



**Khmer Rouge War Crimes Tribunal 'Going Broke'
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The United Nations envoy to the Khmer Rouge war crimes tribunal in Cambodia says the court will go broke unless countries like Australia give the money they pledged.

The court, which was jointly created by the UN and the Cambodian Government, is trying leaders of the notorious Khmer Rouge regime.

However, David Scheffer says the tribunal is running out of money and, in the worst case scenario, the UN may be forced to withdraw.

Australia pledged \$US1.4 million in July, but Mr Scheffer has told the ABC they are yet to receive any money.

"Those kinds of money have to be actually received in order to actually allow us to use them for the operations of the court," he said.

"But it's extremely gratifying that the pledge has been made.

"Australia has been a leading funder of the Extraordinary Chambers in Cambodia," Mr Scheffer said.

Trial 'interference'

Meanwhile, the UN-backed court is being urged to rebuke Cambodia's foreign minister for allegedly meddling in the Khmer Rouge trial.

The defence team for "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea made the request after minister Hor Namhong issued a statement earlier this month accusing them of trying to "politicise" the trial.

Hor Namhong commented on the case after a trial witness said the foreign minister had been "in charge" of a Khmer Rouge prison camp in the late 1970s, a claim which he vehemently denies stating instead that he was a prisoner.

The witness recanted his testimony shortly after the foreign minister's statement, telling reporters he had been confused in court.

Hor Namhong has in the past sued people for claiming that he had links to the blood-soaked movement.

In a court filing posted online Noun Chea's lawyers wrote "any reasonable observer in this country would understand the statement as an attempt to influence further testimony."

"To refuse to appear when summonsed by a judge, and to then proceed to provide substantive comments in the media on the case that is being tried, plainly amounts to interference with the proper administration of justice," the defence lawyers wrote in the court filing.

They have called for strong public condemnation of the minister. Nuon Chea and his co-defendants, ex-foreign minister Ieng Sary and former head of state Khieu Samphan, deny charges including crimes against humanity and war crimes for their roles in a regime blamed for up to two million deaths.