

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

Nuon Chea in brief:

1926	Born in Battambang, western Cambodia, then under French colonial rule. Thailand took control of the province together with Siem Reap and Serei Sophorn in 1941, until 1946.
1942	At age 16, travels to Bangkok to complete secondary education, lives as a temple boy at Wat Benjamabopit.
1944	Enrolls at Thammasat University under the name <i>Runglert Laodi</i> , shortly thereafter, joins the Youth for Democracy Movement of Thailand, under the Community Party of Thailand (CPT).
1945	Quits Thammasat to work for the Comptroller General Department, Finance Ministry in Bangkok.
1947	Ordains for one season at Wat Samrong, Chachoengsao province (east of Bangkok), then returns to Bangkok, wants to join the Foreign Ministry. However, denied a professional position and instead given the same level clerical job as he held at the Finance Ministry, decides to quit working after one month, to join the fledging pro-democracy student movement in Thailand and the CPT.
1950	Returns to Cambodia to enlist in the anti-French movement, “transfers” from CPT to the Indochinese Community Party (ICP), assigned the responsibility for ideological training.
1954	Goes to Vietnam for training.
1960	The Cambodian Communist Party (CPK) is set up, Nuon Chea is appointed deputy secretary of CPK Central Committee and a member of CPK Standing Committee, the most senior bodies responsible for Party policy, he holds those posts continuously thereafter.
1975	CPK, called “Khmer Rouge” by then Prince Norodom Sihanouk since the 1960s, wins a five-year civil war and establishes Democratic Kampuchea regime in Phnom Penh.
1975-79	Nearly two million people died brutal deaths under Democratic Kampuchea policy to purify Cambodia and re-create past Khmer glories. Specifically, Nuon Chea is alleged to have known and approved the systematic torture and execution of 14,000 men, women, and children at the notorious Security Office 21 (S-21) also known as Tuol Sleng prison for Khmer Rouge cadres in Phnom Penh, among other deeds.
1979	Vietnamese forces invade Cambodia, topple Democratic Kampuchea regime, and establish the People’s Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) in Phnom Penh.
1979-80	Democratic Kampuchea revived with ASEAN, Chinese, UN and Western help. A tri-partite coalition resistance against the Vietnamese forces and “puppet regime” in Phnom Penh is formed and operates. Nuon Chea remains active in the movement.

1991	Cambodian factions sign peace accords ending civil war, the United Nations sent then world's largest UN mission to host general elections.
1993	UN-sponsored elections held, boycotted by Khmer Rouge who return to guerrilla fighting.
1996	King Norodom Sihanouk signs an amnesty for former Democratic Kampuchea foreign minister Ieng Sary, after he and 10,000 guerrillas move over to the government.
1997	Co-Prime Ministers Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Ranariddh request help from the United Nations for a Khmer Rouge Tribunal.
1998	<p>Pol Pot dies in Anglong Veng on the Thai-Cambodian border, He had faced a one-day "trial" held 25 July, 1997 held by his own cadres who accused him of assassinating his own defense minister, Son Sen and his family.</p> <p>Nuon Chea and Khien Samphan defect to the government, given virtual amnesty, and apologize at a press conference for what happened between 1975-1979. After a tour of Cambodia, Nuon Chea settles in Pailin, former stronghold of the Khmer Rouge.</p>
2006	The United Nations and the Cambodian government set up genocide and crime against humanity tribunal in Phnom Penh, 31 years after Khmer Rouge took control of Cambodia on April 17, 1975. Nuon Chea tops the list of target for prosecution.

By NUSARA THAITAWAT
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