

# ឣ៰្គខំនុំ៩។្ទនេះទីសាមញ្ញតូខតុលាការកម្ពុជា

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia Chambres extraordinaires au sein des tribunaux cambodgiens

# หอุบุเเชิลุธาษะ

Pre-Trial Chamber Chambre Préliminaire

> In the name of the Cambodian people and the United Nations and pursuant to the Law on the Establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for the Prosecution of Crimes Committed During the Period of Democratic Kampuchea

Case File Nº 004/07-09-2009-ECCC/OCIJ (PTC20)

Before: Judge PRAK Kimsan, President Judge BEAUVALLET Olivier Judge NEY Thol Judge BWANA Steven James Judge HUOT Vuthy

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**09 December 2015** 

# PUBLIC REDACTED DECISION ON APPEAL AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL CO-INVESTIGATING JUDGE'S DECISION ON MOTION TO RECONSIDER AND VACATE SUMMONS DATED 29 JULY 2014

# **Co-Prosecutors**

CHEA Leang Nicholas KOUMJIAN

#### <u>Co-Lawyers</u> for the Appellant

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# Lawyers for the Civil Parties and Civil Party Applicants

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**THE PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER** of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (the "ECCC") is seised of **Contract Contract Cont** 

### I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

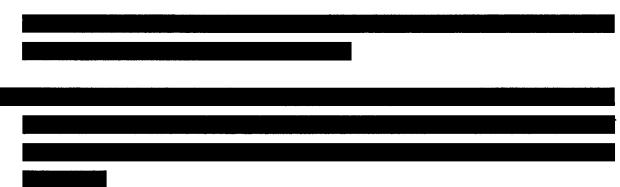
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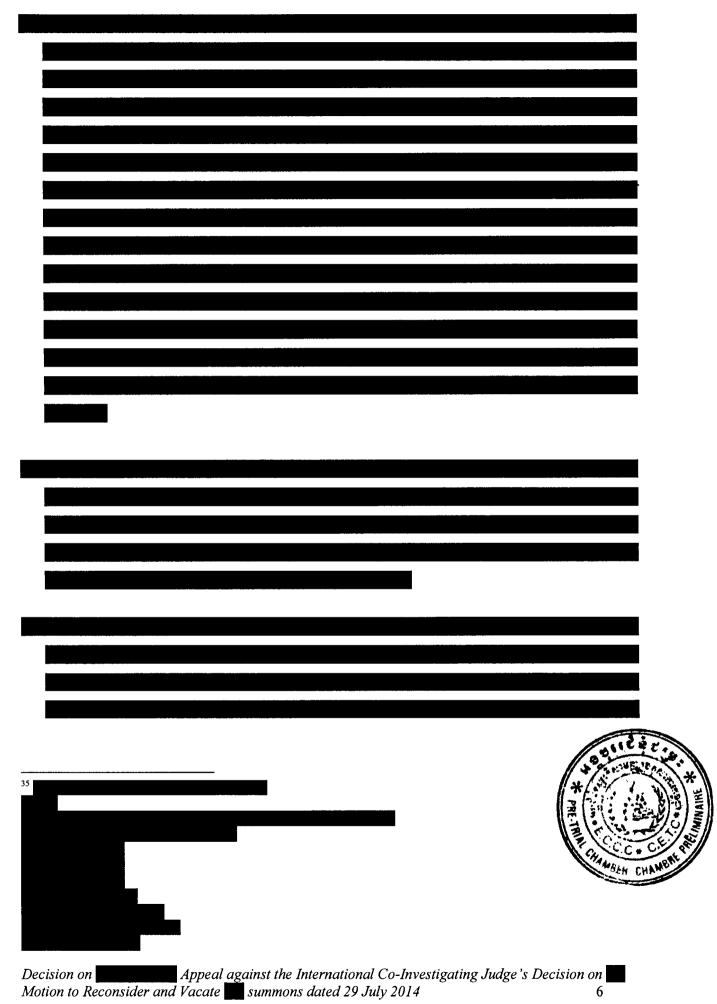
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14. On 23 March 2015, the Co-Lawyers filed the Appeal in English only, with a preliminary Request for Authorisation to file in English first with the Khmer translation to follow. On 27 May 2015, the Pre-Trial Chamber granted the Co-Lawyers' preliminary Request and the Appeal was notified in English and Khmer on the same day. On 16 June 2015, as instructed by the Pre-Trial Chamber,<sup>30</sup> the International Co-Prosecutor filed their Response to the Appeal (the "OCP Response").<sup>31</sup> The Co-Lawyers filed their Reply on 29 June 2015 in English only and on 9 July 2015 in Khmer (the "Reply").<sup>32</sup>

