



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Remarks**  
**by**

**His Excellency Dr. Widhya CHEM**  
**Ambassador**  
**Permanent Representative of Cambodia**  
**to the United Nations**

**at the Play Lem. Kin's house**

**New York**  
**14 September, 2006**

Ladies and  
Gentlemen

I am pleased to be among all of you TO the Play, LEMKIN'S HOUSE, an award-winning works on genocide, produced and directed by Miss Catherine Filloux, a remarkable playwright director, translator, screenwriter and author, in commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would like to thank Ms Filloux for her kind invitation and to warmly congratulate her for the excellent art work, which we witness tonight.

In fact, I attended twice the Play *Eyes of the Heart* depicting the difficulties of a Cambodian woman to cope with the aftermath of the genocide regime of Pol Pot.

Tonight's theme also deals with genocide and raises the important question "How can we prevent genocide from happening?" This is indeed, a very pertinent and a very soul breaking question, because the world has repeatedly reacted too late and acted too slowly, when genocide occurred in my own country Cambodia, but also in other parts of Africa like the Federative Republic of former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, not mentioning what happened in World War II.

The lessons learnt from these tragedies have led to -

1. The establishment of the Peace Building commission at the United Nations by Resolution A/Res/60/180 dated 20 December 2005;
2. The creation of tribunals to try those responsible for war crimes, crime against humanity and genocide like the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The trial in Rwanda and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) or simply said KRT;
3. The building and strengthening and development of democratic institutions;

4. The development of the legal system to promote the rules of law through an efficient law enforcement mechanism;
5. The promotion of a vigilant and responsible civil society, which also supposes active contribution by the press;

In Cambodia, the main goals of the KRT are:

- a. To bring justice to the Cambodian people, which fell victim to the horrendous practices of the Khmer Rouge, while they were in power;
- b. To bring remembrance to the international community in a form of a wake up call to prevent the recurrent of genocide of any kind in the future;
- c. To help strengthen the legal system and the rules of law within a democratic society.

Justice means a comprehensive approach to the problems of humanity, such as addressing poverty, inequality and discrimination which have been aggravated by social and ethnic tensions and religious intolerance.

A democratic world order can be hardly achieved, when many millions of the world population both in developed and developing countries live in deprivation and poverty.

Let us combat ignorance, which afflicts the very poor, as well as ignorance, which also exist in prosperous parts of our societies as denial cannot be a lasting solution to the world's problems.

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