



Samphan out of hospital

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PHNOM PENH (Cambodia) - AN OFFICIAL with a UN-backed genocide tribunal says the Khmer Rouge's former head of state has returned to detention after being hospitalized for about 10 days.

Tribunal spokesman Lars Olsen says that 78-year-old Khieu Samphan was admitted March 14 after catching a cold. He was released from the hospital on Thursday.

He is charged with crimes against humanity, war crimes, murder, torture and genocide for the regime's reign of terror in Cambodia in the mid-1970s.

He and three other defendants are expected to be brought to trial by the end of this year or early next year.

But many fear the former leaders, all of them aging, may die before the drawn-out legal proceedings are completed. -- AP