

Letter to the Cambodia Daily, published 17 October 2005

Dear Editor,

The recent contribution of \$1 million from India to the Khmer Rouge trials was extremely welcome and deeply appreciated by the Cambodian Government Task Force, as reported in your lead article (Daily, October 10).

Regarding the Cambodian government contribution to the Extraordinary Chambers, the article stated: "The government was to cover the remaining \$13.3 million, but it announced in March that it could only afford to pay \$1.5 million."

This is inaccurate.

In December 2003 the United Nations technical assistance mission proposed a divided budget, with one part to be sought in multilateral contributions via the United Nations (\$43 million), and the other to be sought by the Cambodian government (\$13.3 million).

From the very beginning the Cambodian government clearly indicated that it would be well beyond its means to contribute the full amount in the "Cambodian" part, but would be seeking bilateral contributions.

It was by no means renegeing on a previous commitment when the Cambodian government launched an appeal for bilateral contributions and pledged to contribute \$1.5 million from its own national budget.

In addition to this cash component, Cambodia will also provide \$5.2 million in indirect costs -- including provision of premises for the court, water, electricity, construction and running of detention facilities, medical care and security arrangements.

Cambodia's total contribution of \$6.7 million -- cash and indirect expenses -- represents over 10% of the estimated cost of the Khmer Rouge trials and is a substantial amount, certainly well beyond that contributed by the affected state in any other mixed or international criminal tribunal.

Sincerely

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