

Documentation Center of Cambodia

Interview with SUM Sal, Male, 51 Years Old

Job during the Khmer Rouge Era: Security at Phnom Troyaung Prison

Place of Birth: Stoeng Kambot Village, Rohal Subdistrict, Preah Neth Preah District,

Battambang Province

Current Residence: Chakrey Village, Chup Vary Subdistrict, Preah Neth Preah District,

Banteay Meanchey Province

Date: 24 September 2011

Interviewed by: LONG Dany (LD) and VANTHAN Peou Dara (VPD)

2:04:14

52 pages

Translated by LONG Dany

LD: Yes! The two of us: I am LD, and he is Dara. I am from the Documentation Center of Cambodia, which does work related to collecting documents from the Khmer Rouge era from 1975 until 1979. We have come to meet you because I want to question you regarding the experiences you went through during the Khmer Rouge era from 1975 until 1979. We have come to question you about your experiences and record them for the youth of later generations and for researchers and people in general who want to know and want to read the history and the happenings during the Khmer Rouge era that you experienced. There are many matters that the youth of my generation want to know. So then, will you permit us to question you?

SS: Yes. What questions do you have? I do not claim to know anything; I am ignorant. I am quite old, but like I say, I never had much schooling.

VPD: Is there anything you are curious about the two of us or about our place of work?

SS: I do wonder about Brother Huy calling me to do something three days ago, yesterday, the day before. He said to come explain about our past relating to Troyaung.

VPD: Have you previously known or heard about the Documentation Center of Cambodia?

SS: No! I have not paid much attention.

VPD: As LD has described, the two of us are from the Documentation Center of Cambodia, a place that researches and compiles documents and other information related to the Khmer Rouge regime.

We compile and store these documents for history's sake for the children of later generations to learn from the experiences and events that occurred in the past, especially during the Khmer Rouge regime from 1975 through 1979. We come to interview the victims, those who used to serve the Khmer Rouge regime, or those whose children went away to serve in the ranks of the Khmer Rouge and disappeared. All of this is to compile information for historical use. Before we begin, may I know your name?

SS: My name is SUM Sal.

VPD: How do you spell SUM Sal?

SS: S-U-M

LD: And how do you spell Sal?

SS: S-A-L.

LD: How old are you?

SS: Fifty-one.

PD: Do you recall your date of birth?

SS: The Year of the Mouse.

VPD: Your birth place?

SS: Stoeng Kambot.

VPD: The village?

SS: Stoeng Kambot Village.

VPD: The sub district?

SS: Rohal Sub district.

VPD: Rohal Sub district.

SS: Yes. Preah Neth Preah District.

VPD: At that time it seems the province was..

SS: Battambang Province; in the Lon Nol era it was called Battambang. Now it has been renamed Banteay Meanchey.

VPD: You live there today?

SS: Yes. Now I live at Chup Chakrey.

VPD: What is the village called?

SS: The village I live in is called Chup Chakrey.

VPD: Chup Chakrey Village?

SS: Yes. Chakrei Village, Chup Vary Sub district.

VPD: Chup Vary Sub district, not Preah Neth Preah Sub district?

SS: No. Not in Preah Neth Preah; Chup Vary, Chup Vary Sub district.

VPD: Vary Sub district, Preah Neth Preah District.

SS: Yes, yes.

VPD: Banteay Meanchey Province?

SS: Yes.

VPD: How many siblings do you have?

SS: Many. I can't count them. I was the eldest.

VPD: You were the eldest child of the family?

SS: Yes, the first child in the family.

VPD: How many in total?

SS: Many. One, two, three, four. So many, I can't count them all.

LD: Can you say how many boys and how many girls?

SS: Many. I can't count them all. They had many children in the past (laughing).

VPD: Are your parents still living?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Your father's name?

SS: Phann.

VPD: Phann what?

SS: SUM Phann.

VPD: So the family name is SUM.

SS: Yes.

VPD: SUM Phann: how old is he?

SS: The Year of the Dog. In his seventies.

VPD: His seventies!

SS: Yes. He is seventy-four or seventy-five.

VPD: Is he still living?

SS: Yes. My mother too.

VPD: Your mother's name?

SS: Chuop Nov.

VPD: Is she living?

SS: Yes. They are old.

VPD: How old?

SS: The Year of the Tiger. About the same.

VPD: Does she live in your village?

SS: Yes, here in Stoeng Kambot.

VPD: Your birthplace?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Your wife's name?

SS: My wife's name is TO Vanyin.

VPD: Is she about your age?

SS: One year older.

VPD: One year older!

SS: The Year of the Pig.

VPD: How many children do you have?

SS: Eight, but one died. Seven are alive.

VPD: Did the dead child die in this era?

SS: Yes.

VOPD: Eight children, and ...

SS: One died.

VPD: How many boys and how many girls?

SS: Four daughters and three sons; one died. That makes eight.

VPD: How old is the oldest?

SS: The Year of the Pig.

VPD: In the thirties now?

SS: Yes. The thirties.

VPD: Are all of your children married?

SS: Yes. Two are married; beyond that they are all with us.

VPD: How many are in school?

SS: All of them. One has reached university level.

VPD: Where?

SS: At Toek Thla.

VPD: At the Banteay Meanchey Provincial Town?

SS: Yes. MA.

VPD: MA?

SS: Yes. One is at Level 12. One at 11, 12, according to their order; but they have no work.

VPD: You have a child who reached MA level?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Completed?

SS: Yes. She has a husband, but does not yet have a job.

LD: A daughter, who finished an MA.

SS: Yes, a daughter.

VPD: What major?

SS: Veterinary science.

VPD: That's good.

SS: Yes, but she has not yet found work.

VPD: Is she a recent graduate?

SS: Recent.

VPD: What year did you marry? In what era?

SS: I forget, maybe in 1982 or 1983.

VPD: In 1982 or 1983.

SS: That's correct.

VPD: So you married after the Khmer Rouge regime?

SS: Yes, afterwards, a proper marriage.

VPD: Have you ever had any schooling?

SS: Yes, but not at a high level; just to Level 2. The country was at war; I went to run and crawl.

VDP: Level 2.

SS: Yes.

VPD: Level 2 then is equal to Level 10 now.

SS: No! The current Level 2.

VPD: Our Level 2?

SS: Yes. Level 2, small.

VPD: Level 2 small?

SS: Yes. It was called 12 in the Sangkum era. Before, we counted from large to small.

VPD: So what level did you reach at that time?

SS: Just Level 2.

VPD: From Level 12 to what level?

SS: I studied until Level 2. Level 1, then Level 2. Then I stopped. I went to elementary school at Stoeng Kambot. Then came the war.

VPD: What year did you enter school?

SS: I seem to forget; that was so long ago. I just made it to Level 2, and then the teachers all ran away. Our teacher Nam was at Mongkul Borey.

VPD: Teacher Nam.

SS: Yes. Teacher Nam, in Mongkul Borey. He just died recently. He was my former teacher.

VPD: How many years did you studied before the country was, as they say, liberated?

SS: I studied about two or three years, not for long. I just thought about running and crawling. The Khmer Rouge came in and started trouble with the teachers, and the teachers ran off. I was just a farm boy tending cattle and buffalos.

VPD: You mean that you studied two years before the Lon Nol regime?

SS: Yes. The Lon Nol era; I studied to Level 2 in the Lon Nol era.

VPD: What school did you attend?

SS: Our Sambuor School in Mongkul Borey on the other side of the stream, the Mongkul Borey side.

VPD: You studied at Sambuor School?

SS: Yes.

VPD: How many years had you studied before the Khmer Rouge came?

SS: Two or three years. Then the Khmer Rouge came. They went back and forth; it was tense all along. They came in and took control, went in and out, and the Lon Nol side did not dare stay. That side did not dare come; they were too lazy to keep control. It was contested. I just tended cattle and buffalos.

LD: What year did you say the Khmer Rouge came to contest the area?

SS: Two years; that was around 1972.

VPD: In 1972 the Khmer Rouge reached the village?

SS: Yes. They had arrived.

VPD: Did they have total control, or was it contested with the Lon Nol side?

SS: It was still contested.

VPD: So what was the situation with the people in the village? Was there any bombing?

SS: The people were worried at that time. Everyone was afraid. We were farmers. We did not know which side to go to. It was not easy to abandon our homes like the kids today. We had nostalgia for the rice fields and farms. People originally were not as progressive as they are today; they stayed put. If they were rich, they did not flee; if they were badly off, they did not go anywhere; they stayed on their farms. In 1973 Lon Nol soldiers attacked and herded them away.

VPD: Herded them in what direction?

SS: From Stoeng Kambot to up above.

VPD: Toward what place?

