



Financial Constraints Force Khmer Rouge to Reduce Hearings October 23, 2012

The Khmer Rouge tribunal said Tuesday it was reducing hearings from four to three days a week from November 5 because of financial constraints.

"A significant number of key international staff members that have vacated their positions will not be replaced," the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia said.

A statement said the current staff numbers were "approximately half" of what was foreseen in the budget.

"Over the last three months, the Chamber has repeatedly informed the UNAKRT administration and relevant UN bodies of the difficulties it is experiencing as a consequence of not having enough staff to conduct work in an efficient and thorough manner.

"In response, the Chamber has received assurance that staffing issues will be resolved, but no finality has been achieved to date.

"As the judges currently have only one day without hearings per week, the support of legal officers and other staff members for operations both inside and outside of the courtroom is imperative."

The statement said the chamber was "conscious of the need to conduct the trial as expeditiously as possible" and had "tried to manage with fewer staff for several months."

But lack of staff "may now lead to delays in reaching decisions and will impact the course of the proceedings."

Since judges need more time outside of the courtroom, the Trial Chamber indicated that "while there is insufficient staff to support the work of the Chamber, it cannot continue to hold proceedings for four days each week."

The statement said the time needed to conclude case 002/01 would now be extended but that the chamber would review the number of days it sits if staffing improves.