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POV online pressroom: www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom

**POV's "Enemies of the People," Unprecedented Investigation
Into Cambodia's 'Killing Fields,' Premieres Tuesday, July 12, 2011, on PBS;
Film Streams on POV Website July 13 – Aug. 12**

For the First Time, Those Behind the Slaughter of Close to 2 Million Cambodians Confess
Their Crimes, and a Top Khmer Rouge Leader Explains Why the Killings Were Ordered

*Produced in Association With American Documentary / POV; A Co-presentation
With the Center for Asian American Media*

"It may be one of the most important films about Cambodia ever made."

— Patrick Barta, *The Wall Street Journal*

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

National Air

Date:

Enemies of the People has its national broadcast premiere on **Tuesday, July 12, 2011**, at 10 p.m. on the [POV \(Point of View\)](#) documentary series on PBS. (Check local listings.) The film will stream in its entirety from July 13 – Aug. 12 on the POV website, www.pbs.org/pov/enemies. In addition, POV will host a live chat with filmmaker Rob Lemkin on **Wednesday, July 13** at 10 a.m. EDT (archived on the website).

Now in its 24th year, POV is American television's longest-running independent documentary series and is the winner of a Special Emmy Award for Excellence in Television Documentary Filmmaking, the International Documentary Association's Award for Best Continuing Series and NALIP's 2011 Award for Corporate Commitment to Diversity.

The Film:

The Khmer Rouge slaughtered nearly two million people in the late 1970s. Yet the "killing fields" of Cambodia have remained largely unexplained. Until now, in **Enemies of the People**. Enter Thet Sambath, an unassuming, yet cunning, investigative journalist who lost his family in the conflict and spends a decade gaining the trust of the men and women who perpetrated the massacres. Sambath and co-director Rob Lemkin record shocking testimony, never before seen or heard, from the foot soldiers who slit throats and from Pol Pot's right-hand man, the notorious Brother Number Two.

The film has won more than 20 awards, including the 2010 Sundance World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Prize. Thet Sambath has been awarded [the 2011 Knight International Journalism Award](#).

Embed the trailer, download art and learn more at www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom.

Outreach:

POV works with public television stations and national and community-based groups across the country to foster community dialogue around the issues presented in the films. For a list

of upcoming screenings and screening events for **Enemies of the People** go to:
<http://www.pbs.org/pov/outreach>

POV also works with nationally recognized media educator Dr. Faith Rogow to develop discussion guides with background information to help event organizers carry out discussions around the films' content. The discussion guide for **Enemies of the People** helps viewers gain a deeper understanding of genocide. The lesson plan, *Perspectives from the Perpetrators of Genocide in Cambodia*, created by Cari Ladd, M.Ed., asks students to speculate about how hearing the truth from the perpetrators might help Cambodians heal from the tragic events of that time period. Students are also asked to analyze the different perspectives and motivations of a number of people who committed genocide in Cambodia.

The San Diego Public Library has compiled a multimedia resource list of related books and videos that invite audiences to further explore the issues in the film. The materials are available free of charge at: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/enemies/>

Related Stories: CBC Radio: "Khmer Rouge: Thet Sambath," July 5, 2011. "In Cambodia, a court is finally trying to bring justice for one of the most brutal and bloody efforts at social engineering the world has ever known. When the Khmer Rouge took power it emptied entire cities, forcing the people who lived there to become farmers and about 1 and 3/4 million people . . . were murdered. . . . Thet Sambath, who lost his parents and a brother in the Killing Fields, befriended the man known as the Khmer Rouge's Brother Number Two and we hear his remarkable story." <http://ow.ly/5BQUz>

Voice of America: "Rights Group Urges UN to Hold Firm on Tribunal," by Men Kimseng, July 7, 2011. "A leading local rights organization has issued a sharp warning to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, urging him to take a hard stance on the Khmer Rouge tribunal, which has come under increased scrutiny for its handling of a controversial case at the court." <http://ow.ly/5BQfY>

The Jewish Journal: "The Second Lemkin's Genocide Story Frames the *Enemies*," by Naomi Pfefferman, Jan. 13, 2011. "Filmmaker Rob Lemkin's most famous relative is the late Raphael Lemkin, a Polish attorney who spent his life crusading against mass murder and who invented the term 'genocide' to describe what the Nazis had done to the Jews, including 40 members of his family. Rob Lemkin never knew Raphael, a distant cousin. But the elder Lemkin's legacy has motivated much of the filmmaker's work . . ." <http://ow.ly/5BQKS>

Filmmakers'
Statements:

"My father, a middle-class farmer, was killed by the Khmer Rouge in 1974, when he refused to give them his buffalo," says Thet Sambath. "My mother, forced to marry a Khmer Rouge militiaman after my father's death, died in childbirth in 1976. My eldest brother disappeared in 1977. I later found out that he'd been killed in a party purge in our area. . . . Some may say no good can come from talking to killers and dwelling on past horror, but I say these people have sacrificed a lot to tell the truth. In daring to confess, they have done good, perhaps the only good thing left that they can do."

"I see Sambath as a man trying to make sense of the nightmare of his childhood," says Rob Lemkin. "When he finally understands the genocide, he achieves inner peace and coherence because he is able to situate his personal loss in the wider sweep of history. I also see him as a representative of Cambodia's second generation after the genocide, working to ferret out the truth from the first generation in order to convey the meaning of history to the third generation. In this sense, this story could be from Germany, South Africa, Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Iraq or Sudan."

