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The Supreme Court will judge Chhouk Rin, former Khmer Rouge leader, on February 16

The murder case of three foreigners, [presumably] committed by Chhouk Rin, former Khmer Rouge leader at Var mountain in 1994, and sentenced to life by the Appeals Court in accordance with the second article of the anti-terrorism law, will be tried [by the Supreme Court] on February 16, 2005.

An Appeals Court official said the Appeals Court issued a verdict in September 2002, rejecting the Phnom Penh court's verdict, which released Chhouk Rin from the accusation in 2000, and secretly sentenced him to life in accordance with the second article of the anti-terrorism law. However, Chhouk Rin complained about the verdict to the Supreme Court.

The Appeals Court official confirmed that after having received and inspected the complaint, the Supreme Court decided to try the case on February 16. In the hearing, Khim Pon will be the chief of the trial council, and Choun Sunleng, the Supreme Court prosecutor's representative.

On July 26, 1994, a group of former Khmer Rouge forces controlling the area of Var mountain raided a train, killing 13 Cambodians and Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet, 27; Australian David Wilson, 29; and Briton Mark Slater, 25. In the attack, three former Khmer Rouge leaders— Som Bit, Noun Pet and Chhouk Rin— were arrested for killing the three foreigners.

Noun Pet is presently in prison after Phnom Penh court sentenced him to life in March 1994. Som Bit was arrested by the Cambodian authorities in March 2002, for involvement in the murder case. Chhouk Rin was arrested and jailed in 2000, for leading the train attack. Soon after, Phnom Penh court issued its verdict declaring that Chhouk Rin was not guilty. However, the victims' relatives criticized the verdict and said it was unfair. They lodged a complaint to the Appeals Court.

On August 28, 2002, the Appeals Court held a trial against Chhouk Rin in absentia because of his health problems. On September 6, 2002, the Appeals Court issued its verdict, rejecting the Phnom Penh court's verdict, which deemed him innocent, and sentenced him to life in jail. He appealed the verdict.

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