



អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
Chambres extraordinaires au sein des tribunaux cambodgiens

D158/5/3/15
ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា

ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

Royaume du Cambodge
Nation Religion Roi

អង្គបុរេជំនុំជម្រះ

Pre-Trial Chamber
Chambre Préliminaire

In the name of the Cambodian people and the United Nations and pursuant to the Law on the Establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for the Prosecution of Crimes Committed During the Period of Democratic Kampuchea.

Criminal Case File N° 002/19-09-2007-ECCC/OCIJ (PTC 20)

Before: Judge PRAK Kimsan, President
Judge Rowan DOWNING
Judge NEY Thol
Judge Katinka LAHUIS
Judge HUOT Vuthy

Date: 25 August 2009

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT/DOCUMENT ORIGINAL
ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ ទទួល (Date of receipt/date de reception): 25 / 08 / 2009
ម៉ោង (Time/Heure) : 16:00
មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង / Case File Officer/L'agent chargé du dossier: C.A. ១៧

PUBLIC

DECISION ON THE CHARGED PERSON'S APPEAL AGAINST THE CO-INVESTIGATING JUDGES' ORDER ON NUON CHEA'S ELEVENTH REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATIVE ACTION

Co-Prosecutors

CHEA Leang
Robert PETIT
YET Chakriya
William SMITH
TAN Senarong
Anees AHMED

Lawyers for the Civil Parties

HONG Kim Suon
LOR Chunthy
NY Chandy
KONG Pisey
YONG Phanith
KIM Mengkhy
MOCH Sovannary
Silke STUDZINSKY
Martine JACQUIN
Philippe CANNONE
Pierre Olivier SUR
Elizabeth RABESANRATANA
Olivier BAHOUGNE
David BLACKMAN
Annie DELAHAIE

Charged Person

Ieng Sary

Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person

ANG Udom
Michael G. KARNAVAS

ឯកសារច្បាប់ចម្លងត្រឹមត្រូវតាមច្បាប់ដើម
CERTIFIED COPY/COPIE CERTIFIÉE CONFORME
ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ ធ្វើការបញ្ជាក់ (Certified Date/Date de certification): 26 / 08 / 2009
មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង / Case File Officer/L'agent chargé du dossier: S.A. N.N. P.A. D.A.



THE PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (“ECCC”) is seized of the “Appeal against the Co-Investigating Judges’ Order on Request for Investigative Action Regarding Ongoing Allegations of Corruption” filed by the Co-Lawyers for Ieng Sary (the “Charged Person”) on 4 May 2009 (“the Appeal”).¹

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

1. On 27 March 2009, the Co-Lawyers for Nuon Chea filed before the Co-Investigating Judges their “Eleventh Request for Investigative Action” (the “Eleventh Request”)² seeking that the Co-Investigating Judges investigate allegations of corruption at the ECCC.³
2. On 27 March 2009, the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person filed before the Co-Investigating Judges a “Motion to Join and Adopt Nuon Chea’s Eleventh Request for Investigative Action” (“Ieng Sary’s Motion to Join the Eleventh Request”).⁴
3. On 3 April 2009, the Co-Investigating Judges issued an “Order on [Nuon Chea’s Eleventh] Request for Investigative Action” (the “Order”) noting the motion filed by the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person. In their Order the Co-Investigating Judges determined that they lacked the necessary jurisdiction to undertake the requested investigative action and that a request for an administrative inquiry would be “superfluous.”⁵
4. On 3 April 2009, the Order was notified to the Charged Person.
5. On 10 April 2009, the National Co-Lawyer for the Charged Person filed a Notice of Appeal against the Order, and on 4 May 2009 the Co-Lawyers filed the Appeal.

¹ Ieng Sary’s Appeal Against the Co-Investigating Judges’ Order on Request for Investigative Action Regarding Ongoing Allegations of Corruption and Request for an Expedited Oral Hearing, 4 May 2009, D158/5/3/1 (“The Appeal”).

² Nuon Chea’s Eleventh Request for Investigative Action, 27 March 2009, D158 (the “Eleventh Request”).

³ The Eleventh Request, 27 March 2009, D158, para. 17.

⁴ Ieng Sary’s Motion to Join and Adopt Nuon Chea’s Eleventh Request for Investigative Action, 27 March 2009, D158/2.

