

Cambodia's Khmer Rouge tribunal restarts genocide trial

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Cambodia's Khmer Rouge tribunal restarted genocide hearings January 8 against the former regime's most senior surviving leaders, with the first witness being called to testify against the ailing octogenarians.

Proceedings had been postponed since November after defense lawyers threatened a boycott because they said they were still working to appeal an earlier verdict.

Khieu Samphan, the 1970s regime's head of state, and Nuon Chea, a right-hand man to the communist group's late leader, Pol Pot, were sentenced to life in prison in August after being found guilty of crimes against humanity. They are now on trial on separate charges of genocide against minorities and rape and forced marriages — the first time such accusations have been put to trial.

Some 1.7 million people are estimated to have died from starvation, disease, and execution due to the group's extremist policies, and there is growing concern that



OVERDUE JUSTICE. Court officer Neth Pheaktra, right, gives court passes to participants as they line up in front of an entrance at the U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The tribunal has started its evidence hearing in the second trial against the two most senior surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime: Khieu Samphan, former Khmer Rouge head of state, and Nuon Chea, who was the Khmer Rouge's chief ideologist and second in-command. The two octogenarians are facing charges of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. (AP Photo/Heng Sinith)

the two men could die before the genocide trial can be completed.

The first hearing ended early, at midday, because Khieu Samphan, age 83, was dizzy and suffering from high blood pressure. Nuon Chea, 88, did not appear in court and watched the proceedings via a video link from a holding cell due to his poor health.

The witness who testified on the first day, 55-year-old Meas Sokha, was one of several dozen survivors expected to give their accounts before the court.

Responding to questions from prosecutors, Sokha said 12 of his relatives, including his parents, were arrested. He said several of them were executed by authorities.

Talks moving forward on Pacquiao-Mayweather bout

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His comments were seen as an effort to turn up the heat on Mayweather, who hasn't spoken publicly about Pacquiao since declaring on Showtime last month that he wanted to fight him on May 2.

Though there has long been tension between the two networks, it is unlikely that friction would hold up the fight. The plan would be for a joint pay-per-view broadcast like the one in 2002 when Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis met for the heavyweight title.

An HBO spokesman said he was not aware of any talks, and also said no HBO executives would comment on the possibility

of the fight.

The bout would be boxing's richest ever, delivering likely paydays of some \$120 million for Mayweather and \$80 million for Pacquiao. It would likely have the biggest pay-per-view price, too, expected to be in the \$85 to \$90 range.

Espinoza said he is confident it will be a box-office smash, despite the time that has gone by since it was first proposed.

"Hard core fans wish it would have happened five years ago, but that doesn't mean they won't watch it," he said. "There doesn't seem to be any diminution of public interest in this fight even though it has taken awhile to get to this point."

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his radio control unit to be returned after a broken switch was replaced.

"I'm very happy with the product," he said, "but customer service wasn't so great."

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Nepalese women's team is first to scale world's highest peaks

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expeditions or carried equipment for western climbers.

It was only in 1993 that a Nepalese woman — Pasang Lhamu — first reached the 29,035-foot summit of Everest. She died on the descent.

While travelling during climbs, the women on the team have also been talking to schoolchildren and encouraging other women to follow suit.

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