



Khmer Rouge court to give bail decision for Pol Pot's sister-in-law

July 06, 2008

The joint UN-Cambodian court set up to try former Khmer Rouge leaders will announce its decision on whether to grant bail to the sister-in-law of the movement's late leader Pol Pot this week, it said in a press release Sunday.

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia said it would hold a morning session on Wednesday to announce its decision on Ieng Thirith's appeal against pretrial detention heard on May 21.

She is charged with crimes against humanity.

Prosecutors allege her position in the movement and her marriage to Khmer Rouge foreign minister Ieng Sary made it impossible for her not to be aware of the murder, torture, starvation and disease that claimed up to 2 million lives during their 1975-79 reign.

Thirith has denied the charges and appealed for pretrial release for health reasons.

Thirith, her husband, former head of state Khieu Samphan, chief ideologue Nuon Chea and director of the Toul Sleng torture centre Kaing Guek Eav, aka Duch, are currently in detention awaiting trial.

The first hearings are expected later this year. The movement's top leader, Pol Pot, died in 1998.