SS: I mean that some went to live at Chup, some went to Toek Thla; some went to Svay, depending on how rich or poor they were. Those with money went to the markets, were on the outskirts looking for rice fields or villagers wherever they could.

VPD: To villages over there?

SS: Yes. They walked to other areas; our villages were totally burned. Nothing was left.

VPD: In 1975 when the Khmer Rouge took total control, was your family transferred back to their village?

SS: Yes. We returned in 1975.

VPD: Did you return to their village?

SS: Yes. We returned to their village.

VPD: Did they all return together?

SS: Yes. All together.

VPD: So immediately after they returned in 1975 were village and sub district chiefs set up?

SS: Yes. In 1975 they set things up. The Khmer Rouge created a village chief and a group chief. They did not allow us to live in our village of birth. After the plowing was over they made us go to live at Phnom Kaun Damrei, south of Preah Neth Preah.

VPD: When you returned to the village in 1975, had the Khmer Rouge already set up the chiefs of the village and the groups?

SS: Yes.

VPD: What names can you remember?

SS: The village chief is dead.

VPD: What was his name?

SS: Hean.

VPD: Hean was the village chief?

SS: Yes.

VPD: You said you stayed there for one plowing season?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Yes, one season.

SS: After one season, they had us go to Phnom Kaun Damrei.

VPD: You went to live at Phnom Kaun Damrei?

SS: Kaun Dameri, Preah Neth Preah.

VPD: Was the entire family moved to Phnom Kaun Dameri?

SS: Yes. They evacuated all of us to Phnom Kaun Damrei – the entire village.

VPD: The entire village of Rohal that you spoke about?

SS: Yes. They drove all of us at Stoeng Kambot and did not let us stay at our birthplace. In 1975 we went back home, and then they drove us to Phnom Kaun Damrei, in southern Preah Neth Preah.

VPD: So when they drove you to Phnom Kaun Damrei, who was in charge of what at Kaun Damrei when the people arrived?

SS: Yes. The village chief Hean, who was still alive then, was in control of work there.

VPD: So then, Hean, the chief of Stoeng Kambot Village, when the people were mobilized to Phnom Kaun Damrei, remained chief.

SS: Yes. He had not yet died; he was still the village chief.

VPD: He was still the village chief when you arrived at Phnom Kaun Damrei?

SS: Yes, he was still village chief.

VPD: How old were you then? How big were you?

SS: Let me think. I was more than ten years old.

VPD: More than ten?

SS: Yes. I was still a boy, tending cattle there at Phnom Kaun Damrei.

VPD: Were you still living with your parents at Phnom Kaun Damrei, or were you living separately with a youth unit?

SS: I lived with my parents, but the village chief had us tend cattle, the communally owned cattle.

VPD: So you still lived with your parents?

SS: Yes.

VPD: When your parents went to work, you stayed in the youth unit tending cattle?

SS: Yes. I tended cattle!

VPD: Was there a cattle tending unit?

SS: Yes, there was. Each village had a chief and a youth chief. They had us watch the cattle and not let them disappear. We all went around watching the cattle.

VPD: How about your parents?

SS: They worked the planted the land. The property in the village was communal; it belonged to the state.

VPD: At Phnom Kaun Damrei?

SS: Yes. They had everyone work communally. There was no private property; everything was communal by that time.

VPD: When eating, did you eat along with your parents or eat separately with the youth unit?

SS: That was in 1975, newly organized, and there was no communal dining yet; they still issued food for private dining; but there was not much rice. They issued rice bran from a mill; half a basket to families large and small.

VPD: What was done with the bran?

SS: It was roasted, and seasoned with salt water.

VPD: There was not rice?

SS: No rice. When we were out, they said rice had not yet been solved. When we shed tears and were as hungry as could be, the children walked around with the bran while tending cattle, some crying.

VPD: You cried.

SS: Yes, we cried. We could not swallow it. Who could?

VPD: No rice at all?

SS: Sometimes there was none.

VPD: That was in 1975?

SS: Yes, in 1975, 1976.

VPD: So during that time, you had no rice to eat, nothing to eat at all, or what?

SS: Yes. Until ...

VPD: How long did you just eat bran?

SS: It was not every day. Mostly there were shortages; there was no abundance. Just like one can of rice, like that. It was watery gruel. We could not say we did not have our fill; we just stayed quiet.

VPD: Tending cattle was for the cattle in the village?

SS: Yes, in the village.

VPD: And when the cattle were fat enough to take somewhere?

SS: They used them.

VPD: For plowing and whatever?

SS: Yes, they used them for plowing and working the communal rice fields. We did not have the right to use them privately; they were communal property.

VLD: How many of you tended cattle then?

SS: Oh! In the village there were many: twenty to thirty, all boys. There were thirty or forty in the village.

VPD: How many head of cattle?

SS: Countless! Hundreds; many; they were communal property.

VPD: Did any cattle get lost or die?

SS: None were lost or died, because we stayed close constantly, tended them constantly, took care of them constantly, walked around with them.

VPD: Up until what year did the cattle tending continue, and then what?

SS: After tending cattle, they moved our residence to Rohal, my mother and father.

VPD: The family group!

SS: Yes.

VPD: You too?

SS: Yes. I went mobile.

VPD: That began at Rohal?

SS: Yes.

VPD: It wasn't at Phnom Kaun Damrei?

SS: That's right. We kept on evading: mother and father kept moving to find potatoes to eat.

VPD: In general, your entire family group was transferred to Rohal Village?

SS: Yes.

VPD: And the village chief remained the same or was changed?

SS: I was mobile. My parents lived there. I was mobile at Kauk Chheu Neang.

VPD: So when you moved to Rohal you stopped living with your parents, and you were mobile?

SS: Yes. I was mobile.

VPD: Were many of you in the mobile unit?

SS: Many! Many, both male and female.

VPD: How many?

SS: Very many, hundreds. All the spearheads went around moving soil at Tean Kam and Chheu Neang.

VPD: So there were hundreds in the mobile unit?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Do you recall the chief and deputy chief of the mobile unit?

SS: They are no longer alive. They are dead.

VPD: But I just want to know their names.

SS: Something Van, the chief of that spearhead to move soil. He is dead.

VPD: His name was Van.

SS: Yes, something Van. I do not know his family name.

VPD: Male or female?

SS: Male.

VPD: Van was over-all in charge?

SS: Yes. He was the spearhead chief. The entire mobile unit was his; he was big.

LD: At Tean Kam?

SS: Yes. At Kauk Chheu Neang, the road past Kirivoan, Kaun Damrei.

VPD: What did your mobile unit under Van go around doing? Please describe.

SS: We went around putting up small dams and dike systems and paddy dike systems.

VPD: Where?

SS: From Kirivoan to our rice fields, putting up systems, canals and dams, knee or shoulder high.

VPD: Was the food better while doing that?

SS: No. Not any better. There was hunger. We ate leaves, mixed them in, like field rats or whatever. We were creative and did what was necessary to keep our strength.

VPD: What kind of shape were you in then?

SS: I could barely walk and was very pale.

VPD: How were you able to put up dams?

SS: Out of fear of them, from the power of our fear of them. We had no right to object. Whatever the orders said to do, we had to do it; we dared not argue with them.

VPD: Was your mobile unit district level, sub district level, or what?

SS: Sub district mobile unit.

VPD: What sub district?

SS: Chup Vary Sub district.

VPD: It was that sub district mobile unit that Van was chief of?

SS: Yes, the spearhead chief.

VPD: Whom did you know in that mobile unit?

SS: I have totally forgotten.

VPD: Like your friends, the chief, ...

SS: It's been a long time. We were not together long; then we separated up and down. We were not together for years, just two or three months, then we were dismantled and went our own ways.

VPD: What year did you come to the mobile unit?

SS: That was in 1977.

VPD: The month, the season, early or late in which season?

SS: 1977.

LD: You moved to Rohal and joined the mobile unit in 1977?

SS: Yes.

VPD: So you stayed at Kaun Damrei a long time?

SS: About one season, one year. It kept changing, like I said. When there was not enough to eat, we evaded; constantly escaping death; if we had stayed we would have died. We evaded and pulled potatoes, found whatever. If we had stayed there was nothing.

VPD: If you were at Phnom Kaun Damrei one year, the Khmer Rouge came in 1975 and so it may have been in 1976 that you went to Rohal.

SS: Yes. It was not the end of 1975; they were not in control. We were not yet working in communal rice farming; they drove us from the area to Phnom Kaun Damrei.

LD: So that means that when it fell in 1975 you were living at your village of birth at Stoeng Kambot and could farm rice there, and after one season you moved to Kaun Damrei and you were there about one year, then were transferred by yourself, and your family evaded back to Rohal?

SS: Yes.

LD: When you moved to Rohal you joined the mobile unit, did you volunteer, or did they force you?

