

Council To Pick Judiciary For KR Tribunal May 4

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Prak Chan Thul

The Supreme Council of Magistracy will pick the Cambodian and international judges and prosecutors for the Khmer Rouge tribunal on May 4, Minister of Justice Ang Vong Vathana said Wednesday.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan publicly forwarded the Council the names of 12 international candidates for nine positions in March. Ang Vong Vathana, who is also a member of the Council, said that the list of local candidates will not be made public. "International judges and prosecutors are expected to arrive in Cambodia in early June," tribunal spokesman Reach Sambath said.

Cambodian police will provide protection for all the court officials if they ask for it, he added. King Norodom Sihamoni will return from North Korea on April 28, according to the National and International Ceremonies Secretariat, and will preside over the selection.

In Pailin municipality, Suor Socheat, the wife of former head of state Khieu Samphan, said she did not know if her husband has retained a lawyer for the trial in which he is likely to be a defendant. "We just stay at home as usual," she said.