



UN: Cambodia's Khmer Rouge trial threatened by lack of money **May 25, 2010**

New York - Cambodia's prosecution of former Khmer Rouge officials responsible for up to 2 million deaths in the late 1970s has run into severe funds shortage, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said Tuesday.

Ban said at a pledging conference at UN headquarters in New York, attended by Cambodian government officials, that the total budget of 46.8 million dollars for the tribunals in 2011 remains unfunded except for 1.1 million dollars pledged by the royal government in Phnom Penh.

The trials involved both international and Cambodian lawyers and prosecutors since 2006 and depended on international financial support. Funds for 2010's trials face shortfall of 14.6 million dollars for the international component and 6.5 million dollars for the national component.

'Both components urgently need further funds,' Ban said, urging governments to support justice in Cambodia. 'Without such support, the chambers cannot function, It is as simple and stark as that.'

Cambodian communists, known as Khmer Rouge, toppled the US- supported government in Phnom Penh in April 1975 and governed ruthlessly. Millions of Cambodians died in labour camps and from starvation until Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1979. A handful of Khmer Rouge officials survived and were brought before justice.