

# INVITATION



## Testimonial Ceremony

### TESTIMONIAL CEREMONY with CHAM

*with Civil Parties of Case 002 of the  
Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)*

Date: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Time: 8:00am – 11am

Place: Phum Pram Mosque, Svay Klaing commune, Krouch Chhma district,  
Tbong Khmum province

Agenda: 8:00 Welcome and Introduction  
9:30 Delivery of 5 Testimonies  
10:00 Healing Ceremony

### Background

Testimonial Therapy (TT) is a short-term treatment for psychological trauma that was specifically developed to improve the coping ability of survivors as well as reduce their posttraumatic stress symptoms after experiencing torture and other forms of organized political violence. The TT treatment was first developed and described by Chilean psychotherapists in 1983 during Augusto Pinochet's repressive regime. It has since been successfully modified to incorporate essential cultural aspects in different settings around the world, including other Asian countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and the Philippines. The Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Cambodia (TPO Cambodia) has adapted TT by integrating cultural and spiritual practices of Cambodia which reinforce the power and significance of traditional coping and healing in the country's spirit-based culture.

During TPO Cambodia's TT, Khmer Rouge survivors are invited to process their traumatic experiences with a trained counselor during a series of confidential sessions. These sessions help survivors to restore, confront, and integrate their painful memories before committing them into a written testimony. A short version of these individual stories or testimonies are then read aloud during a special ceremony and finally given to the survivors by relevant spiritual focal persons after receiving their blessings. The ceremony takes place in presence of other survivors and an invited audience of relatives, community members, local authorities and youth. Through the simple act of listening to the survivors' experience, the audience helps to validate and ameliorate their suffering. For the survivors, ceremonial prayers pay respect to the deceased. You are graciously invited to be a part of this healing ceremony.

TPO, in cooperation with the Victims Support Section of the ECCC (Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia) aims to improve access to legal and psychological services for Khmer Rouge survivors which is generously funded by GIZ (Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit).

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