SS: They recruited into the mobile unit then; they selected us; we had to join; we had to do it.

LD: How old were you at that time?

SS: Still just a boy.

VPD: Do you remember your age, over ten?

SS: I am fifty-one now, fifty-two. I was twelve or thirteen then, not big. I cannot think. It was tense.

LD: Were those in the mobile unit the same age as you, or were some older and some younger?

SS: Some were older; some were younger.

VPD: Some were smaller!

SS: Yes. There were some big and some small. Boys were boys, the youth were youth. They divided us into units and teams.

LD: They separated you?

SS: Yes. The boys were in boys units; the youths were in youth units.

LD: Which unit were you in?

SS: I was with Vann, the one in charge, the one who I said has since died.

LD: Were you his messenger?

SS: Yes. Not exactly a messenger, but I stayed with him and he used me to go places.

LD: You stayed close to him in the mobile unit?

SS: Yes. Close.

VPD: So that means he sent you here and there?

SS: Yes. He used me, like when he wanted me to tell them to do this or that, to move earth, whatever they wanted, and I went to pass the word on to the boys.

VPD: So when setting plans and work, Van passed word through you?

SS: Yes, we worked following orders.

VPD: He did not go down to tell them in person?

SS: Sometimes he went; sometimes we went.

VPD: With you close to Van like that, was the food better?

SS: I did not rely on them so much because I went in the style of the boys. If I got a rat, I ate a rat. If I got a trapeang prech plant, I ate Trapeang Prech. I did not think much about it.

VPD: Was Van married then?

SS: I have no grasp about his wife. I had newly joined and had no grasp.

LD: Where was he from?

SS: I did not know his home. I just saw him at the spearhead location. They called him Brother Van. We did not know and did not dare ask about where he came from.

LD: Had you known him previously?

SS: No. I had never met him; I first met him when I joined the mobile unit.

VPD: What did you call him then?

SS: Older brother.

VPD: Older brother.

SS: Yes.

VPD: So how old was he?

SS: He was about forty, in his forties, more than forty.

VPD: More than forty?

SS: Yes, according to my estimate.

VPD: You were more than ten. How could you call him Older Brother?

SS: At that time if they were older, we just called them Older Brother.

VPD: Could you have called him Uncle?

Yes. Uncle or Older Brother.

VPD: But your habit was to call him Older Brother?

SS: Yes.

LD: So how many others like you were with him as messengers?

SS: No. Not so much a messenger. I was in his unit, just was in his unit.

LD: Was there just you then?

SS: Only I was close.

LD: At that time in the Chup Vary mobile unit, Van was the chairman of the sub district mobile unit?

SS: Yes.

LD: Who was the Chup Vary Sub district chief?

SS: Ta Ruos was the Chup Vary Sub district chief then.

LD: Where was Ta Ruos from?

SS: He was from the Southwest, from the South, from Takeo.

LD: Did you know him well at the time?

SS: I knew him. Just knew him. But we can't say that I could go talk to him at the time ... because their power was huge back then. We did not have much right, did not dare speak with them. If they called us, we went. Just to chat about this or that, we did not dare do that.

LD: In those days where was the Chup Vary Sub district headquarters?

SSL: I seem to have forgotten. I do not know where it was; it seemed I had no grasp on the sub district headquarters back then.

LD: Do you know Ruos' full name?

SS: They just called him Ta Ruos.

LD: Did you know his wife?

SS: I did not know her.

VPD: But his age at the time?

SS: In his fifties.

VPD: When you worked close to Ta Van, did Ta Van ever send you to meet Ta Ruos?

SS: Ta Vann never used me to contact him; I just heard him say that Ta Ruos had said this or that. There were many of them; they transferred to many sub districts. When one was gone, another one came. They died one after another when they did not even know the sub district; they died one after another in general.

LD: So who was before Ta Ruos?

SS: Before Ta Ruos our sub district chief was from the Northwest.

LD: What was his name?

SS: Sar something; I don't know.

VPD: Sub district chief Sar.

SS: Yes.

VPD: The Northwest.

SS: Yes, the Northwest.

VPD: When Sar was gone, Ta Ruos appeared?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Immediately, or?

SS: No. Ta Sar disappeared, then Ta Ruos. I had no grasp; there was one more, who was before or after Ta Sar, whose name was Brother Nonh. I don't know if he was before or after Ta Sar. Nonh was also sub district; he was from Kampot.

VPD: Kampot?

SS: They were all from far away.

LD: Did you know them well?

SS: We knew them, but we could not have close contacts with them: there was none of that. We just knew their names, Ruos, Sar, Nonh; we just knew of them.

VPD: Knew that they were all administrators?

SS: Yes, we just knew that.

VPD: When you saw Sar, or Nonh, or Ruos, were you frightened?

SS: Yes. We were always fearful, but they did nothing disrespectful to us; they did not yet insult or look down on us; be we were always afraid.

VPD: Fearful because. For example, Sar, Nonh, and Ruos because everyone saw them as vicious or firm, or ...

SS: Like that. In those days when people were called away they disappeared. They spoke well of us, but they took people away and killed them. Like if you called me to you and I came and disappeared; that was fearful. If we were alive and they called us, we were afraid. They had not yet killed us, but just being called made us afraid, because they killed people like that, so that is why we were afraid. It was not like we are today. We are responsible toward one another and discuss, like you meet me; we use polite words. Before it was not like that. They gave what was called broad rights, but we could not speak. That's how it was.

VPD: Can you compare it with the time under Sar whom you said came from the Northwest?

SS: It was relatively relaxed under the Northwest, not so tense; there was still some compromise; you could still say what tasted good and what did not. When the Southwest came it was tense right away.

VPD: And can you compare Sar and Nonh? Who was better?

SS: Brother Sar was better. Brother Nonh was from Kambot; you could call them gentle or not gentle, but those working at that time were not very gentle.

VPD: But the living standards when Nonh came.

SS: It was already strict when Nonh came, stricter than Ta Sar, the eating, I mean. When Sar was there it was better.

VPD: Comparing Nong with Ta Ruos, who was stricter?

SS: It was more tense, and it became more strict.

VPD: Eating, work, or rights began to become stricter?

SS: Yes. Ever stricter.

VPD: Strict until Ta Ruos came, tense to what level?

SS: Very strict. Eating was very tense; there was not enough to eat. I'm saying the rations were not enough.

VPD: And the work?

SS: We were still on the offensive at work; we worked hard.

VPD: Harder than during the generation of Sar or the generation of Nonh?

SS: We worked hard. They were on a strong offensive. They did not neglect anything. Farming and whatever, putting up dams, moving soil. Each of us worked like cattle and buffalos. No rest days or free days. We just kept on working. There was no time to sit and talk then. Their law was strict.

VPD: So while you were with the mobile unit, were you under the supervision of Van throughout, or were there any transfers?

SS: No. Later I was transferred again.

VPD: So how long were you in the mobile unit with Van?

SS: It seems I was with Brother Van for less than one year, before I was transferred away from Van. It was about four or five months.

VPD: Still during 1977?

SS: Yes. In 1977, nearly into 1978 I was transferred out.

VPD: To where?

SS: I moved back to my parents. I requested that.

VPD: Requested to leave?

SS: I requested to Ta Ruos, the sub district chief.

VPD: You asked Ta Ruos to go back to your parents?

SS: Yes.

VPD: What village were your parents in?

SS: Rohal.

VPD: How could Ta Ruos let you come when you were in the mobile unit at full strength?

SS: I just made the request to see. I said, "Uncle, I request to go home." He asked why. I said I had no reason. I was afraid when he asked for a reason. I said I missed my parents because I had been away with the mobile unit for a long time. I lied some and he wrote a letter for me to take back to the village. I asked to leave him, but he asked for a reason. I was afraid. I knew nothing, had no reason. In fact I had none. But he asked for a reason. Just the word reason and I was afraid. I said I had no reason; I just missed my parents and wanted to be near them.

VPD: So you did not ask the mobile chief?

SS: I did not dare ask him. I asked the sub district chief.

VPD: Ta Van did not know when you left the mobile unit?

SS: That's right. He did not know. I ask Ta Ruos directly. If I had asked Ta Vann, he would not have let me go. As I saw it, I had to ask Ta Ruos directly if I was to get to go.

VPD: Who had more authority, Ta Ruos or Ta Van?

SS: It was their custom then. If the sub district said they could use us, OK. If the mobile unit used us, OK. They let the senior people use us. They did not hold to class so much.

VPD: So Ta Ruos made the decision when you left the mobile unit, not Ta Van?

SS: Yes. Ta Ruos decided. I asked for a paper from him and he made a paper for me to return to my parents so the communal cook would recognize me and give me gruel. If I had no paper, they would not give me food.

VPD: When you went back to the village?

