

Press Release:

Civil Party Representatives on behalf of 1791 Civil Parties are expressing their serious concerns on the severance order and the exclusion from making remarks during the first week of the trial.

Phnom Penh, 19 November 2011: We were informed today about the severance order of the ECCC Trial Chamber, which limits in the first and probably last trial the factual allegations only to the first two forced transfers.

In light of the circumstances of the aging accused we agree in principle with a severance of the case in order to increase the chance for receiving an earlier final judgment. But we disagree with the limited selection of crimes. They do not reflect the number of admitted civil parties per crime/crime site and do not properly show the gravity and the real picture of the crimes committed during the DK regime.

Therefore, we urge the TC to reconsider the current severance order, which excludes around 75% of all civil parties.

In addition, we learned that the civil parties are excluded from making any remarks during the first week of proceedings, despite the fact that the prosecution has the right to an opening statement and the defense the right to respond.

Moreover, the request by the Civil Party Lawyers to make preliminary remarks of 30 minutes only, was rejected by the Trial Chamber.

Therefore, we see that the voice of the civil parties is not being heard during this early stage of the proceedings and we are deeply disappointed by this decision.

We strongly request the Trial Chamber to reconsider its decision and to grant Civil Parties the chance to make remarks during the first week of the trial.

For more information, please contact:

- Mr. LATT Ky (ADHOC) Tel:+855 (0)12828411