

**GET INSPIRED**

**Creative activity**

In this guide, you've learned a lot about Cambodia's past and how we addressed it. Now, take a moment to reflect on what you've read and draw what a **peaceful Cambodia** looks like today. You don't have to be an artist! Let the symbols provided inspire you.



Lotus flower



Olive branch



Cambodian flag



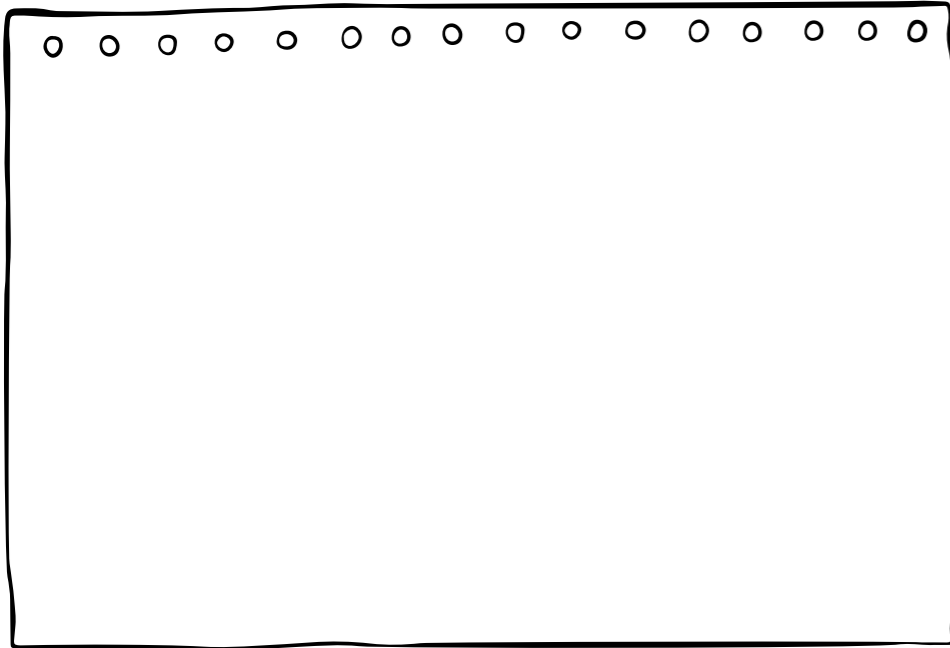
United Nations flag



Gavel



Book



**LOOK AND FIND**

The symbols of peace and justice are hidden on the cover. Would you be able to find them?

**QUIZ ANSWERS**

- 1 → She was 10 years old
- 2 → She was sent to work at a worksite against her will
- 3 → To tell her story and seek justice
- 4 → 10 Khmer Rouge were investigated
- 5 → "Your Honor"
- 6 → A Civil Party
- 7 → An olive branch
- 8 → 26 reparations
- 9 → To obtain justice and closure and relieve their trauma

# THE ECCC CHILDREN'S GUIDE

A guide to understand the Khmer Rouge trials.

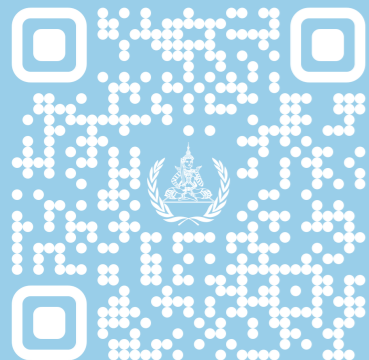


**QUIZZES INSIDE**  
See how much you've learned as you go through the pages!

**Learn about Cambodia's past in an easy way.**

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) is a tribunal which started to operate in 2006, established by the Royal Government and the United Nations to bring to trial the senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime and those most responsible for the crimes committed between 1975-1979.

