



## **Khmer Rouge Minister Denied Bail**

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Ieng Thirith, once the most powerful women in the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, was denied bail on Wednesday by Cambodia's U.N.-backed genocide court. The 76-year-old Thirith is accused of crimes against humanity for her role in the regime's brutal four-year reign in the late 1970s that killed millions of Cambodians.

The former social welfare minister, one of the founding members of the Khmer Rouge, is accused of having knowledge of tens of thousands of Cambodians dying from starvation and disease on collective farms but did nothing to stop the deaths.

Her sister was married to Pol Pot, the movement's leader. Her husband Ieng Sary, was the regime's foreign minister and is also awaiting decision for his appeal for bail.

The genocide court had earlier denied the request for bail of three other former Khmer Rouge facing trial for crimes against humanity.

Thirith denies the charges against her.

The Khmer Rouge brutal regime in Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 killed an estimated two million people. Hundreds of thousands of educated middle classes were tortured and executed.