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## **Cambodia: The death of Pol Pot**

Pol Pot's reported death should not be viewed as a final closing of the Khmer Rouge chapter in Cambodia's history, Amnesty International said today. The scars of Cambodia's killing fields will remain unhealed until all those responsible for atrocities are brought to justice.

"Pol Pot's legacy is a continuing cancer at the heart of Cambodia. The failure to bring Pol Pot and his fellow Khmer Rouge commanders to justice is reflected in ongoing human rights violations in Cambodia today," Amnesty International said.

"The spectre of political killings still stalks Cambodia today. Perpetrators of human rights abuses still escape the courts with impunity and ordinary people are still not free from fear. Until truth and justice become a reality in Cambodia, the country will be trapped in a cycle of despair."

Cambodia is due to hold elections in July this year. The Royal Government has yet to demonstrate any willingness to take the necessary steps to ensure that they will take place in a free and fair climate, without the political intimidation and harassment that has marked recent months, according to Amnesty International.

The Khmer Rouge were responsible for more than one million deaths, killing at least 20,000 political prisoners, and torturing hundreds of thousands of people using the most horrific methods imaginable. Their victims included doctors, teachers, children, babies, students, priests, people who spoke a foreign language or wore glasses, the elderly and the sick.

"Pol Pot was not the only architect of Cambodia's killing fields. He may have died, but many other senior Khmer Rouge cadres remain free and unpunished. They should not be allowed to also escape justice," Amnesty International added.

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