#### **II. SUBMISSIONS**

15. The Co-Lawyers request the Pre-Trial Chamber to: (a) admit the Defence's submission as an appeal under Internal Rules 21 and 74(3)(a); (b) to overturn the Impugned Decision, which errs in law; and (c) to vacate the Appellant's Summons dated 29 July 2014. The Co-Lawyers argue admissibility of the Appeal under Internal Rule 21,<sup>33</sup> to safeguard the Appellant's right to a competent tribunal, and under Internal Rule 74(3)(a),<sup>34</sup> since the right to a competent tribunal means that a tribunal must have jurisdiction over the particular matter.



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#### III. ADMISSIBILITY

19. The Defence requests that the Pre-Trial Chamber admit this Appeal under Rules 21 and 74(3)(a) of the Internal Rules.<sup>48</sup> The Pre-Trial Chamber will first examine whether the Appeal falls within its jurisdiction under Internal Rule 74(3)(a) before examining whether the circumstances of the case warrant its intervention under Internal Rule 21 to protect the Appellant's fair trial rights.

#### a) Admissibility under Internal Rule 74(3)(a)

20. Pursuant to Internal Rule 74(3)(a), "[t]he Charged Person or the Accused may appeal against [...] orders or decisions of the Co-investigating Judges [...] confirming the jurisdiction of the ECCC."<sup>49</sup> In interpreting Internal Rule 74(3)(a), the Pre-Trial Chamber has previously held that only jurisdictional challenges may be raised under this rule.<sup>50</sup> The first question to be resolved is whether the Impugned Decision is a decision confirming the jurisdiction of the ECCC.

Decision on Appeal against the International Co-Investigating Judge's Decision on Motion to Reconsider and Vacate summons dated 29 July 2014

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Reply, para. 13.

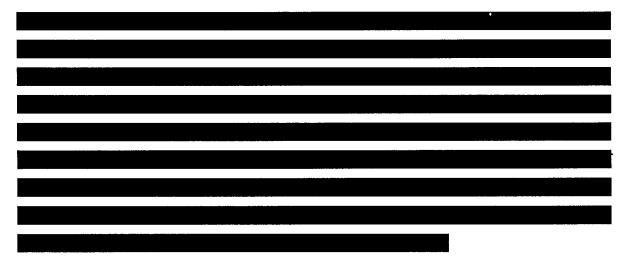
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Appeal, para. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Decision on Ieng Sary's Appeal against the Closing Order (the "Ieng Sary Appeal Decision"), 11 A D427/1/30, para. 44.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Decision on the Appeals against the Co-Investigating Judges Order on Joint Criminal Enterprise, 20 D97/14/15, para. 21; Ieng Sary Appeal Decision, paras 45, 47; Decision on Appeal by NUON Che Thirith against the Closing Order, 15 February 2011, D427/2/15, para. 60.

