



December 6, 2011

DESERVING TO HEAR THE OTHER SIDE OF NOTHING BUT THE WHOLE TRUTH

Today, after only one day of testimony in the historic Case 002 against senior Khmer Rouge leaders Ieng Sary, Nuon Chea, and Khieu Samphan, Cambodian Television Network (most popularly known as CTN) stopped daily broadcasting live from the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

CTN's decision is understandable as it is a private company. However, it is the responsibility of the ECCC (United Nations/Royal Government of Cambodia) to make sure that the full trial is broadcast live to the public.

This is the most important genocide trial of the 21st century and it is taking place in Cambodia. Survivors have been waiting for over 30 years to hear what the Khmer Rouge leaders have to say and they have the right to hear the accuseds' testimony, whether or not they choose to believe it. Youth also have the right to hear it so that they may better understand their country.

No obstacles should prevent survivors from hearing the full story from the Khmer Rouge leaders. This is only the second ECCC trial, and may be the last. Only four persons may ever face justice for the deaths of nearly two million Cambodians. What is the point of all the effort to hold this trial if Cambodians are not able to see it happen?

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