



The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) is the court established by the Kingdom of Cambodia to prosecute the crimes of high-ranking Khmer Rouge officials and to promote the transitional justice process. The tribunal, which has been operating since 1997, has made an important contribution to coming to terms with the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror.

In view of the tribunal's now almost 25-year history, it is worth taking this opportunity to review the lessons learned, to develop further policy recommendations and to look at the achievements of the ECCC specifically and the societal transitional justice process in general.

The insights gained in this way can help to consolidate the rule of law in future transitional justice processes. It is therefore important to discuss the ECCC in the context of the transitional justice process in Cambodia. In the described setting, a number of issues have particular relevance:

- First, the trial itself. The ECCC had to overcome many obstacles since its inception, such as the integration of different legal traditions. How could the process be carried out successfully?
- Secondly, the broader social context of the process and how it was accompanied by (I)NGOs. This raises the question of how national and international non-governmental organizations were successfully involved and what tasks these organizations fulfilled in accompanying the Cambodian society in the transitional justice process.
- Thirdly, the public perception of the ECCC. How was it possible to achieve balanced reporting on the Tribunal, on the basis of which the Cambodian public could form a differentiated opinion?
- Fourth, of course, the international academic perspective on the ECCC is of great interest for contextualizing the insights gained. Therefore, the question arises, how does the international academic community look at Cambodia's Transitional Justice Process and Trials (ECCC)?

The webinar aims to answer these questions by starting with a brief input on the lasting relevance and past contradictions of the ECCC, followed by a panel discussion with Cambodian and international experts and a question and answer session.

## 23 August 2021

All times in GMT+7 (KHM), GMT+1 (GER) in brackets

15.00 – 15.05 (10.00 – 10.05)	<b>Introduction and welcoming remarks</b> <b>Ms. Isabel Weininger</b> Country Representative, KAS Cambodia	
15.05 – 15.15 (10.05 – 10.15)	<b>Input on the ECCC and Transitional Justice in Cambodia</b> <b>Mr. Kong Sam Onn</b> Cambodian Co-Lawyer in the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia	
15.15 – 16.00 (10.15 – 11.00)	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <b>Mr. Aun Chhengpor</b> Journalist <b>Dr. Julie Bernath</b> Senior Researcher at Swisspeace, Affiliated Researcher at IRASEC <b>Mr. Kong Sam Onn</b> Cambodian Co-Lawyer in the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia <b>Dr. Ly Sok-Kheang</b> Director of Anlong Veng Peace Center	<b>Moderation:</b> <b>Mr. Maurizio Paciello</b> Program Manager, KAS Cambodia
16.00 – 16.25 (11.00 – 11.25)	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>	<b>Moderation:</b> <b>Mr. Maurizio Paciello</b> Program Manager, KAS Cambodia
16.25 – 16.30 (11.25 – 11.30)	<b>Conclusion and end</b> <b>Mr. Maurizio Paciello</b> Program Manager, KAS Cambodia	

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*Program may be subject to change.*

**Concept:** Maurizio Paciello, Tim Hildebrandt

**Registration:** Please register for the event until Friday, 20 August the latest. Places are limited. Register via Zoom under [this link](#).

**Feedback:** [Maurizio.paciello@kas.de](mailto:Maurizio.paciello@kas.de)

# Program

KAS Cambodia

*The event will be recorded audio-visually. By registering, participants agree that the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. may use the photo and film material taken before, during or after the event for an unlimited period of time in both online and print format for the purposes of press and public relations.*

## Panelists



**Mr Chhengpor Aun** is a Cambodian journalist whose words appeared on Voice of America, Reuters, and South China Morning Post. A journalist and writer since 2013, he has been writing about Cambodian politics, the Khmer Rouge, foreign policies, and human rights. He graduated with a bachelor in media management in 2017 from the Royal University of Phnom Penh, where he later taught journalism and media literacy between 2017 and 2020.



**Dr. Julie Bernath** is a senior researcher in the Dealing with the Past Program at the peace research institute swisspeace, and an affiliated researcher at the Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC). She has conducted research on transitional justice and international interventions in Cambodia, and previously worked at the ECCC. Together with colleagues, she conducted a large-scale study on victim participation at the ECCC. She has published academic articles on various issues related to Cambodia's transitional justice process, such as non-participation, the construction of victimhood and complex political victims. She has co-edited a Special Issue featuring contributions of Cambodian researchers on transitional justice and the ECCC. She also conducts research on diaspora mobilisation and transitional justice claims of refugees in the Syrian context.



**Mr. Kong Sam Onn** is the National Defense Co-lawyer for Mr. Khieu Samphan under the ECCC and he is an Attorney-at-Law, member of the Bar Association of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (BAKC) and a Professor of Law of the Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia (PUC). He is a senior lawyer of the Cambodia Law Services – a private law firm practices on various area of law both in court proceedings and legal consultation. He used to offer legal consultation to JICA, ECCC, UNFPA and business enterprises. He was a former senior manager of the Cambodian Defenders Project (CDP) and other human rights organizations. He has worked in legal and human rights fields since 1992. He has handled both civil and criminal cases. He has represented various high profile cases involved with journalists, politicians, government officials, military officials and lay people whose basic human rights have been abused.



**Dr. Ly Sok-Kheang** is the Director of Anlong Veng Peace Center. The oldest son of four siblings, he is a native of Kandal province, where his parents worked as farmers. In 2002, Dr. Ly volunteered and later became a staff member at the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam), while pursuing his bachelor's degree at Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP). As one of the most able staff members, he won scholarship to pursue his master's degree at Coventry University in the United Kingdom in 2005. Upon his completion of the program in 2006, he returned to DC-Cam as a project leader of Living Documents and Witnessing Justice. From 2008-2014, Dr. Ly was accepted into a PhD program at Coventry University, spending seven consecutive years writing his doctoral research titled: "Reconciliation Process in Cambodia: 1979-2007 Before the Khmer Rouge Tribunal." He also received training from the Institute for International Criminal Investigation (IICI). He is the co-author of a chapter: "The ECCC's Role in Reconciliation" in a book titled: "On Trial: The Khmer Rouge Accountability Process."