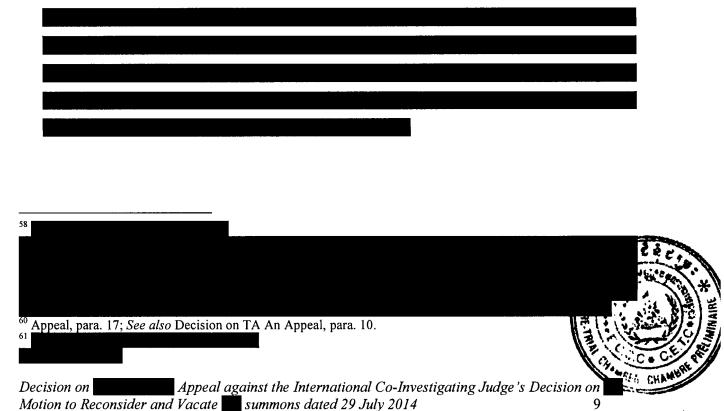
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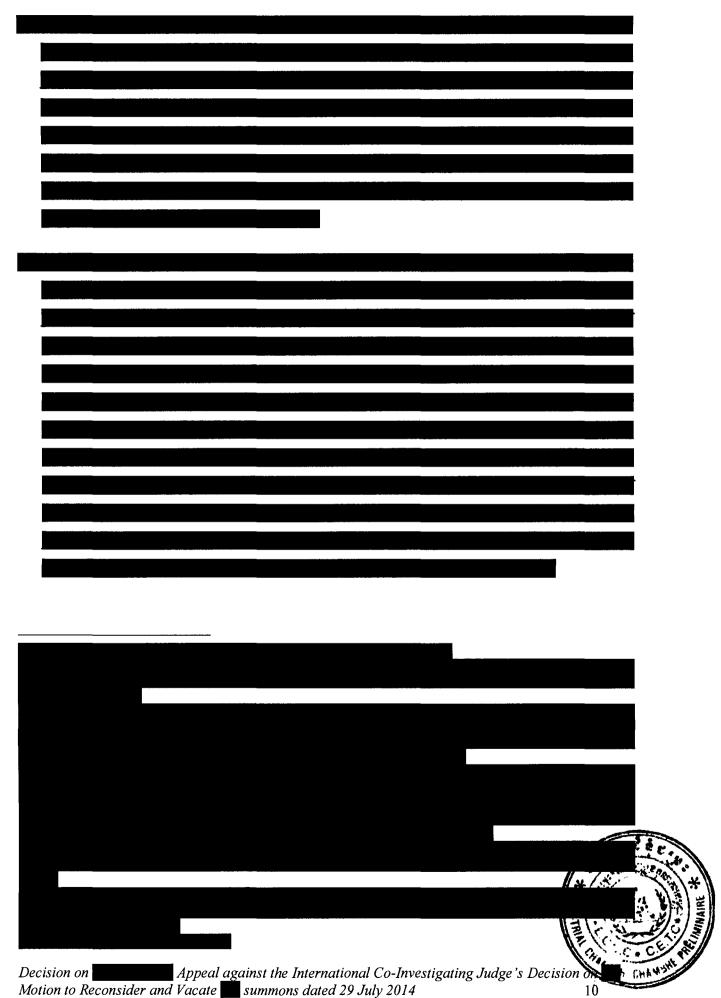


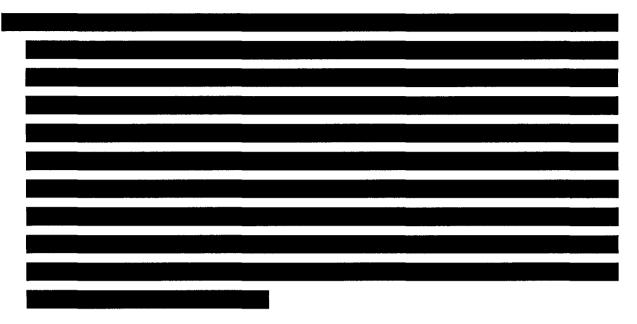
- 25. In the light of the foregoing, the Pre-Trial Chamber is not convinced that the Impugned Decision, which rejected the Defence's request to reconsider the Summons and vacate it, amounts to a decision confirming the jurisdiction of the ECCC.
- 26. As far as Internal Rule 74(3)(a) is concerned, the Appeal is therefore inadmissible.

### b) Admissibility under Internal Rule 21(1)

The Defence submits the Pre-Trial Chamber has jurisdiction to hear appeals based on Internal Rule 21(1) when its "intervention is necessary to prevent irremediable damage to the fairness of the proceedings or to the appellant's fair trial rights."<sup>60</sup>







Therefore, the Pre-Trial Chamber agrees with the International Co-Investigating Judge that the present legal framework contains sufficient checks and balances to ensure that unilateral actions are taken in accordance with the law.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> Impugned Decision, paras 20-2		

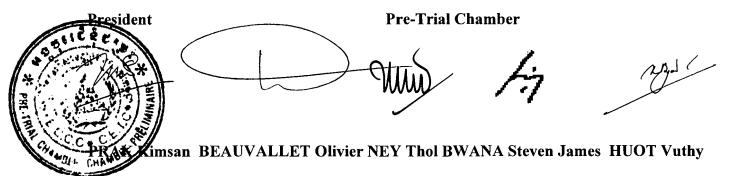
Decision on Appeal against the International Co-Investigating Judge's Decision on Motion to Reconsider and Vacate summons dated 29 July 2014 11

- 33. In light of the foregoing, the Pre-Trial Chamber considers that there are no exceptional circumstances in the present case that would justify the Pre-Trial Chamber's intervention under Internal Rule 21. As far as Internal Rule 21(1) is concerned, the present Appeal is therefore inadmissible.
- 34. The present appeal shall consequently be dismissed as inadmissible.

# THEREFORE, THE PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER HEREBY:

DECIDES UNANIMOUSLY TO DISMISS the appeal as inadmissible.

#### Phnom Penh, 09 December 2015



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