs who burned Muslim homes for a second day on Wednesday in a widening of ultra-nationalist Buddhist violence. Reuters

## Hun Sen Says Kem Sokha Should Step Down as Protest Looms

BY NEOU VANNARIN  
 THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Prime Minister Hun Sen yesterday called on opposition leader Kem Sokha to step down and encouraged Cambodians to protest against him en masse unless he apologizes for comments he made apparently denying that the Khmer Rouge was responsible for some of its worst crimes.

With the July 28 national election fast approaching, the govern-

ment last week released an audio recording of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) acting president saying that Vietnam had "staged" the detention and torture of thousands of people at the notorious Khmer Rouge-era prison, Tuol Sleng. Had the Khmer Rouge actually carried out those crimes, Mr. Sokha can be heard saying, they would have destroyed the evidence before fleeing Phnom Penh in 1979

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## Nuon Chea Expresses Rare Remorse for Victims of KR

BY LAUREN CROTHERS  
 THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Speaking at the end of three days of testimony by civil parties at the Khmer Rouge tribunal yesterday, the Pol Pot regime's second-in-command, Nuon Chea, expressed rare remorse and accepted qualified responsibility for the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people during the period of his rule.

The elderly co-defendant—the former deputy secretary of the

Communist Party of Kampuchea—has been repeatedly asked over the past few days, alongside fellow regime leader Khieu Samphan, if he is willing to acknowledge his role in the mass crimes that were perpetrated between 1975 and 1979.

Responding to civil party Yin Roum Doul, who told the court how his mother had been killed after she was imprisoned and beaten for stealing rice seedlings, Nuon

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## Plenty of Mud, Paucity of Policy, in Election Discourse

BY KATE BARTLETT  
 THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Election campaigns are seldom clean.

Political debates stray from policy to the personal: remember President Barack Obama's country of birth being questioned during last year's U.S. election?

But policies should prevail at the ballot box.

So far, in the run-up to July's

national election, the main issues of inter-party contention have not been the country's struggling health system, under-funded education sector, poverty reduction, job creation or the ever-present cost of corruption.

Rather, the debate has lurched back to old narratives: Who is a Vietnamese puppet? Who is a terrorist? Who loves the monarchy more? And, who saved the country, or caused its destruction, in

the 1970s?

While the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) has referenced Prime Minister Hun Sen and his colleagues' Khmer Rouge pasts in their campaign, the CPP for their part has labeled the opposition "genocide-deniers" and terrorists, bent on destroying the monarchy and the nation.

The allegations have prompted a bizarre back-and-forth between

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## AND ALSO

## We're Not From These Parts

REUTERS

BEIJING - From faking marriage certificates to get honeymoon discounts in the Maldives to letting children defecate on the floor of a Taiwan airport, Chinese tourists have recently found themselves at the center of controversy and anger.

"Objectively speaking, our tourists have relatively low-civilized characters," said Liu Simin, researcher with the Tourism Research Center of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"Overseas travel is a new luxury, Chinese who can afford it compare with each other and want to show off," Liu said. "Many Chinese tourists are just going abroad, and are often inexperienced and unfamiliar with overseas rules and norms."

When a story broke recently that a 15-year-old Chinese boy had scratched his name into a 3,500-year-old temple in Egypt's Luxor, the furor was such that questions were even asked about it at a Foreign Ministry news briefing.

## KR...

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Chea spoke in a clear, authoritative voice from his holding cell by video link, where he could be seen assisted by two guards.

"I am responsible for what happened during the period of Democratic Kampuchea. I am not evading my responsibility. I am bearing the responsibility from my heart. I am being frank with you. In my capacity as a member of Democratic Kampuchea I accept the responsibility," Nuon Chea told the court.

"I feel remorseful for the crimes that were committed intentionally or unintentionally, whether or not I knew about it or not. I take the responsibility morally. I need to emphasize, and on this occasion let me express my sincere condolences to the loss of your family members."

Khieu Samphan also took to the stand and proceeded to express his condolences to the victims of the regime, though he claimed he had no knowledge or decision-making power in the many killings that took place between 1975 and 1979.

"If I were you, I would have the same sorrow and pain," Khieu Samphan said. "My role in Democratic Kampuchea was to save my life."

"Looking from the outside, someone would think I was someone of authority. My title was huge, but in reality I had no power or authority to order the arrest of anyone. I was working in the top position, but I did not know what was going on."

Youk Chang, director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia, said he carefully reviewed what Nuon Chea said in court and, despite some differences between the Khmer and translated English versions, he thought

the testimony could be significant.

"I believe this somewhat apology is a piece of strong evidence against him," he said. "This is the first time he said it in front of the courtroom in front of the judges; he always denied responsibility."

"To me he is turning the last page of the last chapter of his life history with the Khmer Rouge today, and it's a conclusion now.... We got him," he said.