⁵ The Co-Investigating Judges “Order on Nuon Chea’s Request for Investigative Action”, 3 April 2009, D158/5 (the “Order”), paras 10, 13.



6. On 6 May 2009, the Co-Prosecutors submitted an Application for time and page limit extensions in order to file a Response to the Appeal.⁶ On 11 May 2009, the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person submitted their Response to the Co-Prosecutors' Application, requesting the Pre-Trial Chamber to deny the Co-Prosecutors' Application for time and page limit extensions.⁷
7. The Lawyers for the Civil Parties filed their Response to the Appeal (the "Civil Parties' Response") on 20 May 2009.⁸ Noting the Lawyers for the Civil Parties' Request for an extension of the time limit to file their Response to the Appeal⁹ on 21 May 2009, the Pre-Trial Chamber accepted the late filing of the Civil Parties' Response pursuant to Rule 39(4) of the Internal Rules and Article 9 of the ECCC Practice Direction on the Filing of Documents.¹⁰
8. On 22 May 2009, the Pre-Trial Chamber rejected the Co-Prosecutors' Application for an extension of page limit and granted their Application for extension of the time limit to file a Response, extending the deadline to 29 May 2009.¹¹
9. The Co-Prosecutors submitted their Response to the Appeal (the "Co-Prosecutors Response") on 29 May 2009.¹²
10. On 16 June 2009, the Pre-Trial Chamber issued Directions to the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person inviting them to make submissions in reply to the Co-Prosecutors' arguments in respect of the admissibility of the Appeal.¹³

⁶ Co-Prosecutors' Application for Extension of Page and Time Limits to File their Joint Response to the Appeals Against the Corruption Order, 6 May 2009, D158/5/3/2.

⁷ Response to the Office of the Co-Prosecutors' Application for Extension of Page and Time Limits to file their Joint Response to the Appeals Against the Corruption Order, 11 May 2009, D158/3/3.

⁸ Response of the Co-Lawyers for Civil Parties on the Appeals by Charged Persons Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan and Ieng Thirith against the Co-Investigating Judges Order on Eleventh Request for Investigative Action, 19 May 2009, D158/5/3/10 (the "Civil Parties' Response").

⁹ Co-Lawyers for Civil Parties' Request for Extension of Time Limit to File a Response to Defence' Appeals Against the OCIJ-Order on Corruption, 18 May 2009, D158/5/3/5.

¹⁰ Ruling on the Acceptance of the Late Filing of the Lawyers for the Civil Parties' Response, 21 May 2009, D158/5/3/7.

¹¹ Decision on Co-Prosecutors' Application for Extension of Page and Time Limits to File their Joint Response to the Appeals Against the Corruption Order, 22 May 2009, D158/5/3/9.

¹² Co-Prosecutors' Joint Response to Defence Appeals Against the Co-Investigating Judges' Order Denying Request for Investigative Action Regarding Allegations of Administrative Corruption, 29 May 2009, D158/5/3/11 (the "Co-Prosecutors' Response").

Decision on Ieng Sary's Appeal against the Co-Investigating Judges' Order on Request for Investigative Action Regarding Ongoing Allegations of Corruption.



11. The Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person submitted their Response to the Pre-Trial Chamber's Directions on 19 June 2009.¹⁴
12. Upon notice of the Appeal, the Pre-Trial Chamber received the case file, which was updated. For the purposes of considering this Appeal, the Pre-Trial Chamber reviewed the documents in the case file and all the evidence submitted further until the date when the Charged Person was permitted to file a reply to the Co-Prosecutors' Response, which is the last day when the Parties could comment upon anything or submit evidence to their advantage.

II. RELEVANT LAW

13. Reference is made to Internal Rules 21(1), 35, 55(10), 58(6), 73 and 74(3)(b).

III. ADMISSIBILITY OF THE APPEAL

14. On 3 April 2009, the Co-Investigating Judges issued the Order on the Eleventh Request noting the motion filed by the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person, Ieng Sary. The Order was notified to the Charged Person on the same day. On 10 April 2009 the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person filed a Notice of Appeal. The Appeal was filed on 4 May 2009 and within the time limit provided for in Internal Rule 75(3).
15. The Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person filed the Appeal pursuant to Internal Rule 74(3)(b).¹⁵ In this respect, the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person submit:

“The Appeal remains admissible under rule 74(3)(b) even though the Co-Investigating Judges declared that “they lacked jurisdiction to accomplish the requested investigative action rather

¹³ Directions to the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person concerning Co-Prosecutors' “Joint Response to Defence Appeals against the Co-Investigating Judges' Order denying Request for Investigative Action Regarding Allegations of Administrative Corruption”, 16 June 2009, D158/5/3/12.

