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Newspaper and NGO Begin 'Khmer Rouge Watch'

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As the Khmer Rouge tribunal gets underway, a leading Khmer-language newspaper and the Documentation Center of Cambodia are instituting a so-called "Khmer Rouge Watch" to monitor the daily lives of the aging former leaders of Democratic Kampuchea.

Rasmei Kampuchea Daily newspaper has assigned reporters to cover the leaders' lives and to write articles explaining to the public events around the unfolding tribunal.

DC-Cam staff will share information with the reporters and also contribute articles to the paper to explain the tribunal and the regime's history to the public.

"We have to keep our eyes on the daily lives of the Khmer Rouge leaders," DC-Cam Director Youk Chhang said Friday. "If Ta Mok is sick, we have to inform people," he said.

DC-Cam will also set up a Khmer Rouge telephone hotline in August to answer questions from the public about the trial.

Youk Chhang said five staffers will be assigned to answering telephoned-in questions, which are now coming in at 400 per day, and other staffers may be assigned to answer calls coming into Rasmei Kampuchea's office.

In addition to questions, callers can also volunteer information about the locations of killing fields and graves and relate personal experiences, he said.

Rasmei Kampuchea Editor in Chief Pen Samithy said that readers have also been calling the paper to report poorly maintained killing field memorials and tell their own stories.

He added that the paper is also considering publishing the Khmer Rouge tribunal's law in full to inform the public.

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