SS: Yes. Even though I was back in the village, they would not have recognized me and given me food. Back then whoever's head it was, it was their hair. Even with friends or parents, it was necessary to have a paper for them to recognize us saying we had left this sub district going to that sub district before we could eat with them.

LD: Was Van also from the Southwest?

SS: No. He was one of our Northwest.

LD: During what years was he in charge of the mobile unit?

SS: I have no grasp. I came later and several months later evaded him and transferred to another location.

LD: So when you returned to your parents what happened?

SS: When I came to meet me parents, the group from the Southwest saw me and they called me.

VPD: The Southwest in the village?

SS: The Southwest who were the sub district chief and the other chief.

VPD: So when you came to the village, I will ask in order, when you arrived at Rohal Village, the group from the Southwest was already in charge?

SS: Yes. The Southwest was in charge.

VPD: Who was the village chief when you returned to the village?

SS: I did not know yet, because the Southwest called me. I showed them my paper. They asked where I came from. I said I came from Tean Kam mobile unit. When they saw the paper they called me to stay with them.

VPD: To stay with them right away?

SS: Yes. To stay with the sub district chief.

VPD: What sub district chief?

SS: Rohal sub district.

VPD: The sub district chief then had come from the Southwest?

SS: The Southwest. From Kampong Speu; I don't know which village or district, but I knew from Kampong Speu.

VPD: What was his name?

SS: Tha (a female).

VPD: Oh! A female?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Seeing you were male, how could that be?

SS: No. I don't know. I was still a boy; she saw me and called me to stay around them.

VPD: So when you came to Rohal Village, you knew the Rohal Sub district chief, a female named Tha?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Her name was Tha?

SS: Yes. That, Older Sister Tha.

VPD: What did you call her?

SS: Older Sister.

VPD: Tha was from Kampong Speu?

SS: Yes, in the Southwest. She was from Kampong Speu. It was mixed then. There were people from Takeo, Kampong Speu, and whatever in charge.

VPD: How do you know Tha came from Kampong Speu?

SS: When I was with her, I asked her and she told me. But whether she lied or not, I do not know. I asked her village and district, and she told me.

LD: What village and district?

SS: She just said she was from Kampong Speu. I was still a child, stupid. I did not ask everything.

LD: How old was Tha at that time?

SS: Probably nearly thirty.

VPD: Nearly thirty?

SS: Yes. About thirty or around that.

VPD: She was young?

SS: Yes. Young.

VPD: Was she married?

SS: She was still single.

VPD: Can you describe her appearance?

SS: Sister Tha was fair complexioned, and spoke firmly.

VPD: Fair complexioned.

SS: Yes, fair. Those from Takeo and Kampong Speu were mostly light. If they were from Kampong Chhnang they were all dark, not many were light. The Southwest were lighter skinned.

VPD: Did Tha, the Rohal Sub district chief, govern the entire sub district?

SS: Yes. She governed Rohal Sub district. I was with her at the time.

LD: Was she married?

SS: No.

LD: She wasn't Thirty, but was not married?

SS: Not married.

VPD: What was your position with her, a messenger or ...

SS: Yes. Like a messenger.

VPD: You resided with Tha?

SS: Yes. She lived in a house. I was a guard.

LD: How many were there?

SS: About four to ten, all young.

VPD: Aside from Tha, how many others were in that work group?

SS: Her subordinates, the village chief, the cooperative chief. They kept creating things.

VPD: Did you know their names?

SS: Not so much. I have forgotten; it has been twenty, thirty years ago now. I do not know them all.

VPD: Was Tha in charge throughout, or what?

SS: Yes. She was in charge for approximately, I forget, one year, two years. They changed fast. They moved her to Phies, King Kaong, at Phies Village, at King Kaong. When she moved there, Ta Nop from Kampot arrived, and he became the sub district chief. Ta Nop came to replace Tha as she moved to Phies.

VPD: Ta Nop from Kampot.

SS: Ta Nop from Kampot.

LD: When Tha moved to Phies, was she the sub district chief at Phies?

SS: I had no grasp. As I see, senior people were generally in charge. I don't know.

VPD: When you were with Tha, what did she use you for?

SS: To look after the farms or whatever, look after the communal crops of the State, to stand guard and protect so rice and potatoes would not be stolen.

VPD: Were you armed with a weapon?

SS: No. I never had one. Like I said I just watched after and protected potatoes and rice so they would not be stolen. I was to tell them.

VPD: So in your sub district you never saw Tha or others acting as security and carrying weapons?

SS: The sub district females seemed not to have had any weapons. They were bare-handed. In charge, but not armed.

VPD: No weapons to protect themselves?

SS: None.

VPD: At Rohal when Tha was sub district chairperson, what work did she lead?

SS: Rice farming, farming dry and rainy season rice; the boy's unit crushed Tontrean Khet plant for fertilizer to put on the rice fields.

VPD: How was the food then?

SS: It was not easy, always strict; always doing without; people then were not like now; these days if we tell children, even our own children, they do not believe it. They say we ate gruel and stayed alive. They have never encountered that. People were blessed to have survived that and live until now, when it is like being reborn. We consider it as having been born again.

LD: When Tha transferred to Phies, did you go with her?

SS: No. She did not take me; she left me for Ta Nop; I served Ta Nop.

LD: You were Ta Nop's messenger?

SS: Yes. I was Ta Nop's messenger too; I just stayed for them to use me.

VPD: When you were with Tha, where did she send you?

SS: She used me. Sometimes they had us go to this or that cooperative, like running their messages and documents, sealed letters. We could not open them. They wrote them and had us put them in bags for them. They had work to do; there were no telephones, just letter carrying.

VPD: So how did the cooperatives and villages know you were a messenger?

SS: They knew. We were together. They knew because we were used to going back and forth with them, just accompanied them.

VPD: So what places did you accompany Tha to?

SS: Like when they said they wanted to look at the rice fields and they took me along, like at Anteah Banh, along the lower dam. They took me to look at the rice fields of the mobile units and wherever.

VPD: Did they take you to meetings anywhere and to look at places?

SS: They never called me to meetings; but they did call me to look at rice fields and farms. They maintained their secrecy; I was a boy.

VPD: When living with Tha or Ta Ruos, or Sar, did you ever see their senior or junior people come down to inspect or visitors meet them?

SS: I never saw any system or custom of inspection; I did not know much. I never saw anything like that.

VPD: What year did Tha transfer to Phies?

SS: It seems like she transferred to Phies in 1978; if not 1978 then it was 1977, going into 1978. That is my estimate.

VPD: Then Ta Nop came to replace Tha?

SS: Yes.

VPD: So when you were with Ta Nop, what did he use you for?

SS: He used me like Tha had done. Sometimes he had me tend cattle; sometime he had me guard him when he was sleeping. I was young.

VPD: When you were with Tha, were you afraid each time she used you?

SS: Afraid, the same. Fear was constant; we did not trust one another or get along. For example, no matter how we got along, I was still afraid and untrusting, because in that era no matter how people got along with one another, many were killed.

VPD: Did Tha ever threaten you?

SS: She never dared threaten me; she did joke, put me down me in this or that way; but she never much dared insult me.

VPD: And with Ta Nop?

SS: It was OK with Ta Nop. I was a child; it was OK. They liked children in those days because children were straightforward and could be used for anything without hiding their gut feelings. So during the revolutionary era, they liked children; if they said ten it was ten; if they said twenty it was twenty. The adults had wives and children and were not trusted. We children were honest. This is my assumption, because they liked children.

VPD: So after Ta Nop came, you ...

SS: After I had been with Ta Nop for several months, I forget, it was 1978, and in 1978 Ta Nop sent me to Troyaung.

LD: Yes. Then what?

SS: Yes. I went to Troyaung, the security site.

LD: Yes. Why did Ta Nop send you from the Rohal Sub district location to the Troyaung security?

SS: Because the security chairman was short manpower to guard, because the senior people contacted one another.

LD: They sent you to the Troyaung Security Site because of a manpower shortage?

SS: Yes.

LD: How did you guard? Can you describe that?

SS: Guard prisoners, whomever.

VPD: So Ta Nop sent you to Troyaung Security at Phnom Troyaung?

SS: Yes, Phnom Troyaung.

VPD: Phnom Troyaung was a security site?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Did he make a letter for you to carry when he sent you?

SS: There was nothing difficult in sending us then. They took us and handed us over to the chief and said to take us to stay there.

VPD: Who did they hand you over to?

SS: No. The sub district had already told them. They took us there and left us.

VPD: What sub district was Phnom Troyaung in at the time?

SS: It seems it was in Phnom Liep Subdistrict, because it was Yeay Chem's place.

VPD: So who was the sub district chief at Phnom Liep Sub district?

SS: I did not know the Phnom Liep Sub district because I was at the security site.

VPD: They took you straight to the security site?