¹⁴ Response to the Pre-Trial Chamber's Directions on 16 June 2009 Concerning the Admissibility of the Appeal Concerning Ongoing Allegations of Corruption, 19 June 2009, D158/5/3/13 (“Response to the Pre-Trial Chamber's Directions”).

¹⁵ The Appeal, paras. 5-7.



than deciding upon the merits of the Request. In granting a right of appeal against [Co-Investigating Judges'] decisions denying a request for investigative action, Rule 74(3)(b) does not distinguish between whether such a request was denied on the merits or denied on an alleged lack of jurisdiction. The fact that the Request was denied is the only salient factor to be considered and which gives rise to the right of appeal.”

16. The Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person argue that the information requested of the Co-Investigating Judges through the Eleventh Request falls within the statutory jurisdiction of the Co-Investigating Judges under the ECCC Agreement and that the Co-Investigating Judges have the inherent power and duty to regulate the fairness of judicial proceedings.¹⁶ They also submit that Internal Rule 55(5) directs the Co-Investigating Judges to conduct impartial investigations and that it is their duty to search for and disclose to the parties both incriminating and exculpatory evidence.¹⁷ They submit that although the Co-Investigating Judges are limited to investigating the facts set out in the Introductory Submission by Rule 55(2) and Article 2 of the Law on the Establishment of ECCC, these provisions may not be relied upon by either the Co-Investigating Judges or the Co-Prosecutors “to limit the temporal scope of the facts that may be relevant to ascertaining the truth of the alleged crimes set out in the Introductory Submission”.¹⁸ In this context, the Co-Lawyers conclude that the Eleventh Request is not “totally foreign to the facts covered by the current judicial investigation”.¹⁹

17. In their Response to the Appeal, the Co-Prosecutors do not question the admissibility of the Appeal in its form.²⁰

18. The Co-Prosecutors submit in their Response that the Eleventh Request does not fall within the statutory jurisdiction of the Co-Investigating Judges²¹ and that interference in the administration of

¹⁶ The Appeal, para. 13.

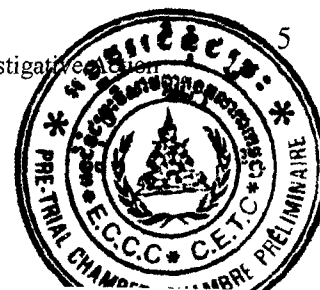
¹⁷ The Appeal, paras. 16-17.

¹⁸ The Appeal, para 18.

¹⁹ The Appeal, para 21.

²⁰ The Co-Prosecutors' Response, para. 14.

²¹ The Co-Prosecutors' Response, paras. 54-57.



justice is not established.²² The Co-Prosecutors also argue that the Eleventh Request does not fall within the inherent jurisdiction of the Court.²³

19. The Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person in their Reply to the Pre-Trial Chamber Directions of 16 June 2009, submit:

“The [Co-Investigating Judges’] jurisdiction with regards to investigative requests is a complex matter which goes to the very core of the issue on appeal, namely the effect of administrative and judicial corruption on the fairness of proceedings. [...] This issue does not, however, affect the admissibility of the appeal and must not be confused with it.”²⁴

20. The Civil Party Lawyers in their Response to the Appeal submit that they fully support the Eleventh Request of the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person for “further investigation by ECCC concerning the matter of corruption” and that the “ECCC, specifically the Co-Investigating Judges, have jurisdiction to conduct investigative action upon this matter”.²⁵ They argue that “as the ECCC is run on the basis of judicial independence and impartiality [...], it is within the scope of the ECCC to deal with this problem, no matter how distasteful”.²⁶ They further submit that “there is little doubt that investigating this matter is within the scope of [Internal] Rule 35”²⁷ and that “inherent powers require Tribunals to deal with conduct which interferes with [their] administration of justice”.²⁸ According to the Civil Party Lawyers, the inherent powers “along with the mandate under [Internal] Rule 35, create jurisdiction for ECCC to deal with the corruption issue and to conduct further investigation concerning it”.²⁹

²² The Co-Prosecutors’ Response, paras. 60 and 61.