**TO LEARN MORE**



**ECCC Resource Centre**

Building No. 40,  
Russian Federation Boulevard  
(Street 110), Phnom Penh

**Do you have a question?  
Contact us!**

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resource.centre@eccc.gov.kh



Designed by Kroojchmar Collective

**Archive:** a place where documents are kept safely so that people can access them now and in the future.

**Jurisprudence:** the study of law and how it is applied in society to bring justice to people.

**THE HISTORY P.2**

**THE WORK OF JUSTICE P.4**

**THE LEGACY OF JUSTICE P.6**

**FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS P.7**

**GET INSPIRED P.8**



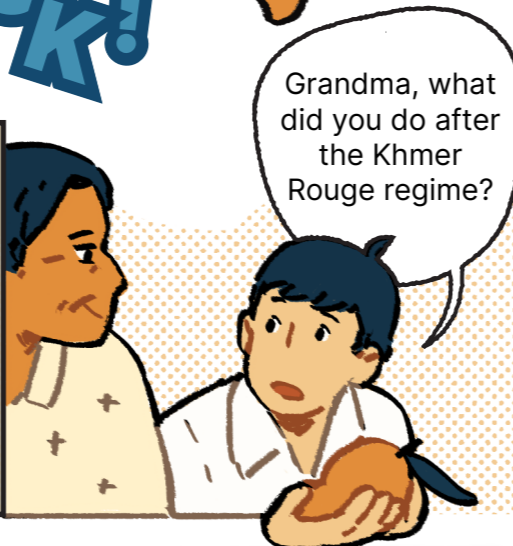
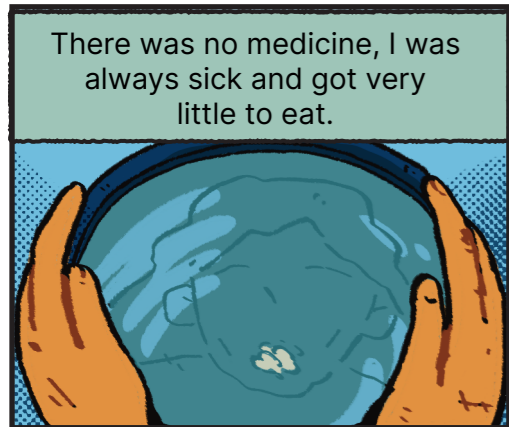
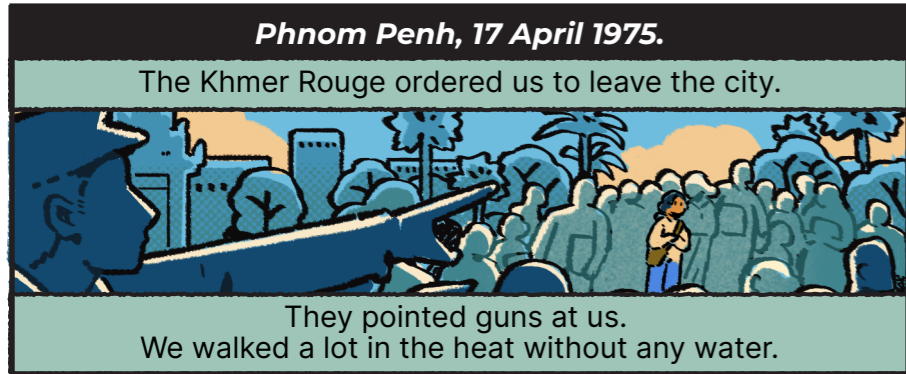
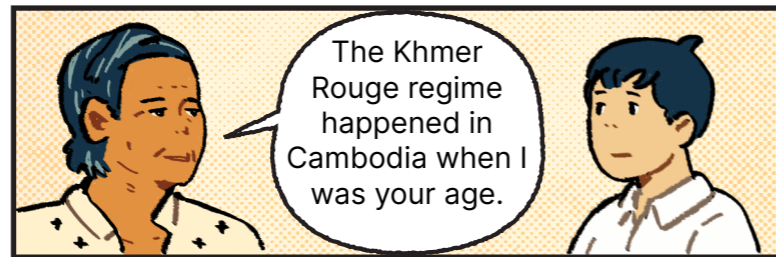
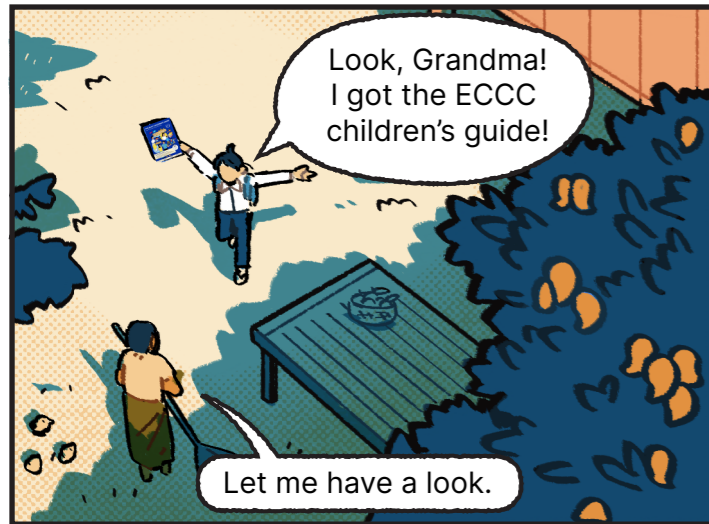
MY GRANDMA'S TESTIMONY



Sovanny  
Age 59



Sothy  
Age 10



**Population displacement:** The Khmer Rouge forced people to leave their homes and made them live and work in the countryside.

