

Cambodia Remembers Terror of Khmer Rouge May 21, 2010

This monument serves as a constant reminder of the horror of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge regime.

The mass killings during Pol Pot's reign of terror is not something the country is ever likely to forget.

But every year on May 20, Cambodians gather to commemorate this painful past in what is dubbed a "Day of Hatred."

During this occasion reenactments of the atrocities take place, and people are allowed to vent their anger against the Pol Pot regime in order to sustain awareness about the past.

At this site, 15km from the capital Phnom Penh, at least 1.7 million people are estimated to have died between 1975 and 1979, in one of the infamous "killing fields."

One survivor said the day ensures the young won't forget what happened.

[Um Phan, 60-year-old Survivor]:

"I come to remember the days of killing in the Pol Pot regime which caused the deaths of about three million people. I feel like so much suffering and this anger stays in my mind and heart. This occasion makes the younger generation remember this genocidal regime."

Several senior Khmer Rouge cadres are awaiting trial by a U.N. backed court.

Survivors of the genocide want a faster tribunal process and for justice to be served.

[Chit Met, Tuol Sleng Prison Survivor]:

"It is up to the tribunal to decide whether they would and how they should punish those remaining men who were responsible. But in my view, I want them to be killed because when I was in prison I was tortured, I worked very hard, and I had no

food to eat. Meanwhile they were in good condition and had food, a bed to sleep in and medical treatment."

Witnesses at the trials spoke of being beaten to death with metal pipes, electrocuted, starved, raped and forced to eat their own excrement.

The tribunal seeks justice for nearly a quarter of Cambodia's population who perished from execution, overwork or torture during the Khmer Rouge's revolution.