²³ The Co-Prosecutors’ Response, paras. 62-64.

²⁴ The Co-Lawyers Reply to the Pre-Trial Chamber’s Directions dated 19 June 2009, para. 3.

²⁵ Civil Party Lawyers Response, para. 4.

²⁶ Civil Party Lawyers Response, paras. 5-10.

²⁷ Civil Party Lawyers Response, para. 11.

²⁸ Civil Party Lawyers Response, para. 13.

²⁹ Civil Party Lawyers Response, para. 14.



Considerations of the Pre-Trial Chamber

21. The Pre-Trial Chamber notes that pursuant to Internal Rule 73 it has jurisdiction over appeals filed against such categories of decisions of the Co-Investigating Judges “as provided for in Internal Rule 74”. Internal Rule 74(3)(b) grants to the Charged Person the right to file appeals against such orders of the Co-Investigating Judges that refuse “requests for investigative actions allowed under these Internal Rules”. The phrase “as provided in Rule 74” used in Internal Rule 73(a), read in conjunction with the contents of Internal Rule 74(3)(b), provides that two prerequisites have to be fulfilled for Internal Rule 73(a) to become operative. First, there must be a request which is “allowed under the Internal Rules” and second, such request has to have been “refused” by the Co-Investigating Judges. In the instant case, the core of the issue of admissibility of the Appeal is whether the Eleventh Request is “allowed under the Internal Rules”.
22. The Eleventh Request which was adopted by the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person seeks to obtain information that could suggest “institutional corruption” at the ECCC. The legal grounds on which the Eleventh Request is based include Internal Rules 21(1), 55(10) and 58(6).
23. The Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person in their Appeal and in their Reply to the Pre-Trial Chamber Directions of 16 June 2009, do not provide an explanation of how a request to obtain information on such allegations may fit under the meaning of the term “request for investigative action allowed under these Internal Rules” as provided in Internal Rule 74(3)(b).
24. According to the Internal Rules, permitted requests for investigative action include requests submitted to the Co-Investigating Judges pursuant to Internal Rules 55(10) and 58(6). The Eleventh Request is asserted to be based on such legal grounds. It may thus appear as the Eleventh Request falls under the category of requests “allowed under the Internal Rules” when viewed in this manner. Contrary to these assertions of the Charged Person, the Pre-Trial Chamber finds that the alleged factual situation the Charged Person seeks to address by means of the Eleventh Request does not fall within the scope of Internal Rules 55(10) and 58(6). The alleged factual situation the Charged Person seeks to address is one that may suggest “interference with the administration of justice” or “corruption” in the ECCC. Internal Rules 55(10) and 58(6) may be employed to address only such

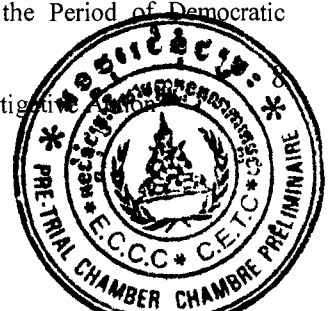


alleged factual situations that correspond to acts “within the jurisdiction of ECCC”. Rules 55(10) and 58(6) must be read in conjunction with sub-rule 1 of Internal Rule 55, which provides:

“A judicial investigation is compulsory for crimes within the jurisdiction of the ECCC.”

25. The Pre-Trial Chamber notes that the jurisdiction of the ECCC comes from the Agreement and the Law on the Establishment of the ECCC,³⁰ being the instruments that instituted the ECCC. Such instruments refer only to the “Crimes Committed during the Period of Democratic Kampuchea”. The Agreement or the Law on the Establishment of the ECCC do not refer anywhere to “acts” that would constitute “interference in the administration of justice” or “corruption,” as suggested.
26. In this context, the Eleventh Request represents an incorrect mixture of the alleged factual situation and the legal provisions upon which the Co-Lawyers rely to establish jurisdiction for the Eleventh Request. Internal Rules 55(10) and 58(6) may not be used as legal basis for a request for investigative action on a factual situation that may suggest interference with the administration of justice or corruption in ECCC. Under these circumstances, the Pre-Trial Chamber finds that the Eleventh Request does not fall under the category of “request(s) for investigative action allowed under these Internal Rules”.
27. The Pre-Trial Chamber further notes that “acts” that would constitute “interference in the administration of justice” are considered in Internal Rule 35. According to the Preamble of the Internal Rules, their purpose is not to define the powers of the ECCC, but rather to:
- “consolidate applicable Cambodian procedure for proceedings before the ECCC and [...] to adopt additional rules where the existing procedures do not deal with a particular matter.”
28. Internal Rule 35 provides that the ECCC “may sanction or refer to the appropriate authorities” those who “interfere with the administration of justice”. This represents an effort to address a