**Worksites/cooperatives:** places where the Khmer Rouge sent people to work against their will.



Based on the stories of Civil Parties who testified before the ECCC.

WHO WERE THE KHMER ROUGE?

The Khmer Rouge and their leaders tried to transform Cambodia into a country of workers and peasants, but their actions devastated the country and caused suffering to the entire population.

- Regime: 17 April 1975 - 7 January 1979
- Forced labor, mistreatments, starvation
- Family members disappeared or died



Khmer Rouge cadres

The Khmer Rouge required people to dress in black or dark green clothes, just like peasants. Many Khmer Rouge soldiers carried guns as a symbol of power and control.

QUIZ

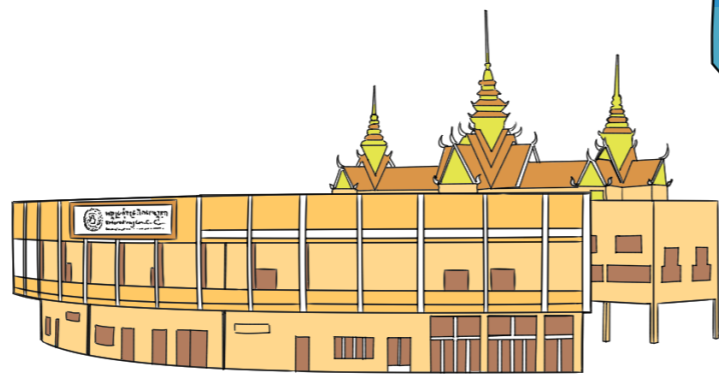
- 1 How old was Sovanny, Sothy's grandma, at the beginning of the Khmer Rouge regime?  
.....  
.....
- 2 Where was Sovanny sent to work after the fall of Phnom Penh?  
.....  
.....
- 3 Why did Sovanny decide to go speak at the ECCC?  
.....  
.....

**Genocide:** a serious crime of targeting people because of their identity which the Khmer Rouge committed in Cambodia.

**War crimes/crimes against humanity:** serious crimes which the Khmer Rouge committed in Cambodia.



# UNDERSTANDING THE TRIALS



## What is a trial?

When a court decides if someone has committed a crime, based on **evidence** and the law.

## The Khmer Rouge trials

The trials took place in the ECCC courtroom in Phnom Penh. There were **639 days** of court hearings altogether! The last trial ended in **2022**, when the last surviving senior leader of the Khmer Rouge was confirmed to be guilty.

