



Unofficial translation of

Mr. CHEY Theara's Letter of Withdrawal from ECCC

When I became an orphan, I often thought about the fate of my beloved younger siblings, and my beloved mom and dad. What sins have they committed that they should die and abandon me? Are the deaths of my family members a punishment from God or the result of their sins? When I in my loneliness ponder on these disturbing matters, I feel as if I am no longer human.

My family! My nation! Are we not all victims of an angry God? The suspicion. The expectation. The waiting.

I feel better when I meditate on the spirits of my family, and I ask myself what should I, a brother, a son do to remember them? I was happy to know that a tribunal had been created to bring about justice for my siblings, for my mom, for my dad, but the tribunal has changed in mocking my mom, dad, siblings and my beloved countrymen instead!

I plead with the tribunal not to play with the spirits of my dead siblings, mom, dad. They need justice. Or do you, the tribunal, think that the spirits of the dead are a gift, an award for the murderers who are soaked in blood?

Whenever there's a trial proceeding, I never felt that justice is being done. At times, it feels as if the trial is a theatre for the dividing of spoils between the Cambodian and the UN officials.

I, Mr. Chey Theara, do not have hope in this tribunal and I ask to withdraw my civil party status from it. I cannot have my eyes be opened and accept the games being played on the spirits of my parents, siblings and countrymen at your political farce! We cannot stand to watch this political farce no longer and if we are to continue it is as if we are joining in the re-murdering on the spirits of the beloved dead.

And I will continue to follow the doings of the UN which the people around the world normally trusted as a place for justice.

CHEY Theara

Deputy President, Association of Khmer Rouge Victims in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, 18 November 2011