



Cambodia marks anniversary of Khmer Rouge ousting January 7, 2011

Cambodia's ruling party Friday has called for its United Nations-backed war crimes court to safeguard "hard-won peace" as the country marked 32 years since the ousting of the Khmer Rouge regime.

Cambodian People's Party president Chea Sim has addressed thousands of supporters in the capital Phnom Penh, saying the CPP "supports the trial for crimes committed by the most senior leaders" of the Khmer Rouge.

He appealed for continued international support to enable the trial process to be successfully completed.

Four Khmer Rouge leaders are due to be tried this year for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, after up to two million people were executed or were starved or worked to death from 1975-1979. The tribunal has yet to announce whether it will go ahead with two more cases against five as-yet-unnamed former Khmer Rouge cadres.

In its first case, which ended last July, the court sentenced former Khmer Rouge prison chief Duch to 30 years in jail for overseeing the deaths of 15,000 people.

But Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has repeatedly warned that pursuing more suspects from the hardline communist regime could spark civil war.