

Health of Khmer Rouge officials reviewed Aug. 30, 2011

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Aug. 30 (UPI) -- A geriatric specialist told a tribunal in Cambodia one former member of the Khmer Rouge regime was impaired though "Brother No. 2" was fit for trial.

The U.N.-backed Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia is investigating alleged atrocities committed by the ruling Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s. An estimated 2 million people died under the Khmer Rouge regime, which ruled Cambodia from 1975-79.

John Campbell, a geriatric specialist, told the tribunal former Social Affairs Minister Ieng Thirith was "cognitively impaired" and therefore likely unable to get a fair trial. Nuon Chea, dubbed "Brother No. 2" in the Khmer Rouge regime, however, was cleared of any major cognitive or memory problems.

Nuon was in charge of internal security in Cambodia and was seen as a key supporter of the regime's campaign of slavery and forced relocations.

Members of the Khmer Rouge regime are on trial for genocide and crimes against humanity committed in the 1970s.

Four senior surviving members of the regime are on trial in Phnom Penh.