

Open Letter from Cambodian Scholars and Clergy on the Crimes Committed by the Pol Pot et al.

Petition to Support the Resolution of the National Assembly of the Peoples Republic of Kampuchea
and an Open Letter from Cambodian Scholars and Clergy
on the Crimes Committed by the Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, and Khieu Samphan Clique

Documentation Center of Cambodia

Having learned about the resolution made by the assembly in the 5th session, 1st legislature, and a letter written by Cambodian scholars and clergy, we - the residents of Svay Thom village, subdistrict number 2 in the center of Kampot Town - would like to declare our approval of the accounts of crimes committed during 1975-1978 by Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan. In accordance with our knowledge, we the citizens know exactly that during this brutal regime, 3,147,768 innocent people were executed, leaving 141,848 disabled people, over 200,000 orphans, and hundreds of thousands of widows. Aside from killing thousands of innocent people, the regime destroyed 5,857 schools, 796 hospitals, and 1,968 pagodas. What is more, every activity relating to education, religion, culture, art, social affairs, commerce, finance, and markets was banned. Scholars and clergymen were atrociously tortured. There were 25,168 Buddhist monks, 594 medical doctors and dentists, 18,000 teachers and 10,550 students, 975 lawyers, 191 journalists, and 1,120 artists murdered in many cruel ways.

Furthermore, the cliques deceitfully propagandized and persuaded the highly educated students who were studying overseas to return to their motherland. To make it more convincing, they promised to give a position to each of those students. In contrast, 1,000 of those well-educated people were killed and severely tortured at Tuol Sleng prison; only 84 of them still survive. The Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan clique of the genocidal regime not only physically exterminated Cambodian people, but also psychologically obliterated humans' interactions, consciousness, conscientiousness, and perceptions. The relations between husband and wife, parents and children, siblings, relatives and friends were broken up. We simply lived as animals.

Having not yet fulfilled their desire, they destroyed the social structure, economic foundation, national culture and tradition, and unforgettable fame of the architecture of Angkor Wat. In addition, basic equipment, technical apparatus and many resources in Cambodia's territory were damaged. Actually, they annihilated not only things that existed in the past, but also in the future. As obvious evidence, they eliminated the fertility of more than three million people.

We had never had such dreadful lives as in the genocidal regime led by Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan from 1975 to 1978. The assembly of the Peoples Republic of Cambodia has recorded these atrocities. The whole assembly has agreed in virtual unanimity that the compatriots should remember this event as a sad history and pass this knowledge onto the next generation. Cambodian people and their assembly regard May 20 as a day of hatred against the genocidal regime of Pol Pot.

The national assembly decided to let the Cambodian people build a stone stupa and memorial in which to place the bones of the victims. This

commemorative work has to be well-prepared and requires involvement from the subdistrict to the provincial level.

According to the aforementioned description, we - the residents of Svay Thom village, subdistrict 2 - wholly agree with the resolution made by the Assembly of the Peoples Republic of Cambodia.

This agreement is for:

- The Council of the Peoples Republic of Cambodia
- The Assembly of the Peoples Republic of Cambodia
- The Council and United Front for the National Reconstruction of Kampuchea

As citizens, we will never forget the crimes committed during the Pol Pot regime. Our anger will never be dissolved. We are committed to fulfilling three objectives:

1. to defeat all the enemies throughout the Cambodian territory
2. to be hardworking in cultivation and to accomplish the goals set by the party
3. to strengthen the revolution.

Finally, we would like to engage in this activity and appeal to people who cherish peace and justice and all international organizations with common sense to observe the reality in Cambodia and intervene for the sake of solidarity and fraternity. We would like external assistance to dismiss the Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, and Khieu Samphan clique from their seat in the United Nations and return it to Cambodians. This act is to prevent world insecurity.

Svay Thom Village, September 10, 1983

Signature of the People's Representative

Nhean San