## Inside the courtroom

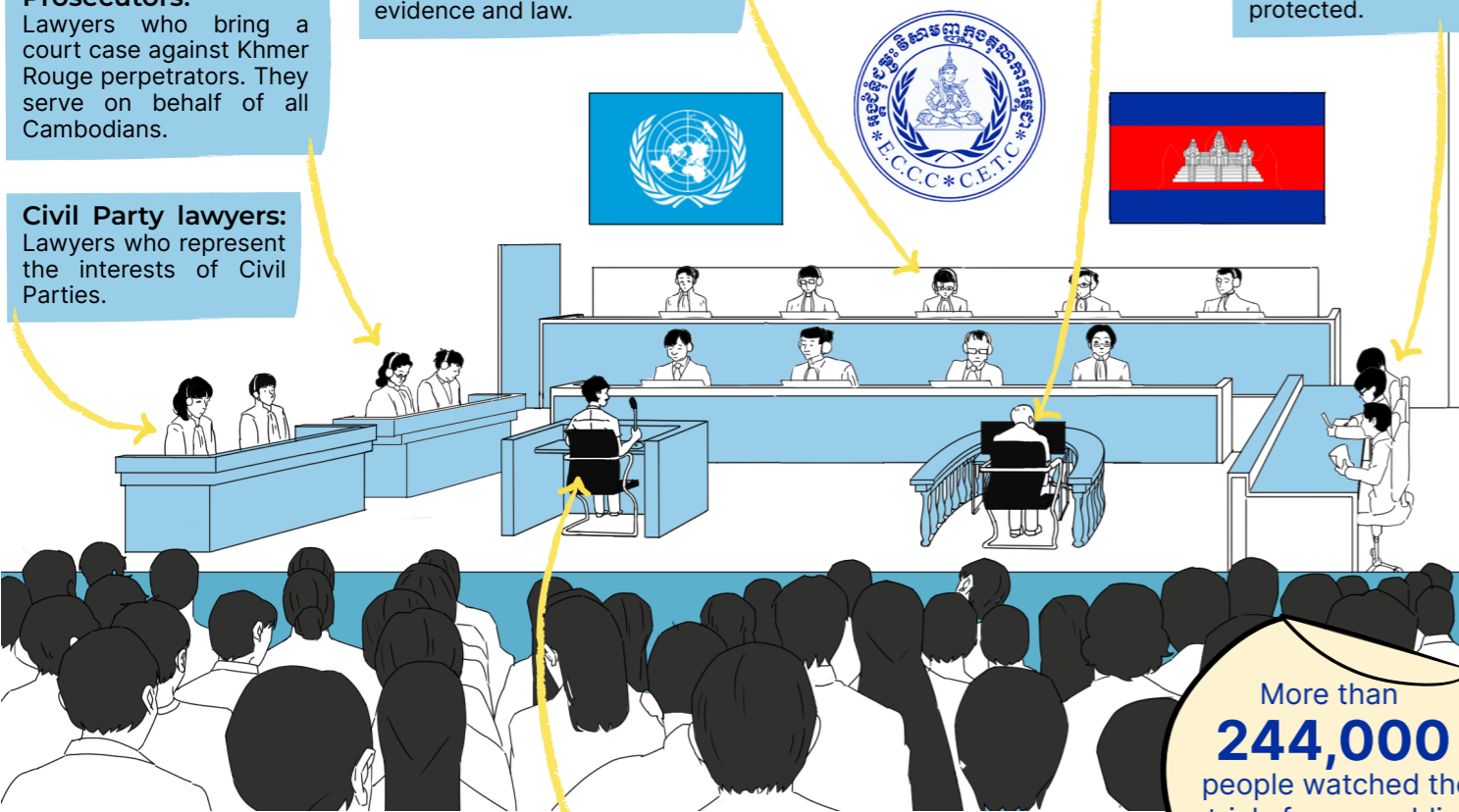
**Prosecutors:** Lawyers who bring a court case against Khmer Rouge perpetrators. They serve on behalf of all Cambodians.

**Civil Party lawyers:** Lawyers who represent the interests of Civil Parties.

**Judges:** Specialized lawyers who listen to prosecutors, defendants and Civil Parties in court, then make a decision based on the evidence and law.

**Accused:** People on trial. At the end of the trial, the judges decide whether accused persons are guilty or innocent.

**Defence lawyers:** Lawyers who ensure that the rights of suspects and accused persons are protected.



More than **244,000** people watched the trials from a public gallery behind the courtroom

**Civil Party:** A primary or secondary victim of the Khmer Rouge regime who wants to be heard in court. They are helped by lawyers.

**6** case files      **3,945** victims participated as Civil Parties

**6** Judgments      **16** years of trials

## How did victims contribute to justice?

Survivors of Khmer Rouge crimes shared their stories, helping ECCC judges to collect important information, to understand what happened and who was responsible.

**Evidence:** information collected during an investigation that helps to determine what happened in a case and who is responsible.

**Case:** the name of a court matter when the prosecutor accuses someone of breaking the law.

# THE INVESTIGATIONS

10 people were investigated by the ECCC



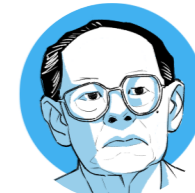
Duch



Nuon Chea



Khieu Samphan



Ieng Sary



Ieng Thirith



Ao An



Meas Muth



Sou Meth



Yim Tith



Im Chaem

**Have you heard the name Pol Pot, also called "Brother No. 1"?**

He was the leader of the Khmer Rouge. But he died in 1998, before the ECCC was created and before the trials began.

## Why couldn't every suspect be investigated?

The ECCC only focused on the senior leaders and those who were most responsible for Khmer Rouge crimes to achieve justice, peace and reconciliation in Cambodia.

