



Khmer Rouge prison boss detained illegally

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June 15, 2009

Judges in Cambodia have ruled that Comrade Duch, the first defendant in the Khmer Rouge genocide trial, has been detained unlawfully over the past decade.

But they have refused to release the former supervisor of Phnom Penh's infamous Tuol Sleng prison.

In a 15-page ruling, the five trial judges have determined that Duch was imprisoned contrary to Cambodian law when he was arrested in 1999.

Duch was the supervisor at Tuol Sleng, where more than 12,000 people were sent to their deaths in the "killing fields" during the 1970s.

The ruling means that if he is found guilty, the time he has been detained will likely be cut from any sentence.

And Duch will be able to claim compensation if he is acquitted.

The judges refused a request to release Duch, saying he remained a flight risk.

They say he must remain in detention for his own security and to ensure public order.

During his trial so far Duch has apologised to his victims.

He is also providing evidence that could prove to be crucial in the cases against four other defendants, who were senior Khmer Rouge members.