SS: Yes, they pushed us directly to the security site.

VPD: So you did not go through any villages or sub districts?

SS: No.

VPD: You entered the security site as security personnel?

SS: Yes.

VPD: You were one of the personnel at the security site right away?

SS: Yes.

VPD: It was not in any village?

SS: No.

VPD: You did not farm or work the rice fields?

SS: No. I just guarded them.

VPD: When you reached the Phnom Troyaung Security Office, did you work as a guard, or what?

SS: I was a guard watching over the people working the rice fields there.

VPD: When you were a guard at Phnom Troyaung, were you armed with a weapon?

SS: At Troyaung they gave me a carbine.

VPD: They gave you a carbine?

SS: One old carbine.

VPD: How many rounds of ammunition?

SS: One magazine or half a magazine.

VPD: How did you dress in the security unit?

SS: In a black uniform.

VPD: Black both top and bottom?

SS: Yes. They issued it to me.

VPD: Shoes?

SS: Ordinary rubber tire sandals.

VPD: A kerchief?

SS: An ordinary kerchief.

VPD: The kerchief always worn around the neck then?

SS: The kerchief that everyone wore back then. We needed it when we changed clothes or bathed or whatever. But there were not a lot of pants and trousers.

VPD: A cap?

SS: The cap that they issued.

VPD: How many did they issue per year?

SS: One set per year. Two sets were all.

VPD: So you wore black every day?

SS: Always black.

VPD: You shouldered a carbine?

SS: Shouldered a carbine.

VPD: Was the hat black too?

SS: No. My hat was horse manure color.

LD: A cap?

SS: A Chinese cap.

VPD: So, as a member of the security unit or a person working in the Phnom Troyaung Office, in comparison with the people sent there, were they different?

SS: Yes. Different.

VPD: In just a glance you would know who was a prisoner and who was a worker?

SS: Yes. Clothing was mixed. Our clothing was like I said, theirs was different. The people's clothing was different. They issued white and we dyed it with natural dyes and trampled it in the dirt to make it black, all black. There was no colored clothing; everything was black.

VPD: But the black was not like security?

SS: Yes, a different black.

VPD: Who was in charge of security when you arrived?

SS: Ta Soeun. His name was Soeun.

VPD: What was Souen's full name?

SS: We did not know his family name, but he was from Takeo. They all came from over there in Takeo.

VPD: Can you try to describe Ta Souen?

SS: Ta Souen's skin was like the others there, fair.

VPD: Fair complexion.

SS: Like that.

VPD: His height?

SS: Fairly tall, strong and well-built. He was still young.

VPD: Light.

SS: Light.

VPD: How tall? How many meters - 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 meters?

SS: About 1.7 meters, I guess.

VPD: Tall?

SS: Yes, he was tall.

VPD: His hair?

SS: Straight, ordinary.

VPD: Was his hair grey and black then?

SS: Back then his hair was not yet grey; it was black. He was still handsome.

VPD: His build?

SS: Strong solid build, but not very strong. Like anyone at full strength. He spoke quickly.

VPD: He spoke quickly?

SS: Spoke quickly.

VPD: Was he married back then?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Do you know his wife's name?

SS: I did not. Speaking of his wife, I saw, but I did not know her name. I never dared to speak with her but she was a senior (laughing).

VPD: And children?

SS: Yes.

VPD: How many children?

SS: There was one, Nou, and another little one later whose name I did not know.

VPD: Nou?

SS: One was named Nou.

VPD: So he had two children?

SS: I do not know how many he had later; we have been separated a long time. At the time I saw two children; I did not know the name of the little one. I do not know how many he had later.

VPD: Boys or girls?

SS: I just saw sons at the time, when I knew them.

VPD: Nou was a boy?

SS: A boy.

VOPD: And the little one was male too?

SS: Yes, but I do not know about a later. We separated long ago.

VPD: How did you know they were Ta Soeun's children?

SS: He brought them to the security site; his wife and children were there.

VPD: Where was his wife from?

SS: From his home; she came along with him.

VPD: His wife's complexion?

SS: Fair, clear; all of them were like that.

VPD: Can you describe the conditions of the people sent to security? What offense had they committed?

SS: I did not know at the time. Like I said, I was still a child, immature, illiterate. They pushed me there. I guarded. I did not know where they were from or what they had done. They drove them there and had them reform themselves, temper, break rocks and whatever. Work the rice fields and farms, still the land, burn and cut the forest, plant, break rocks on the mountain with steel tools.

VPD: What primary work was done at the security site?

SS: Primarily rock breaking.

VPD: How did they break rocks?

SS: They struck and dug up and broke rocks.

VPD: The number of prisoners: were there many?

SS: Oh. Many. I do not know. Countless. There were males and females.

VPD: Any children?

SS: Yes.

LD: Approximately how many?

SS: Oh, hundreds; I do not know the number. I had no grasp. I just saw that there were lots of them. The system, I mean some were our cadres that the Southwest had come and arrested with their wives and children. Sometimes the Southwest group hated them and put them in the security site. Sometimes some fled to Thailand and their wives were left behind, and they mistreated the wives, placed them there to reform and temper and work. It was whatever they wanted to do back then; nothing was definite.

VPD: Were the prisoners in shackles?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Was there a building to shackle them, and were the other prisoners mixed in together, or were they segregated?

SS: Segregated. They were ten to a group living here and there. Like I said, the group from the Southwest came. They held power. We of the Northwest were little. Ta Souen's people were not stupid, but we were like ants. Their power was such that they did as they pleased.

VPD: Did the Phnom Troyaung Security Site have prisoners shackled?

SS: Yes.

VPD: How old were the majority of the shackled prisoners?

SS: There were both young and old.

VPD: What kind of shackles?

SS: Wooden shackles with iron.

VPD: Wood with iron.

SS: Wood with iron inserts.

VPD: Wood inserted in iron rings?

SS: Yes. The iron was placed above.

VPD: Wood on top of wood and they drilled?

SS: Yes. They drilled the leg placements.

VPD: What types of prisoners were shackled?

SS: It was by level. I had no grasp, but I just saw that. I did not dare ask them. I just saw them. We were together, but I had no right to ask. But this was according to the level of seriousness. I could not know their offenses. Their law was so strict. I did not dare ask. I was afraid of being around them and afraid of them. It was not easy for me; I was always fearful because the rules then were strict. When they said it was strict, it was strict.

VPD: Did you see Ta Soeun as cruel, or what?

SS: Looking at him, I mean to say that, Ta Soeun was not a stupid person. He was literate, from what I could see. He was knowledgeable. But in that era he had to be mean, he had to.

VPD: Your relations with Ta Soeun. Did he command security personnel like you directly, or what?

SS: Ta Soeun came to give orders.

VPD: Yes. Like when you were on guard, to tell you to take which prisoners where?

SS: No. I'm just saying they made a location for each ten person group. In the morning he just said to go dig or plant potatoes or whatever. He told us and we led them. We called them mother back then, they had children. I took them to dig or plant. They did not let us be idle. We just worked.

VPD: So you called the prisoners mother?

SS: I called them mother, like that. That was the custom in calling them in general.

VPD: While you were guarding them, did any prisoners try to escape?

SS: Sometimes some fled. Some were determined to escape whether they lived or died. Some disappeared, but I do not know if they lived or died. Some stayed. Some did not flee.

VPD: If they ran away and you were the guard, did you have the right to shoot them?

VPD: The rule back then was if they fled, we had to shoot; if not they would have shot us to death: they would have killed us instead. That was their rule. There was no joking around. If we saw them running right in front of us, but that never happened to me – where could females run. If males followed them they would capture them. The Takeo people were in control, they were mixed in with us. We North westerners did not have many rights, like I said, in anything at all.

VPD: So were the majority of prisoners you guarded females or males?

SS: All females.

VPD: Were they married with children?

SS: Yes, some had children.

VPD: At this security site, the security chairman, how did he lead you related to guarding?

SS: He just said to guard them, to not let them run off. That's all that was said. And I obeyed.

VPD: Were you told in meetings, or what?

SS: That's what he said. Sometimes in meetings, he called meetings to tell us to watch and be responsible. If anyone disappeared, that guard was responsible. Those were the orders. We had to make an effort to guard and not let them get away. We were afraid, but it was whatever he said.

VPD: In the meetings he said that clearly?

SS: Yes. He told us that clearly.

VPD: Can you quote the words of the security chief telling you that?

SS: Yes. He said we had to be vigilant: first, against prisoners stealing our weapons and attacking us, firing at us. I was a child and small, so he led me, telling us not to stand next to them while on guard, to stand at a distance. If there was something to say, to speak from a distance, not to let them stand next to me for fear they could snatch my weapon and shoot me or something. That's what the leader(s) said, to be vigilant.

VPD: And second?