³⁰ See Articles 2(1) and 9 of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia Concerning the Prosecution under Cambodian Law of Crimes Committed during the Period of Democratic Kampuchea (“the Agreement”) as read in conjunction with Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Law on the Establishment of Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for the Prosecution of Crimes Committed during the Period of Democratic Kampuchea (“The Law on the Establishment of the ECCC”).



“particular matter”, as provided for in the Preamble of the Internal Rules, in order to safeguard the procedures before the ECCC from inappropriate action that may call into question the fairness of the proceedings. Internal Rule 35 does not establish an additional primary jurisdiction for the ECCC, which would clearly be beyond the scope of the Internal Rules. The power given to Co-Investigating Judges or Chambers to deal with acts that may constitute “interference with the administration of justice” clearly represents a form of ancillary jurisdiction for the ECCC which is not related to that referred to in Internal Rules 55(10) and 58(6).

29. As far as Internal Rule 35 is concerned, the Pre-Trial Chamber notes that it does not provide for the initiation of investigative action upon request by a party. It rather leaves the matter under the discretion of the Co-Investigating Judges or the Chambers. Consequently Internal Rule 35 cannot provide a basis for the requested investigative action and therefore for the appeal lodged under 74(3)(b). The Pre-Trial Chamber further observes that the matter is before the appropriate authorities of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the United Nations.

30. The Pre-Trial Chamber further notes that the Co-Lawyers raise the concern of whether findings of corruption in ECCC impact upon factual conclusions reached or to be reached by the Co-Investigating Judges in assessing evidence that is gathered and/or examined in relation to the Introductory Submission. In this context, they argue that if evidence of corruption at the ECCC is found, it is exculpatory evidence, and as Internal Rule 55(5) directs the Co-Investigating Judges to conduct impartial investigations it is their duty to search for and disclose to the parties both incriminating and exculpatory evidence. In respect of these assertions, the Pre-Trial Chamber notes that the Eleventh Request was not based on Internal Rule 55(5) and that Ieng Sary only adopted “all facts and legal arguments” set out in the Eleventh Request without adding Internal Rule 55(5) as another ground for the Request, which could have been achieved through a varied request. The matters raised are therefore outside the ambit of the Appeal before the Pre-Trial Chamber and will not be examined further.³¹

³¹ Ieng Sary’s Motion to Join and Adopt Nuon Chea’s Eleventh Request for Investigative Action, dated 27 March 2009, D158/2.



The right to an independent and impartial tribunal

31. The Co-Lawyers submit that evidence of corruption in ECCC may affect the fairness and impartiality of judicial proceedings³² and that:

“If the Defence Appeals are declared inadmissible, the Pre-Trial Chamber would be effectively depriving the Charged Persons of any avenue for finding out whether the fairness of the entire judicial process is tainted. Such a conclusion flies in the face of the expressed reference to international standards of justice in the Preamble to the Internal Rules.”³³

32. In relation to these issues raised by the Co-Lawyers, Internal Rule 21 reads:

“1. The applicable ECCC Law, Internal Rules, Practice Directions and Administrative Regulations shall be interpreted so as to always safeguard the interests of Suspects, Charged Persons, Accused and Victims and so as to ensure legal certainty and transparency of proceedings, in light of the inherent specificity of the ECCC, as set out in the ECCC Law and the Agreement. In this respect:

a) ECCC proceedings shall be fair and adversarial and preserve a balance between the rights of the parties. [...]”

33. The Pre-Trial Chamber will examine whether Internal Rule 21 requires that it adopt a broader interpretation of the Charged Person’s right to appeal in order to ensure that the interests of the Charged Person for legal certainty, transparency and fairness of proceedings are safeguarded.

