

Duch explains child killing policy

Written by

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The trial of Comrade Duch resumed today, as parties questioned the defendant about implementation of CPK policy at S-21. In perhaps the most disturbing testimony of the day, Duch described the policy of [killing babies and children](#) at the detention center so they would not seek revenge later in life.

Although anthropologist Alex Hinton has written about this phenomenon, describing the concept of "cutting trees at the roots" so no survivors will seek vengeance, the policy of child killing seems to contradict Khmer Rouge ideology. After all, weren't children "blank sheets of paper" ready to be molded by the revolution? Why would the Khmer Rouge believe ancestral ties would triumph over *Angkar*? It is interesting to note that S-21 apparently considered the babies of "traitors" so tainted that they could not be reeducated.

Also, [in today's Post](#), more criticism for newly appointed Victims Unit head Helen Jarvis.