

Hamill fights for justice
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A Te Pahu man whose brother was murdered by the Khmer Rouge is calling on expatriate Cambodians to file complaints in a civil court action over the case.

Olympic rower Rob Hamill's older brother Kerry was abducted by the Khmer Rouge in 1978 when his yacht strayed into Cambodian waters, and taken prisoner at Toul Sleng prison in Phnom Penh, where he was tortured and murdered.

Rob Hamill is a civil party to a case against five people thought to be under investigation by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for his killing, and other war crimes.

Though the names of those being investigated have not been made public, Mr Hamill believes two of them are military commanders Meas Muth and Sou Met, whom he has accused of crimes against humanity.

His claims against the pair include allegations of forced transfer, imprisonment (including severe deprivation of physical liberty), enslavement, torture, murder, and other inhumane acts.

Mr Hamill has called on expats who were victims of war crimes to file complaints with the court by May 18, after two investigating judges closed investigations into the civil case.

"Rather than ramp up the investigations on behalf of the millions of victims, and despite a mountain of evidence, it seems the (judges') response to our applications is to cease any further inquiries into the heinous crimes these people committed," Mr Hamill said.

"It makes me wonder how much political influence is being wielded in Cambodia, and what do the court's funders think of the situation."

Mr Hamill said with the deadline for applications to the court eight days away, he was concerned people were not aware of their rights.

"It should be the court's obligation to inform victims about the deadline from the date of closing investigations," he said.

"If ever there was a time for the expat Cambodian community to speak up, then this is it. Whether you live in Hamilton, New Zealand or London, England ... now is the time to make contact with the court in Cambodia and be heard."

The Victim Support Section (<http://www.eccc.gov.kh/en/victims-support>) is the body within the court that receives and processes victims' application forms.

For more information contact Mr Hamill at rob@wave.co.nz