34. The Pre-Trial Chamber observes that the Internal Rules give the Charged Person the ability to address any concerns related to irregularity of proceedings in handling evidence by means of provisions on the annulment procedure during the investigative stage of the proceedings and

³² The Appeal, paras. 41-43.

³³ The Co-Lawyers Reply to the Pre-Trial Chamber Directions of 16 June 2009, para. 4.



objection to admissibility of evidence during the trial stage. Reference is made to Internal Rules 48, 76 and 87.³⁴

35. Pursuant to these Internal Rules, irregularly obtained evidence can be excluded from the case file where a procedural defect has been identified in relation to the way evidence has been obtained or handled and where it is established that such defect infringes the rights of a party to the proceedings, including the Charged Person.

36. Internal Rule 76(2) provides that the party applying for annulment of any part of the proceedings must submit a “reasoned” application to the Co-Investigating Judges, requesting them to seize the Pre-Trial Chamber with an application for annulment. Internal Rule 76(4) provides that the Chamber may declare such application admissible if it sets out “sufficient reasons for annulment”. According to these sub-rules, the existence of “sufficient reasons” is a prerequisite for the admission and processing of a request for annulment. While the Internal Rules do not elaborate on the meaning of “sufficient reasons for annulment”, the Pre-Trial Chamber has previously explained this in more detail, concluding that an applicant for annulment is obliged to state which part of the proceedings is null and void and provide reasons for such an assertion.³⁵

37. In addition, the Charged Person may, during trial proceedings, ask for cross-examination of witnesses if they have serious concerns regarding written evidence.³⁶ When deciding on the admissibility of evidence before it, each Chamber has the inherent power to carry out additional investigation where issues of fair trial arise in relation to any piece of evidence.³⁷ Further, the Supreme Court Chamber may revise a final judgment on the grounds that “it has been newly discovered that decisive evidence, taken into account at trial and upon which the conviction depends, was false, forged or falsified”.³⁸

³⁴ For a better understanding of the provisions of Internal Rule 87, see Trial Chamber’s Decision on Admissibility of Material on the Case File as Evidence, 26 May 2009, E43/4, paras. 5-7.

³⁵ Pre-Trial Chamber’s Decision on Appeal against Order Refusing Request for Annulment, 26 August 2008, D55/1/8, paras. 32-42.

³⁶ See Internal Rule 87(3).

³⁷ See Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice; *Prosecutor v. Tadic*, IT-94-1-A, “Judgment”, 15 July 1999, para. 322; *United States of America on Behalf of Lehigh Railroad Company v. Germany, U.S. – German Mixed Claims Commission*, reprinted in 34 AM. J.I.L. 151, (1940).

³⁸ See Internal Rule 112(1)(b).



38. The Pre-Trial Chamber further notes that the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person Nuon Chea have requested the Royal Prosecutor in Phnom Penh to investigate the alleged corruption. It is not clear to the Pre-Trial Chamber the basis upon which this request was made. The Pre-Trial Chamber notes that this request was rejected at first instance, but is the subject of an appeal before the Prosecutor General.
39. Specifically in this case, where no reasons for the decision in the first instance of the local authorities have been provided to the Pre-Trial Chamber and the local appellate body is currently seized of the matter which is substantially the subject matter of the Eleventh Request adopted by the Charged Person, it cannot be concluded, in the absence of stated facts, that local institutions do not possess the required capacity or impartiality to deal with the matter.
40. The Pre-Trial Chamber notes that the standard set at the international level for finding national remedies ineffective is rigorous. While the rules or jurisprudence of the *ad hoc* tribunals or the International Criminal Court do not provide much guidance in this respect, given that they have primary jurisdiction in relation to the respective national jurisdictions, the case law of the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UN HRC) can be used as guidance.
41. Where a domestic procedure is still pending, the UN HRC will either suspend its admissibility procedure or declare the communication inadmissible.³⁹ With respect to the burden of proof in such cases, if an applicant submits that certain remedies are ineffective or futile or would be unreasonably long, then he must provide *prima facie* evidence to sustain his/her allegations.⁴⁰ The UN HRC has noted that “mere doubts as to the effectiveness of remedies do not absolve the authors from the obligation to exhaust them”, and that the applicants must submit sufficient or relevant information concerning the case law of the court which is alleged to represent an ineffective remedy in order to enable the Committee to consider and conclude on the matter.⁴¹

³⁹ Manfred Nowak, *U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: CCPR Commentary*, Strasbourg: 1993, p. 704.

