



Defense challenges case against Khmer Rouge
Sopheng Cheang
June 28, 2011

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) -- Defendants in the trial of former Khmer Rouge leaders accused of genocide and other crimes have taken the offensive, challenging the right of Cambodia's U.N.-backed tribunal to try them.

Ang Udom, the lawyer for former Khmer Rouge Foreign Minister Ieng Sary, objected Tuesday to the proceedings, saying his client had received a pardon from Cambodia's king when he led a mass defection to the government. He said Ieng Sary was also at risk of being tried twice for the same crime because a Vietnamese-backed tribunal in 1979 had convicted him of genocide.

The arguments, made on the second day of the trial, are unlikely to succeed, since the tribunal has already heard and rejected them at a pretrial hearing earlier this year.