SS: Second, we were to help look after things responsibly, when farming or planting, they were to do what they were told.

VPD: Related to guarding the enemy, in case an enemy fled, if a prisoner fled, what were the instructions?

SS: If they fled, they never said; they never told us. If they ran off they never told us, "I am running away."

VPD: No. I mean in case of an escape, during the meetings did the leaders tell you what measures to take?

SS: If they, but some still fled, but they said, they said, but when they fled and disappeared, they disappeared.

VPD: But what did the prison chairman say?

SS: He said to be vigilant, that if a prisoner escaped, they would not keep us. He said that. But once in a long while someone did get away. What could we do? If they killed us they killed us. But he never did anything to us; he just told us to be vigilant.

VPD: You just said that if a detainee escaped, security could shoot.

SS: Yes. That was their rule. That was what they told us; but I never shot anyone, never shot anyone to death. They just said that.

VPD: I just want to know, during meetings in the security unit, during the meetings, did the leaders say or not, that if a prisoner was escaping, that you could shoot? I am not asking if you ever shot anyone or not? That's what I want to ask.

SS: Yes. It was their rule: if they fled, to shoot.

VPD: If they fled, to shoot?

SS: Yes.

VPD: At every meeting, who attended?

SS: No. I just saw Ta Souen, the security chief.

VPD: Ta Soeun was there?

SS: Yes. Ta Soeun.

VPD: So at every meeting on planning or guarding, Ta Soeun was the person ...

SS: Yes. He was the chief, the chief. He was the senior chief.

VPD: And who else aside from Ta Soeun?

SS: It was many years ago, I have forgotten; they were many personnel, thirty persons per platoon.

VPD: No. I mean the supervisors, like Ta Soeun the chief, below Ta Soeun, who else was there?

SS: There were others, but they have all disappeared. Only that one remains.

VPD: I want their names.

SS: Yes. Phim for one, and Thang for one.

VPD: Who else?

SS: I cannot think of them. That was twenty, thirty years ago. I forget.

VPD: Where was Phim from?

SS: Takeo.

VPD: Also from Takeo.

SS: Yes. White like him. Strong build.

VPD: What section was Phim in charge of?

SS: I don't even know. I was a child then. I worked around them. The senior people worried about big things. I had no grasp of them. I had no time to sit around with them. I just thought about my work. I did not know about their positions.

VPD: You knew Thang?

SS: Thang, I did not know his duties either. They were senior people. They were big, they were older, and their work was their own.

VPD: Phim and Thang, were they about the same age as Ta Soeun?

SS: I do not know. They were not as big as Ta Soeun.

VPD: I mean their ages?

SS: Oh! They were still single.

VPD: Single.

SS: Yes. But they were of large build.

VPD: Single, but big build.

SS: Yes. Big.

VPD: In your unit, the platoon, there were approximately thirty persons?

SS: That's my estimate, about thirty, never four to ten. The security guards always numbered at least thirty.

VPD: That was your unit?

SS: Yes. Ta Souen's unit.

VPD: Said this, were all security guards of Ta Soeun?

SS: Yes.

VPD: Thirty people!

SS: Yes. This is my estimate. I don't know it was more than twenty or... I estimate one platoon, approximately thirty persons.

VPD: So, How many security guards were in your group?

SS: Approximately thirty security guards.

VPD: So, Did they separate you into groups for duty, and how many persons in each group?

SS: Yes. They assigned us to guard and separated us into each group.

VPD: Do you remember some people in your group, when you guarded?

SS: I don't remember. Some of them already died.

VDP: However, do you remember their names - those who used to guard with you in your group?

SS: All of them already died.

VDP: Do you remember their names?

SS: Their names are Khech, Yay, Ay; and Thoeun and all of them died after Youn entered and liberated Cambodia.

VDP: Their names are Khech, Yay, Ay; and Thoeun! All of them were in your group?

SS: Yes. All of them died.

VDP: Khech, Yay, Ay; and Thoeun came from the same village with you?

SS: They were resident in Preah Netr Preah, but I don't know which villages they came from.

VDP: Do you know, how did they die?

SS: When the Vietnamese came to liberate the Cambodian people, they fled into the forest and started civil war again. They fought each other, some died by starvation, some died by malaria and others died by bullets.

VDP: Do you know? Were interrogative or torture sections in Phnom Troyaung security prison?

SS: Yes. However, we never went to close to the places. They never called or needed us go to the places. They needed someone who had good physical, including tall and big. The KR had meetings and they ordered only those people. We were such as small fingers, the KR just ordered us to guard and they rarely asked to go the places.

VDP: You only believed that there were interrogative or torture places in the security prison. Did you see the places directly by your eyes?

SS: I saw only people were chained after they were interrogated. I saw a place that the KR put prisoners with chains after they were interrogated. The people who had made mistakes and then, they were sent from village or sub-district to here. However the interrogators had different duties. They had the right to interrogate and we were in different sections. I was a security guard. For example, I had a duty to guard prisoners who were forced to plant potatoes as well. It was different. We had no right to work mixed together. We were so young at the time.

VDP: So, did you see the interrogative place?

SS: Yes.

VDP: Did you see the torture place?

SS: No. I did not know the KR tortured or killed the prisoners.

VDP: You only know that there was an interrogative place right?

SS: Right. If the KR chained the prisoners they had to interrogate them. For example, the prisoners were accused with serious crimes and the KR interrogated them. For the people who worked in the interrogative section, they had knowledge and could be able to interrogate the prisoners. As for me, I was like a small grass; I had no right to go to near the place.

VDP: Do you know? Were the majority of the prisoners chained or... If you compare with the prisoners who were not chained?

SS: Not too much. There were only a few. Some were released after interrogation.

VDP: Were they released, but still were in the prison?

SS: Released, but they were still forced to work in the prison.

VDP: They were not released to return home?

SS: No. They were released to work inside the prison and sometimes I guarded them when they were working in the field.

VDP: How about food in Phnom Troyaung security prison?

SS: We ate porridge.

VDP: The prisoners in the prison right?

SS: Right. They ate porridge. They ate porridge like people who lived in cooperatives.

VDP: How about children who were along with their parents in Phnom Troyaung?

SS: They gave a little porridge like we were living in villages. Staying in the prison had the same food regime as people who were in cooperatives. It was not much different.

VDP: Which one was better than if we compare about forced labor in Phnom Troyaung and people who were in cooperatives?

SS: For example, people who were in cooperatives could take potatoes or rice... to eat besides their food regime if KR cadres were not near them. However, we could not find other food outside when we were in the prison. The prison was stricter than the cooperatives. The KR always guarded them when they were forced to work in the fields.

VDP: They did not get enough food, so were the prisoners able to go to quarry rocks? How could they quarry rocks that you have mentioned above that the KR forced the prisoners to quarry rocks?

SS: Yes. The KR forced them to quarry rocks almost every day. The prisoners had to go and they struggled. The prisoners ate porridge together and quarried rocks every day.

VDP: Did you see people die at Phnom Troyaung?

SS: Yes. Some of them died by disease and starvation. Yes sure, people were alive and died in the prison like this. Even people who were in cooperatives that were not arrested and put in the prison when they got sick, they got only rabbit shit's medicine (The KR produced medicine by mixing sugar

palm or honey and some natural plants. Usually, the medicine looked like rabbit shit and Cambodians usually called the medicine rabbit shit's medicine) to treat many diagnosed diseases such as headaches, and fever as well. They had no quality medicines to cure diseases like today.

VDP: How about the Phnom Troyaung Security Prison compound?

SS: Yes. It was large. It was extended in the eastern part of the mountain. That was a large area.

VDP: How many kilometers for the area?

SS: Oh! I don't know how many hectares, but it was a large compound that included farms, where the prisoners were forced to plant. It was large.

VDP: Do you know the boundary of Phnom Troyaung from where to where?

SS: They did not plant a hedgerow. It just was a field and they had not planted a hedgerow surrounding the area. They just built long halls for prisoners and guards; there was no fence or wall surrounding the area. We could go in or out if the KR allowed.

VDP: You just mentioned above, you said that Ta Nop sent you to Phnom Troyaung security prison and you said that you went to [Yeay] Chaem's place. So, did you know [Yeay] Chaem at that time?

SS: [Yeay] Chaem! If we talk about [Yeay] Chaem, she was a big boss at that time, everyone would be able to know her well, even people who were not KR cadres and they all knew her well, too. So, many of the KR or local residents the same as my age or older than me knew [Yeay] Chaem well, because she was presided over meetings most locations within Preah Netr Preah district. She also attended a meeting at Rohal sub-district and everyone knew [Yeay] Chaem's face very well.

VDP: You say that many knew [Yeay] Chaem's face, and heard [[Yeay] Chaem's name. So did you mean that you know her or knew her?