⁴⁰ Manfred Nowak, *U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: CCPR Commentary*, Strasbourg: 1993, p. 706.

⁴¹ *Garcia Perea v. Spain*, Communication No. 1511/2006, “Decision of the Human Rights Committee”, 27 March 2009, para. 6.2.



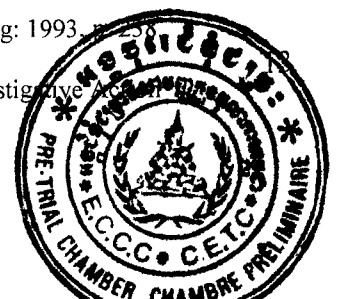
42. The Pre-Trial Chamber notes that nowhere in the Eleventh Request or the Appeal have the Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person provided information, either directly or by adoption, which would confirm to such level their assumptions about the effectiveness or behaviour of the local authorities currently reviewing their request or that of the United Nations. The fact that Nuon Chea's motion is still to be decided by the Prosecutor General is contrary to these assumptions.
43. The Pre-Trial Chamber finds that the other possibilities of complaint or remedy available to the Co-Lawyers under the Internal Rules and Cambodian law sufficiently safeguard the interests of the Charged Person.
44. In addition, the right of the Charged Person to an independent and impartial tribunal, the Pre-Trial Chamber notes, is guaranteed in the ECCC establishing instruments, the Internal Rules and in the international Instruments to which the Royal Cambodian Government is a party.

45. Article 12 of the Agreement provides as follows:

“The Extraordinary Chambers shall exercise their jurisdiction in accordance with international standards of justice, fairness and due process of law, as set out in Articles 14 and 15 of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Cambodia is a party. [...]”

46. Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (the “ICCPR”) obliges States Parties to set up independent, impartial courts and to give them such an institutional and financial structure that they are able to conduct at all times a fair trial of criminal matters and to accord all accused persons the minimum rights guaranteed in Articles 14(2)-(7).⁴²
47. As far as impartiality of the ECCC judges is concerned, the Pre-Trial Chamber notes that Internal Rule 34 is available to the parties to address any concerns related to the specific holding or bias of certain Judges on a case by case basis.

⁴² Manfred Nowak, *U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: CCPR Commentary*, Strasbourg: 1993.



48. As far as independence of the ECCC judges is concerned, reference is made to Article 3 of the Agreement and Article 11 new of the ECCC Law. The Agreement and ECCC law refer to the Supreme Council of Magistracy and the Secretary-General of the United Nations as appointing and nominating bodies for the ECCC Judges. The submissions advanced by the Co-Lawyers of the Charged Person suggest that the possible existence of a “kickback scheme” casts a shadow on the way ECCC Judges are appointed and therefore calls into question their independence from the administrative. The Co-Lawyers for the Charged Person further argue that if ECCC staff members entrusted with sensitive tasks are willing to engage in graft, then those individuals may be equally willing to follow improper instructions and endanger the integrity of judicial proceedings.
49. The Pre-Trial Chamber finds that the allegation that staff members possibly have paid money to a superior cannot lead to the conclusion that these staff members can influence the Judges to manipulate the outcome of the procedure, and therefore affect the independence and impartiality of the court or the judges. The nature of the allegation is too remote to draw such a conclusion without additional facts.
50. The Pre-Trial Chamber finds that the Charged Person’s rights provided for in Internal Rule 21 are sufficiently safeguarded by the existing legal framework, as reasoned above. The Pre-Trial Chamber therefore finds that Internal Rule 21 does not oblige it to interpret the Internal Rules in such a way that the Appeal should be declared admissible.



THEREFORE, THE PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER HEREBY DECIDES UNANIMOUSLY:

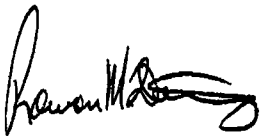
The Appeal is inadmissible.

In accordance with Internal Rule 77(13), this Decision is not subject to appeal.

Phnom Penh, 25 August 2009

Pre-Trial Chamber

President



Rowan DOWNING



NEY Thol



Katinka LAHUIS



HUOT Vuthy

