

## **UND** war crimes expert to speak at United Nations September 19, 2011

Gregory Gordon, a University of North Dakota professor and an expert on war crimes and genocide, will speak at the United Nations this week on the 20th anniversary of a peace agreement ending civil war in Cambodia.

The law professor is director of the UND Center for Human Rights and Genocide Studies. He will speak about his research and first-hand experiences advising prosecutors aiming to convict the leadership of the Khmer Rouge, whose rule from 1975 to 1979 resulted in the deaths of 2 million.

Last year, Gordon met with the prosecutors as they prepared for the trials of four former regime members, including No. 2 official Nuon Chea, 85. One other regime member has been convicted, Kaing Guek Eav, 68, who ran a notorious prison where thousands were tortured and executed. Pol Pot, the regime leader, died in 1998 while under house arrest by a Khmer Rouge faction.

Gordon has been a war crimes prosecutor himself with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the U.S. Department of Justice. He has also provided assistance in post civil war Sierra Leone and Ethiopia.