Nuon Chea's statement yesterday was a far cry from the comment he made during a press conference in 1998 after surrendering to the government.

When Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea were asked by reporters whether they felt remorse for those killed during their regime, a smiling Khieu Samphan responded: "Yes, sorry, sorry, sorry. I am very sorry." Nuon Chea chimed in: "Actually, we're very sorry, not just for the lives of the people, but also for the lives of animals that suffered in the war," author Nic Dunlop wrote in his 2005 book, "The Lost Executioner."

Speaking in court earlier yesterday, civil party witness Nou Hoan asked whether or not the defendants could explain the "mysterious" disappearances of high-ranking party members during the regime. He also asked the pair "how they could claim to defend national interests and protect the country if they killed their own people?"

Nuon Chea again responded. But this time he appeared to deflect some of the blame.

"I would like to reiterate once again the role and responsibility I was assigned during Democratic Kampuchea period," he said. "[I] was assigned to be the deputy secretary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea. I was in charge of propaganda and education in [the] party and chairman of the committee of the people's assembly. As for the executive branch, I

## NEWSMAKERS

■ NEW YORK - Velvet Underground, the 1960s avant-garde rock band, has settled a fight with the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts over the rights to an iconic pop art image of a banana that graced the band's best-known album. Velvet Underground sued the Warhol Foundation in January 2012 after reports that the foundation was planning to license the banana design for cases, sleeves and bags for Apple Inc.'s iPhone and iPad. Velvet Underground, founded by JOHN CALE and LOU REED, collaborated with Warhol beginning in the 1960s. Warhol designed the banana image and the band featured it on its first album, "The Velvet Underground & Nico," in 1967. While the band broke up in 1972, the album lived on and is ranked by Rolling Stone magazine as 13th on its list of greatest albums of all time. In the lawsuit, the Velvet Underground claimed exclusive use of the banana design for licensed merchandising. The lawsuit sought damages and an injunction to prevent the foundation from licensing the image. (Reuters)

had no power whatsoever.

"Certain things I was aware of, but others I wasn't. I'm not trying to evade justice or responsibility, but I'm telling you the truth and I of course was one of the leaders of this government. I am not rejecting my responsibility. I shared responsibility as leaders of this regime but I had no role in the executive branch of government."

Khieu Samphan also said that while he was sorry for the pain and suffering, he had no role in the acts carried out by Khmer Rouge soldiers.

"I would like to apologize to you that during the Democratic Kampuchea period I was not

aware of the great suffering of Cambodian people as you've been describing," he said.

"I did not know what was going on then, because I was not the effective leader of the regime. I was a highly-educated intellectual. I joined by accident. And when I joined them, the reason behind my decision was nothing but to help the country. I wanted to mobilize the national forces in order to fight in the war at that time. I didn't join to kill innocent people—I could not imagine doing that.

"The murderers who killed your relatives—I strongly condemn them, and I want them to be brought to justice."

## Lawyers Recognized for Defendant in New KRT Case

International Co-Investigating Judge Mark Harmon has recognized Dutch lawyer Goran Sluiter as a co-lawyer for Ta An, a former mid-level Khmer Rouge official accused of genocide in a new case at the Khmer Rouge war crimes tribunal that the government says should not be investigated. The decision to recognize the Dutch lawyer, who will work with Cambodian lawyer Mom Luch, shows that Judge Harmon is pushing ahead with the case despite protests against such an investigation made by his national counterpart, Co-Investigating Judge You Bunleng. (Lauren Crothers)

## Women's Rights Groups Decry Use of Water Canons

A trio of local women's rights groups yesterday came out in support of female anti-eviction protesters who were set upon by authorities with high-pressure water cannons during a recent demonstration, condemning what they called the government's "abuse of power." On orders from Phnom Penh police, the municipal fire department fired the cannons at about 40 protesters on Wednesday who were blocking Monivong Boulevard in front of City Hall trying to force a meeting with governor Pa Socheatvong. They say the recently appointed governor had broken his promise to solve their long running land disputes with well connected firms by the end of the month, a claim the governor denied. The three women's rights groups—Gender and Development for Cambodia, Silaka, and Strey Khmer—held a press conference with some of the activists yesterday to denounce the use of the fire trucks. "Even though they blocked the road, it was nonviolent," said Silaka executive director Thida Khus. "They should not use violence on women like that.... This is an abuse of power." Nget Khun, 73, one of Wednesday's protesters, said yesterday that she temporarily lost consciousness when hit by the spray from the water canons. She said they would keep protesting, however, until the government meets their demands. Ms. Khun is one of about 100 families of the Boeng Kak neighborhood who still face eviction to make way for a high-end real estate project owned by CPP Senator Lao Meng Khin, and who want titles to their homes. (Kaing Menghun and Zsombor Peter)