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### Justice Initiative Urges Release of Khmer Rouge Court Audit

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#### JUSTICE INITIATIVE URGES RELEASE OF KHMER ROUGE COURT AUDIT

~ *Additional Steps Needed to Prevent Corruption at ECCC* ~

*New York, September 28, 2007*—The Open Society Justice Initiative today called for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to make public the full audit report on personnel management at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). The ECCC must take this opportunity to actively demonstrate its commitment to maintaining a corruption-free court, according to the Justice Initiative.

The UNDP, which oversees donor funds earmarked for the Cambodian side of the ECCC, today released a summary of the audit, which was conducted earlier this year. That summary identifies significant challenges facing the court, including serious irregularities in the hiring and evaluation of Cambodian ECCC staff.

However, the summary fails to shed light on important questions about the audit, including whether (or how) auditors investigated allegations that Cambodian ECCC staff had to kick back portions of their salaries in exchange for their jobs. Only a public release of the full audit report will allow the public—and donor states—to identify which issues still need to be addressed in order to secure the integrity of the court.

"Regardless of the scope of the audit report, this is an important moment for the ECCC to demonstrate its commitment to transparency and ability to sustain the trust of those who must help it succeed in its historic task," said Robert O. Varenik, acting executive director of the Open Society Justice Initiative. "The ECCC introduced a code of conduct this week prohibiting staff from receiving or soliciting payments beyond their salaries, but further steps are needed to eliminate the possibility for corrupt practices to exist in the future."

"Anti-corruption measures are a basic requirement for the integrity of any judicial institution and the best anti-corruption practices of other international courts should be adapted for use at the ECCC," said Varenik.

The Justice Initiative also urged donors to recognize the important role they have to play in helping the court operate transparently, efficiently, and effectively by:

- Actively overseeing public monies spent by the ECCC;
- Conditioning future funding on improvements in the court's operations, including targeted measures designed to combat corruption.

"The ECCC has made great strides in the past few months with the adoption of the internal rules and two high profile arrests," said Varenik. "Now, it is up to the United Nations, donor states and the court to swiftly address transparency, management, and efficiency concerns to make sure that justice can be effectively delivered to the Cambodian people."

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