SS: It meant that, I saw her and knew that this is [Yeay] Chaem.

VDP: So. Did you see [Yeay] Chaem when you were guarding at Phnom Troyaung Security Prison?

SS: Sometimes, I saw her.

VDP: Did you see her at her house or at Phnom Troyaung Security Prison?

SS: At that time, I saw her when she was at home.

VDP: At her house, right?

SS: Right.

VDP: Where is her house?

SS: At Phnom Leap.

VDP: How did you see her at her house, because you had a duty at Phnom Troyaung Security Prison?

SS: No. I saw her for the last time and it was soon before the Vietnamese arrived and liberated the Cambodian people. At that time she called for a meeting.

VDP: She called for all security guards to have a meeting, right?

SS: Right. She called for a meeting.

VDP: Where did they organize the meeting?

SS: She organized the meeting at her house.

VDP: What did she say during the meeting?

SS: She gave advice that Yuon would arrive in Cambodia soon. So, we had to pay attention. She added that Youn used to take Cambodian heads to boil water for Vietnamese boss's tea. After her speech we were frightened, because we were still young and did not know anything related the history.

VDP: Did you ever see [Yeay] Chaem at Phnom Troyaung Security Prison?

SS: I do not know whether she visited the prison or not, but I did not see her when I was in the prison.

VDP: In which part of the Phnom Troyaung Security Prison did you used to stay and guard?

SS: I was in the eastern part of the mountain.

VDP: How far was it between your place and the detention hall?

SS: The hall was like this and my place was in the eastern part like that. It was between that national road and this fence.

VDP: It could around fifty meters?

SS: Yes. It was proximately 100 meters. It was a bit far.

VDP: So, the detention hall was built in the northern part of the mountain right?

SS: It was close to the mountain, it was in eastern part like this and I was in the eastern part like that and this point we separated into groups or cells.

VDP: Could you please draw the place, where is the Phnom Troyaung, where is your place and where is detention hall?

SS: For example: This is a big hall and there is a mountain like this and they built the hall close to the mountain like this. The long hall likes this and they built the cooperative hall or kitchen hall in the eastern part. For example, there is the kitchen hall and there were local resident's houses following this... However, this is not 100 percent correct, because I am not good at drawing.

VDP: Where is your place? This is Phnom Troyaung right?

SS: Right. This is a long hall.

VDP: The long hall was a place for the prisoners, right?

SS: Right. It was for the prisoners.

VDP: The prisoners were chained right?

SS: Not all prisoners were in the hall. The long hall like this and some prisoners were chained and then they slept in the long hall.

VDP: Where is the place where you used to guard the prisoners?

SS: I guarded at this place.

VDP: At this place, right?

SS: Right. The kitchen hall was like this and my place was like that.

VDP: So this is your place to guard the prisoners, right?

SS: Right.

VDP: Is this the kitchen hall?

SS: The communal kitchen hall, when the KR hit a bell and people came to communal eating.

VDP: How far was it from your guarding place to the detention center?

SS: It was proximately 100 meters.

VDP: From this to this, right?

SS: Right. It is a bit far.

VDP: Is it proximately 100 meters?

SS: Yes.

VDP: How far was it from Kitchen hall to this place?

SS: This is far similar to the place above and this is [Ta] Soeun place.

VDP: Where is [Ta] Soeun place?

SS: Yes. At that time the big boss (VIP) was at this.

VDP: [Ta] Soeun was at this! If we were going to [Yeay] Chaem's house, which direction Would we take?

SS: [Yeay] Chae lived in another mountain near a national road.

VDP: This mountain, right?

SS: Right.

VDP: Could you draw from [Ta] Soeun's place to [Yeay] Chaem's house?

SS: From [Ta] Soeun's place to [Yeay] Chaem's house, it is on this road. It was a bit far, it was in that mountain.

VDP: So, it goes on this road, right?

SS: Right.

VDP: The road goes this right!

SS: The road goes to a national road.

VDP: This direction goes to [Yeay] Chaem's house, right?

SS: Right. A mountain like this and [Yeay] Chaem's like that.

VDP: So, this road has to pass [Ta] Soeun's place, right?

SS: Right. For example this is Phnom Troyaung. For example this is the security place and this is [Ta] Soeun's place. We had stayed and guarded several places and I forget now, it took place such a long time ago. I realize that I am not able to draw with detail. I am just brief on it.

VDP: So, you mentioned above that the Vietnamese would arrive in Cambodia soon and [Yeay] Chaem called you and other security guards to have a meeting?

SS: She had a meeting at her house.

VDP: Did [Ta] Soeun attend the meeting?

SS: I did not know. I seem to have forgotten. [Yeay] Chaem called for a meeting for one time. I do not know if [Ta] Soeun attended or not. I forgot, because soon after the meeting, Yuon had already arrived in Preah Netr Preah. She called for a meeting at her house and she told the participants to please pay attention that Yuon would shoot and behead people with the stems of sugar palms. We were young and feared the Vietnamese. So, we fled into the forest along with KR cadres.

VDP: Did you see mass graves when you were at Phnom Troyaung?

SS: I did not find. I did not see. The KR did not want us to know about this, because we were still young. I want to say and give an example that we were young boys. So, the KR did not want us to know about some things that happened in the prison.

VDP: Were people in your group, such as Kech, Yay, Ay, and Thoeun the same age as you?

SS: Yes. We were similar in age with each other. We were gentle and we did not know about this.

VDP: Who was the oldest in your group?

SS: No. We were all young. Other groups were older than my group. No one in my group was old.

VDP: Small groups like your group. So, who was your group leader?

SS: There was no leader. We were the same position and were ordered by [Ta] Soeun.

VDP: You were the same position. So, who had the right to decide when you all were guarding the prisoners?

SS: We just alternatively woke up and guarded from one person to another person.

VDP: Do you know if [Ta] Soeun is still alive?

SS: He is alive.

VDP: He is still alive?

SS: Yes.

VDP: Where does he live? Do you know the information that where he is living now?

SS: I have not seen him since around four, or five, or six years ago and I don't know if he is still alive or not at the moment.

VDP: Where did you see him the last time?

SS: I saw him in Sasda.

VDP: What did you do when you met with him?

SS: I went there to hire labor at potato, corn farms. I tried to go there and saw him.

VDP: Did he recognize you?

SS: He saw me and he also recognized me. I called him first.

VDP: Did he know your name or did he know only your face?

SS: He knew my name.

VDP: Did he know both your face and name?

SS: Yes.

VDP: What year did you meet with him?

SS: Around four or five years ago. I don't know an exact year. I do not remember.

VDP: What did he look like when you saw him the last time?

SS: I saw him last time and I said hello to him and he also talked to me. He asked me, where I was living? I told him that I am living in Chup. And I also asked him where is he living? He replied that he is living in Sasda.

VDP: What is Sasda, it is a village or a commune?

SS: Sasda is a market area. His house is close to a casino and it is in the western part of the casino's wall.

VDP: What did he do when you saw him?

SS: He was looking at wood.

VDP: Does he have a wooden business?

SS: Yes. The KR just chopped down trees during that time. It was plenty of luxury woods. There were luxury wood of local residents. At that time, they chopped trees and sold it to Thailand.

VDP: What is the casino's name?

SS: I don't know. I was not interested in knowing the casino's name at that time.

VDP: You did not know the casino's name, right?

SS: Right. However, the casino is located along the Cambodia-Thailand border checkpoint. This is the casino and that is his house. There was only one casino during that time and I don't know if there is another casino in Sasda at the moment.

VDP: Do you know in what village and commune that he is living?

SS: I don't know. I am not sure if it is within Sampov Loun or Sasda. I don't know about this. So, I don't want to guess that it is Sampov Loun or Sasda.

VDP: I heard that [Ta] Soeun had a thick mustache, right?

SS: Right. He has a thick mustache.

VDP: He had a thick mustache when he was a chief of security guards at Phnom Troyaung, right?

SS: Right. He had. However he always shaved it.

VDP: How about the last time that you met with him?

SS: He shaved it as normal.

VDP: Did he still have a thick mustache?

SS: Yes.

VDP: How about his health when you met him last time?

SS: He is not bad. I saw him read a Buddhist book. He often reads the book.

VDP: How about Phim?

SS: He disappeared! He returned to his homeland. He came from Takeo Province. I don't know about people who came from Takeo Province. We dissolved from each other and I did not know where he was going.

VDP: How about Thang?

SS: Maybe he returned to his homeland. Because he disappeared, I don't know if he died or is alive. He returned to his homeland, and he disappeared since we dissolved from each other in 1979.

VDP: How about Phan? Did you hear from him?

SS: [Ta] Phan?

VDP: Yes.

SS: [Ta] Phan was in Preah Netr Preah. He was a KR cadre in North West Zone. He was a deputy chief of Preah Netr Preah Sub-District.

