

**BEFORE THE TRIAL CHAMBER
EXTRAORDINARY CHAMBERS IN THE COURTS OF CAMBODIA**

FILING DETAILS

Case No: 002/19-09-2007/ECCC/TC

Filed to: Trial Chamber

Date of Document: 24 July 2015

Original Language: English



Cognitive Testing of NUON Chea and KHIEU Samphan

Filed By:

Dr. Kin Ming CHAN
Geriatrician

Introduction

1. I, Doctor CHAN Kin Ming, swear to assist the Chambers honestly, confidentially and to the best of my ability.
2. I provide this report in accordance to the Trial Chamber's request¹ and the briefing notes² given to me by Mr Matthew J. McCarthy, Trial Chamber legal officer on my arrival at the ECCC.
3. I have been asked the following questions with regards to cognitive testing of NUON Chea and KHIEU Samphan:
 - a. How often must the test change? Who will be responsible for adapting the test on the regular basis?
 - b. Who exactly will be administering the tests in the Medical Unit, how do they plan on forwarding and filing the results, and who will be responsible for these reports/filings? Could a principal doctor be nominated to liaise with the WESU?
 - c. Could a timetable already be set for WESU to receive revised tests for the accused, since they are to be administered once every three months?

Cognitive testing of NUON Chea and KHIEU Samphan

4. My statement to the Court was that we should not be using the Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) every 3 monthly because the results could be tainted by a 'learned effect.' I had since suggested using a simplified tool called the Abbreviated Mental Test (AMT)³. Unlike the MMSE, which is scored out of 30 points, the AMT is scored out of 10 points. During my meeting with Prof CHAK Thida and Dr CHHOUR Channaca on 18 July 2015 at the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital, they have the flexibility to make changes to 2 of the questions being asked:

¹ E138/1/10/1/5/9/7 Order Appointing Expert To Examine IENG Thirith dated 9 June 2015

² Briefing notes for Dr Chan: Examination of IENG Thirith and Cognitive testing of NUON Chea and KHIEU Samphan

³ Hodkinson HM. Evaluation of a mental test score for assessment of mental impairment in the elderly. Age Ageing 1972, 1 (4):233-238

- a. Question 3 of Questionnaire: “Remember this address: Please repeat this address to me. I will ask you to repeat this address to me at the end of the test.”

Address given was 35 Samdach Sothearos Blvd.

The administering doctor can substitute this address with another in the same format, comprising a number and a road name.

- b. Question 8 of Questionnaire: “In which year did Cambodia get independence from France?”


This question could be replaced by “In which year was the end of Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia?”

5. Changing some of the questions asked can help to reduce the ‘learned effect’.
6. Both Prof CHAK Thida and Dr CHHOUR Channaca will be the designated doctors to administer the AMT, and Prof CHAK Thida has agreed to be the principal doctor in charge.
7. WESU and Prof CHAK Thida can set a timetable to perform the AMT.
8. The AMT will be administered once every 3 months and filed into NUON Chea and KHIEU Samphan’s regular medical notes. The AMT need not be submitted to the Courts separately because it is just a brief assessment to document their cognition throughout the year. The ‘gold standard’ cognitive assessment is still the Mini Mental State Examination, which will be administered yearly by the court-appointed experts. The AMT scores throughout the year (3 monthly assessments) will be helpful for the Court appointed experts during their yearly assessments of NUON Chea and KHIEU Samphan. It will increase their confidence level and accuracy in determining their cognitive status.
9. One set of AMT should be filed with the medical notes because the Scores can be affected by any medical illnesses that the person may be suffering

from. For example, if a person has fever, that can affect the AMT scores as well. So clinical correlation is needed to interpret the score results.

10. Another set of AMT can be filed together for ease of tracking the trends of the scores.

Signed

Date	Name	Place	Signature
24 July 2015	Dr. Kin Ming CHAN	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	

Reference:

AMT Score Sheet. Hodkinson HM. Evaluation of a mental test score for assessment of mental impairment in the elderly. *Age Ageing*. 1972 1(4):233-238