

CASE INFORMATION SHEET



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Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Chambres Extraordinaires au sein des Tribunaux Cambodgiens

IENG THIRITH, alias PHEA



Last name: **IENG**
(Maiden name: **KHIEU**)

First name: **Thirith**

Case File N° 002/19-09-2007/ECCC-PTC

Next Public Hearing: To be scheduled

Born in 1932 in the province of Battambang

Detained by Order of Provisional Detention, 14 November 2007

Defence Counsel: Phat Pouy Seang (National) & Diana Ellis (International – UK)

Status

Charged with **Crimes against Humanity** (still under investigation), defined and punishable under Articles 5, 29 and 39 of the Law on the Establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers as amended 27 October 2004.

Position in Democratic Kampuchea Regime

Minister of Social Affairs and Action

Key Allegations

The Co-Investigating Judges, in their Provisional Detention Order, summarized the following bases for charging Ieng Thirith with crimes against humanity (murder, extermination, imprisonment, persecution and other inhumane acts). As the Minister of Social Affairs and Action for Democratic Kampuchea during the period of 17 April 1975 to 6 January 1979, Ieng Thirith allegedly exercised authority and effective control over the Ministry and all of its constituent and subordinate organs. In this capacity, she is alleged to have instigated, ordered, failed to prevent and punish, or otherwise aided and abetted in the commission of crimes against humanity, including by directing, encouraging, enforcing or otherwise rendering support to Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK) policy and practice which was characterized by murder, extermination, imprisonment, persecution on political grounds and other inhumane acts such as forcible transfers of the population, enslavement and forced labour.

Ieng Thirith disputes the crimes with which she is charged.

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Personal Background

Ieng Thirith graduated from the Lycée Sisowath in Phnom Penh then went to study in Paris, where she majored in Shakespeare studies at the Sorbonne. She became the first Cambodian to receive a degree in English Literature. Returning to Cambodia in 1957, she worked as a professor before founding a private English school in 1960. On 9 October 1975, at a meeting of the CPK Standing Committee, Ieng Thirith was allegedly appointed Minister of Social Affairs in Democratic Kampuchea. She allegedly remained with the Khmer Rouge until her husband Ieng Sary was granted a Royal amnesty and pardon in 1998. Thereafter, they lived together in Phnom Penh until being placed in pre-trial detention by the ECCC in November 2007.

Select Key Public ECCC Decisions & Orders*

- 14 Nov. 07 – Provisional Detention Order, Co-Investigating Judges
- 20 May 08 – Report of examination of Co-Investigating Judges Detention Order, Pre-Trial Chamber (*Describing the Order, the Prosecution and Defence's submissions and relevant facts from the case file in advance of the hearing on provisional detention*)
- 20 Jun. 08 – Order Concerning Translation Rights and Obligations of the Parties, Co-Investigating Judges
- 9 Jul. 08 – Decision on Appeal Against Provisional Detention, Pre-Trial Chamber (*Affirming the Co-Investigating Judges' Provisional Detention Order of 14 Nov. 2007*)
- 10 Nov. 08 – Provisional Detention Extension Order, Co-Investigating Judges
- 29 Jan. 09 – Decision on Co-Prosecutors' Request to Determine Appeal on the Provisional Detention Extension Order on the Basis of Written Submissions, Pre-Trial Chamber (*Rejecting the request to determine the Appeal on the basis of written submissions alone and scheduling the public hearing for 24 Feb. 2009 at 9:00 am*)
- 19 Feb. 09 – Report of examination of Co-Investigating Judges Detention Extension Order, Pre-Trial Chamber (*Describing the Order, the Prosecution and Defence's submissions and relevant facts from the case file in advance of the hearing on detention extension*)
- 11 May 09 – Decision on Appeal Against Order on Extension of Provisional Detention, Pre-Trial Chamber (*Affirming the Co-Investigating Judges' Order on Extension of Provisional Detention of 10 Nov. 2008*)

* These and other Decisions and Orders are available at: http://www.eccc.gov.kh/english/court_doc.list.aspx

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Case Information Sheets are prepared by the Public Affairs Section to assist public understanding of the cases before the ECCC. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information, they are not official documents with any legal standing.

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