



NZ Boost for Cambodia War Crimes Tribunal

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Helping find justice for Cambodian victims of the Khmer Rouge's bloody reign - including a New Zealander killed by the communist regime in the 1970s - is the focus of Prime Minister John Key's final day in the country on Wednesday.

Mr Key will visit the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (Khmer Rouge Tribunal) on Wednesday morning (local time) and meet with tribunal judge, former Governor General Dame Silvia Cartwright.

The court is trying former Khmer Rouge members accused of historic war crimes and genocide dating back to the 1970s.

The Khmer Rouge killed an estimated two million people, including New Zealander Kerry Hamill - brother of Olympic rower Rob Hamill - who was tortured and murdered alongside a group of Westerners in 1978.

"We're really going to show solidarity to Dame Silvia Cartwright for the work that she's been doing, for the importance of the process which is hugely significant for this country, and for a recognition of the task they have at hand," Mr Key told media.

His visit will include the announcement of more funding from New Zealand for the court's operations.

Later on Wednesday, Mr Key flies to Myanmar (Burma), where he will meet with President Thein Sein and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Prize-winning democracy activist who spent nearly 15 years under house arrest.

Mr Key will be the first New Zealand prime minister to visit Myanmar. He is in Cambodia for the East Asia Summit, where he conceded on Tuesday night that he had failed to raise the issue of human rights abuses with Prime Minister Hun Sen during the two-day visit.

Mr Key took part in talks with other leaders, including US President Barack Obama and Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, over the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, which he is increasingly hopeful of concluding in 2013.

He also attended the launch of a new proposed trade deal, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which includes the 10 ASEAN countries, along with China, South Korea, Japan, India, Australia and New Zealand.