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Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Chambres Extraordinaires au sein des Tribunaux Cambodgiens

**PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT
AND
INVITATION TO THE MEDIA**

Victims Unit of ECCC to hold national forum for Civil Party applicants, 17-18 December 2009

The Victims Unit of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) will organise a forum for Civil Party applicants, on 17-18 December 2009. The forum, designed to reach up to 400 Civil Party applicants coming from 15 provinces, will be held in the Public Gallery of the ECCC's main courtroom.

The main goals of this forum are to:

1. Keep civil party applicants updated about their applications and the progress of the case, and solicit their feedback and/or recommendations; and
2. Provide applicants with an opportunity to meet with their lawyers, or, if they do not yet have legal representation, to meet some of the available lawyers offering specialised services and expertise.

Guests and speakers at the forum will include key Court officials, Civil Party lawyers, a Case 001 Civil Party and representatives of Intermediary organisations who have assisted the work of outreach to victims.

This is the third and final forum to be organised by the ECCC's Victims Unit this year. It builds on the successful regional forms in Kampot and Kampong Cham. These forums are part of the ongoing work of the Victims Unit to keep victims informed about the ECCC and to make their participation more meaningful. Further regional forums for Civil Party applicants and complainants are planned throughout 2010.

Members of the Press are welcome to attend the opening session of the forum on 17 December from 8.30 am – 12.00 noon. Please note that in order to protect the privacy of the Civil Party applicants, there will be severe restrictions on what photographs or films can be made at the forum. Members of the media will be informed of the expected code of conduct on arrival at the forum.

For further information, contact Mr. Neou Kassie, Outreach Coordinator on 012 818 035 or 023 214 291.

15 December 2009