## MEET A JUDGE



### What was your role during the trials?

I reviewed all the evidence and listened to many victims' testimonies. Afterwards, I made decisions about suspects and accused persons based on the evidence and law.

### Why did it take so long to complete the trials?

We needed to find information about crimes which were committed long ago and listen to many victims. We also had to

Her Honor the Judge

write down the reasons for our decisions – this took thousands of pages!

### What was special about these trials?

They combined Cambodian and international traditions in a multicultural environment. I worked with both Cambodian and foreign judges and lawyers! Many countries supported our quest for justice.

## QUIZ

4 How many Khmer Rouge were investigated?

.....

5 How do you address a judge?

.....

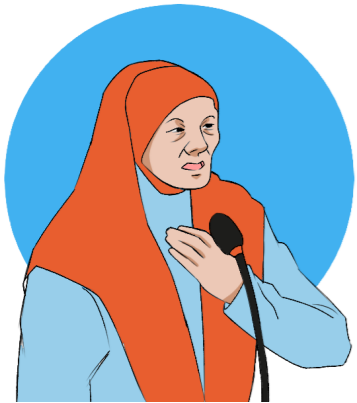
6 How do we call victims who are represented by lawyers and give their testimony in court?

.....

**Judgment:** a court's written decision explaining whether a person is guilty or innocent of crimes by referring to the evidence and law.

**Sentence:** the court's punishment for committing a crime. For very serious crimes, a guilty person will spend the rest of their life in prison.

**THE LEGACY OF JUSTICE**



**The ECCC assisted the Cambodian victims in their journey towards peace and reconciliation.**

**What are reparations?**

Reparations are ways to recognise the harm suffered by **victims** of crimes and show that the harm caused by the Khmer Rouge would never be forgotten. After the trials, the ECCC endorsed **26 reparations**.

**Publication of Duch's apologies**

**"Phka Sla Kraom Angkar"**  
Traditional dance and exhibition on forced marriage under the Khmer Rouge regime.

**"A Time to Remember"**  
Songwriting contest that enabled young artists to compose music in memory of Cambodia's history.

**App-learning on Khmer Rouge history**  
Historical information published on an app.

**Testimonial therapy project**  
Civil Parties received care from psychologists to help with their suffering and loss.

**"The Turtle Project"**  
Theatrical performances based on the experiences of Civil Parties.

**Phnom Penh's memory**  
Discover important places in the capital that connect with the past to remember, honor and learn.

- Tuol Sleng** : the memorial site of the S-21 security centre that was used as a prison
- ECCC Resource Centre**: a collection of resources to learn more about the trials and the history of the Khmer Rouge regime
- Choeung Ek**: one of the places where Khmer Rouge killed many people

**Victim:** a person who suffered physical or psychological harm as a result of crimes committed by the Khmer Rouge.

**Law:** a set of rules that everyone follows to ensure a safe and peaceful society.

**FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

The **ECCC emblem** combines an old Cambodian figure representing justice with the United Nations symbol of peace, made of olive branches.

**After the trials**

After the trials ended in 2022, Cambodia and the United Nations agreed to keep working together to preserve the **legacy** of the trials. The ECCC's mission became to share information with everyone, just like in this guide.

*"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it"*

– *George Santayana*



**Why is learning history important?**

Learning about our history helps us to prevent terrible events — like those done by the Khmer Rouge — from ever happening again. Education keeps the events in the memory of current and future generations.

**Why is justice so important?**

It allows people to openly share their stories, clarifies what really happened during the Khmer Rouge regime, and preserves these stories for future generations through videos and written records.

Justice ensures that those who were responsible for Khmer Rouge crimes are held responsible. This brings closure to our society and lets us move forward into a more peaceful future!

**It is not easy for your parents or grandparents to talk about the past because...**



They might be embarrassed and not want to upset you



It is often painful to talk about difficult experiences from the past and may awaken **traumas**

**You can ask your parents and grandparents questions because...**



It's an important part of Cambodia's history



It's healthy to learn from past collective experiences

**QUIZ**

7 How many reparations were endorsed?

.....

8 What type of tree branch is used to symbolize peace in the ECCC's emblem?

.....

9 What are the benefits of talking about the past?

.....

.....

**Legacy:** the lasting impact of the ECCC's trials including justice and learning from the past.

**Trauma:** deep emotional pain and suffering caused by a very difficult experience.