



75.3% of our interviewees prefer to try the top KR leaders only. 43.1% would like to enlarge the group of the accused persons and would also prosecute top political and military leaders and 26.4% would even accuse all senior leaders down to regional level.

It is striking that respondents with no or lower education level tend to prefer to try only the top KR leaders. They do not focus so much on prosecuting lower ranking perpetrators.

Respondents with higher education level instead prefer to also try all senior leaders down to regional level and even all those who gave orders to kill. Evidently, for them there is a need to also deal with the accountability of lower level perpetrators.

It is also interesting to notice that the respondents' places of residence have some impact on their opinions. People from different provinces have different expectations and concerns. Rural respondents rather than urban respondents are more likely to only try the top KR leaders than lower levels of perpetrators. But they are also more likely (31.5%) to ask for financial compensation as an additional punishment for the convicted persons than urban interviewees (17.2%).

Yet, 22.1% of all our respondents want to have an apology of the perpetrators to come to terms with their past. The common excuse of having just followed orders or not having known of the atrocities will not satisfy almost one fourth of the survivors.

VI. Recommendations:

1. KID's survey is the fourth attempt to learn Cambodians' opinions of the upcoming KR trial. This is far from enough. A countrywide survey is still of great need and should be conducted before a KR trial is set up to better plan it.

2. There are still 24.6 % of the respondents who are not aware of a KR trial. Knowing that most Cambodians prefer to receive information from radio or television and not from newspapers or books the government should start broadcasting radio and television shows to build up peoples' awareness of the trial. People in remote rural areas are still cut off from relevant information. We, therefore advice the government to set up local radio stations all over the country in order to disseminate information on that important topic more efficiently.

3. It is striking and alarming that women are less aware of the upcoming KR trial than men. Out of 237 women interviewed in total only 59.5% of them are aware of the trial in comparison with 88.1% out of 294 men. The women's right of access to information is not yet enforced. Special women's information centers and radio shows should be set up. In order to encourage women to participate more in political decision-making processes the government should increase its efforts to gender equity.

4. 44.1% of our interviewees prefer to have no trial at all than just a sub-standard trial. This number indicates a lack of confidence in the legal system of Cambodia. The government must ensure a transparent appointment procedure of the Cambodian judges and must build up confidence that the then appointed judges are not influenced by whosoever but can exercise their legal task independently and impartially.



5. Our survey shows that 71.2% of the respondents worry about their personal security when testifying as a witness before the Khmer Rouge trial. A frightened witness can influence the judgement and obscure the outcome of the trial in a whole. Hence, the government should pay attention to a reliable witness protection program which guarantees the safety of the witnesses.

6. The closer we get to the Khmer Rouge trial the more people will be reminded of their traumatic past under the Khmer Rouge regime – a comparison of our survey results with those of the “Center for Social Development” and the “Documentation Center of Cambodia” reveals a close connection between the upcoming trial and people’s intensifying memories. It is likely that more and more people will suffer flashbacks, nightmares, anxiety attacks and other psychological problems. This can lead to widespread depression, lethargy and sadness.

But Cambodia has only 20 trained psychiatrists to address this challenge. The government should build up mental health centers all over the country, in particular in remote areas and should increase the numbers of mental health specialists. NGOs working in this sector should be supported generously. Buddhist monks and Achars should also participate in providing mental help to sick persons.