

Debauchery Trial Delayed

Phnom Penh Municipal Court indefinitely postponed the debauchery trial of a French national Thursday, citing the absence of a translator. The trial of Olivier Frenoy, 35, who was arrested in a Phnom Penh guest house with two boys, aged 14 and 15, on Dec 19, 2003, was delayed because the French Embassy failed to provide a translator, presiding Judge Kong Seth said. The embassy said later Thursday that it sent a translator to the trial, and that the court was unable to approve the translator in time. Arriving at court, Frenoy called for a probe into unnamed NGOs that had helped investigate him, which he accused of exploiting his case to get funds. Stephanie Remion, director of Action Pour Les Enfants, which helped investigate Frenoy, said APLE would not object to an inquiry. Following Frenoy's arrest, he wept during questioning and said he didn't know sex with underage boys was illegal in Cambodia, investigating Judge Buning Bunnary said. He has been jailed since his arrest, past the legal six-month pre-trial detention period. *(By Prak Chan Thul and William Shaw)*