Bios:

Thet Sambath, Co-director/Co-producer

Thet Sambath is a senior reporter with *The Phnom Penh Post*, Cambodia's premier English-language newspaper. He is widely regarded as one of Cambodia's best investigative reporters, and his stories have been syndicated all over the world. He has worked for the American Refugee Committee as a paramedic on the Thai-Cambodia border; as a police interpreter for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC); and as a human rights investigator for the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO). Since 1994 he has worked as a producer, interpreter and camera operator for many worldwide broadcasting organizations, including the BBC, WGBH *Frontline*, NHK and NBC. In 2002 he traveled to the United States on a Jefferson Scholarship.

Rob Lemkin, Co-director/Co-producer

Rob Lemkin is the founder and director of Old Street Films. He has produced and directed more than 50 documentaries for the BBC, Channel 4 (C4), ITV, Sky, the History Channel and A&E. He has won numerous awards in Britain and abroad, and his work has appeared in major documentary programming for C4, the BBC and ITV. Lemkin has made several films about the history and politics of Asia including "The Real Dr. Evil" (BBC/A&E, 2003), "Bearers of the Sword" (C4, 2002), "China: Handle with Care" (C4, 2001), "Malaya: The Undeclared War" (BBC2, 1998) and "Who Really Killed Aung San?" (BBC2, 1997).

Featured in
The film:

Nuon Chea aka "Brother Number Two" was born in 1925 in Battambang, Cambodia. He joined the Khmer resistance in 1949, leading the urban underground in Phnom Penh in the 1950s. First appointed Deputy Secretary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK) in 1960, he was appointed by Pol Pot as Secretary of CPK in 1962. He left the Khmer Rouge as it collapsed in 1998. Arrested in September 2007 by the United Nations-backed Khmer Rouge tribunal, Nuon Chea was charged with international crimes, crimes against humanity and, eventually, genocide. He is in prison in Phnom Penh, where he is currently on trial.

Suon joined the Khmer Rouge military wing in 1970 and in 1975 became militia commander in a cooperative in Northwest Cambodia. He admits to killing over 200 Cambodians designated "enemies of the people" between 1976 and 1978. Since 1979 he has lived as a peasant farmer in Northwest Cambodia.

Khoun joined the Khmer Rouge military wing in 1970. He admits to managing the killing of nearly 3,500 people during Khmer Rouge rule. Arrested in 1979 for mass murder, he was released for lack of evidence. He has lived as a peasant farmer in northwest Cambodia since 1979.

Sister "Em" joined the Khmer Rouge political wing in 1973. She worked as a district chief from 1975 to 1979 and, in that role, was responsible for the ordering of many thousands of deaths of suspected enemies of the party. Under another name she now lives and works elsewhere in Cambodia, where she is a senior politician in local government.

Credits:

Writers/Directors/Producers/

Cinematographers:

Rob Lemkin, Thet Sambath

Executive Producers:

Mike Wang, Rob Lemkin, Sandra Whipham

Editor:

Stefan Ronowicz

Original Music:

Daniel Pemberton

Running Time: 86:46

Enemies of the People is a production of Old Street Films and Thet Sambath in association with American Documentary | POV. The film is a co-presentation with the Center for Asian American Media.

POV Series Credits:

Executive Producer:	Simon Kilmurry
Co-Executive Producer:	Cynthia López
Director, Production/Programming:	Chris White
Series Producer:	Yance Ford

DVD: DVDs of **Enemies of the People** are available for purchase at <http://enemiesofthepeoplemovie.com/dvd/educational-dvd/>.

Awards:

- Short-listed, Best Documentary Feature, Academy Awards® 2011;
- Knight International Journalism Award for Thet Sambath, 2011
- World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Prize, Sundance Film Festival 2010
- Best Documentary Award, Social Justice Award, Santa Barbara International Film Festival 2010;
- Anne Dellinger Grand Jury Award, Charles E. Guggenheim Emerging Artist Award, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival 2010;
- Nestor Almendros Award, Human Rights Watch International Film Festival 2010;
- True Life Award, True/False Film Fest 2010;
- Best Documentary Award, Moët British Independent Film Awards 2010;
- Ostrovsky Family Fund/In the Spirit of Freedom Award for Best Documentary Film, Jerusalem Film Festival 2010;
- Outstanding Documentary Award, Hong Kong International Film Festival 2010

(Visit <http://enemiesofthepeoplemovie.com/awards/> for a complete list of awards and festivals.)

POV Website: POV's **Enemies of the People** companion website, <http://www.pbs.org/pov/enemies/>, offers a streaming video trailer; an interview with Co-director/Co-producer Rob Lemkin; a slideshow of images from the film; a list of related websites, organizations and books; a downloadable discussion guide; and these special features:

- Photo gallery
- Filmmaker Thet Sambath's personal timeline spanning his youth, the Khmer Rouge's rule and the production of **Enemies of the People**.
- Background on Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge, plus timeline of Khmer Rouge history
- Chat with filmmaker Rob Lemkin;
- Updates on the Khmer Rouge Tribunals by David Scheffer, former U.S. Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues;
- Updates on what has happened to Thet Sambath and the Khmer Rouge's former second in command, Nuon Chea, since the cameras stopped rolling.

Pressroom: Visit POV's pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom, for press releases, downloadable art, embeddable trailers, filmmaker biographies, transcripts and special features.

POV: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and beginning its 24th season on PBS in 2011, the award-winning POV series is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. Airing June through September with primetime specials during the year, POV has brought more than 300 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *POV's Borders*. Since 1988,

POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. Visit www.pbs.org/pov.

Major funding for POV is provided by PBS, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Educational Foundation of America, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, FACT and public television viewers. Special support provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Funding for POV's Diverse Voices Project is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Project VoiceScape is a partnership of Adobe Youth Voices, PBS and POV. POV is presented by a consortium of public television stations, including WGBH Boston and THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG.



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