VDP: Where is he living now?

SS: I went to hire labor in Malai district, I saw him and I called him when he was walking along a road and he quickly responded to me, "yes". Then I asked him where is he living? He told me that he lives over there. At that time I was in a Taxi. I saw him, I only said hello to him. He managed here during the KR time. He was a deputy chief of the sub-district. [Ta] Krak was a chief of the sub-district. [Ta] Krak has already died and his birthplace is in Khlong, SaSar Sdam, Siem Reap Province.

VDP: When did you meet with [Ta] Phan and where?

SS: I met him near 93 Pagoda. It located in the eastern part of Malai District. There is a hill which has a pagoda. It is called 93 Mountain which has a pagoda there.

VDP: Is there a pagoda?

SS: That's right. There is a hill and a pagoda that people call Watt 93.

VDP: He was a passenger and joined a taxi with you or he was a local resident there?

SS: He did not know me, because I was in a taxi that passed and then I saw him, I called him and he responded to me yes, however he may not have identified me as who I am and then the taxi passed him. We did not talk to each other anymore. So I guessed that he responded to me yes, but he did not know me.

VDP: How was his dress when you saw [Ta] Phan? He was a local resident or...

SS: I saw him, he wore clothes like local people.

LD: Did he live at 93 or he was he a passenger?

SS: I did not know Ta Phan's biography, because his ancestors did not live in Preah Netr Preah. I don't know whether he came here during Lon Nol or Pol Pot regimes. He came from the Southern part. Could you please ask Mr. Huy, he may know [Ta] Phan's biography?

LD: No. I just wanted to ask you about the place that you had met with him at...

SS: I don't know.

VDP: What did you think, was he a local resident or he was a passenger when you met with him at 93?

SS: No. He was not a passenger.

VDP: He walked along the road, right?

SS: Right. He was walking and I said hello to him.

VDP: What did he answer?

SS: He answered yes. With regard to my understanding of his background, he has not dared to return to Preah Netr Preah. He is not a bad guy. However, he was a KR cadre. So he left the sub-district when the Vietnamese arrived and the KR collapsed. He came to live there and I think that he may not dare to return to Preah Netr Preah Sub-District. He is scared of his shadow and he is also an intellectual.

LD: What is his wife's name?

SS: I don't know.

VDP: Did you do not know her?

SS: Yes. I don't know his wife's name.

VDP: Did you know her face?

SS: I saw her. Her body has appearance of skin disease.

LD: What kind of skin disease?

SS: Her skin was coming off from all over her body.

VDP: Oh! Coming off like blotched?

SS: Yes. Blotched.

VDP: How about [Ta] Soeun's wife?

SS: No matter.

VDP: She is a normal like other people?

SS: Yes. [Ta] Soeun was a high class people.

LD: What was [Ta] Phan's name when you met with him? Did you call him by [Ta] Phan's name or by another name?

SS: I called him by [Ta] Phan. Eh, [Ta] Phan.

LD: So, he looked at you right?

SS: Right. He looked at me. I asked someone and he/she told me that [Ta] Phan lives in Phnom 93.

LD: How old was he when you met him, if you could guess?

SS: [Ta] Phan may be in his late sixties at the present.

VDP: Late sixties?

SS: Yes. I don't say he is seventy. According to my guessing, I say, he is only sixty-seventy or sixty-eight.

VDP: Where did you go while you met [Ta] Phan?

SS: I just said as above, I went to hire labor at corn and bean farms there.

VDP: When did you meet with him?

SS: Around four, five, or six years ago.

VDP: Did you meet with him at the same time with [Ta] Soeun?

SS: Yes. I met him quite by accident.

VDP: Did you meet him in the same year that you met with [Ta] Soeun?

SS: No. One year later. It was in different years.

LD: How about [Ta] Soeun? How old he is now?

SS: Around sixty or seventy. According to my guessing he may be in his late sixties or seventy. It was long ago and I am more than fifty years old now.

LD: Do you know any prisoners that live in your village or your commune from when you were a security guard?

SS: I know some.

LD: They were imprisoned there and they now live in your village?

SS: It was mixed together; some live near and other live far away from here.

LD: Did you remember or know any prisoners, and please tell us about their names?

SS: He is a Buddhist monk now.

VDP: What is he name?

SS: His name is Thang and he is a Buddhist monk in Preah Netr Preah Pagoda.

LD: What is his name again?

SS: Thang.

LD: He is a Buddhist monk in Preah Netr Preah Pagoda, right?

SS: Right.

VDP: It was not Thang you have mentioned above. Is it?

SS: Oh, that Thang was a soldier. It is different between Thang who was a soldier and Thang who was a prisoner and who is now a Buddhist monk.

LD: Did you know someone else besides the venerable Thang?

SS: I don't know. I could not know all the prisoners, because I saw them only for a short period of time.

VDP: How did you know Thang who was imprisoned there?

SS: He was near me. He rested near my place.

VDP: Was he near your guarding place?

SS: Yes. He rested there and I knew him. I asked him, where do you come from? He told me that he lives in Preah Netr Preah. I added that why did the KR send you here? He said, he was in Kang Va and he is a former Lon Nol soldier. However, the KR did not torture and kill him. He is still alive until today. After the KR collapsed in 1979, he joined as a soldier of PRK until his retirement and then, he was ordained as a Buddhist monk.

LD: How many sub-districts were there within Preah Netr Preah District during the KR time?

SS: I don't know, I don't remember that how many sub-districts there were during that time.

LD: You just mentioned, you were in Chup Vary, Rohal Sub-Districts and then, you were in the Phnom Troyaung Security Prison within Phnom Leap Sub-District and Preah Netr Preah Sub-District right?

SS: Right.

LD: Were there any besides the four sub-districts above?

SS: Today, I don't know which sub-districts they integrated with each other.

LD: No. I want to ask you about the KR time.

SS: Tean Kam Sub-District, Kiri Woan Sub-District.

LD: Tean Kam Sub-District, Kiri Woan Sub-District!

SS: Yes. Chup Vary, Rohal, Phnom Leap Sub-Districts, I only remember the many sub-districts as mentioned above; beside these, I don't know.

LD: Who was the Phnom Leap Sub-District chief?

SS: I don't know.

LD: You don't know!

SS: Yes. At that time, I rarely knew the prisoners.

LD: When you were in Rohal [Ta] Nop was a chief of Rohal Sub-District, right?

SS: Right.

LD: Do you know where he is living now?

SS: He died.

VDP: How did he die?

SS: He died by his disease.

VDP: So, did he survive after the KR collapse in 1979 and he died in the aftermath?

SS: No.

VDP: Did he die during the KR regime?

SS: He died when the Vietnamese arrived in Cambodia. He died because he was down from his position and of old age.

LD: How about Tha (female)?

SS: She disappeared when the Vietnamese arrived and we no longer associated with each other.

LD: Did you know, what was her position when she moved to Pheas?

SS: As I mentioned above that I don't know if she was a sub-district chief or a chief of cooperative. I don't know, because we were far away from each other.

LD: How about [Ta] Rous who was a chief of Chup Vary Sub-District?

SS: Last time, when the Vietnamese arrived, we disassociated with each other. So I don't know if he died or is still alive, because he comes from far away from here.

LD: [Ta] Ruos and [Ta] Nonh were chief of Chup Vary Sub-District right?

SS: Right.

LD: How about [Ta] Nonh?

SS: [Ta] Nonh disappeared too and I don't know where he went, because he continued to serve as a KR soldier. I don't know where he went. He was a KR commander and someone told me that he lives in Phnom Chral or Tral. I don't know the place.

LD: What is the Phnom?

SS: Phnom Tral, I only heard people call that and he lives there.

LD: How about Tien Kam Sub-District's chief?

SS: Where?

LD: Who is a chief of Tien Kam Sub-District?

SS: There were [Ta] Nonh, [Ta] Sar, and [Ta] Ruos.

LD: They were on the Chup Vary Sub-District committee right?

SS: I was not sure about the two sub-districts. I was still young during the time. I only called it Chup Vary and I don't know whether it was within Tien Kam Sub-District or not. I seem to be losing this information. I did not stay in one place and I moved from one place to another place quite often. I was forced to overwork, and I thought that I would die during the time. We had never had free time; we always had a stick of wood on our shoulders.

LD: How about another sub-district?

SS: Which one?

LD: What was the sub-district that you just mentioned above?

SS: Tien Kam Sub-District, right!

LD: Tien Kan was already another sub-district?

SS: Chup Vary!

LD: How about Prey Moan?

SS: Prey Moan was within Rohal Sub-District.

LD: [Ta] Krak was a chief of Preah Netr Preah Sub-District, right?

SS: Right. He was a chief.

LD: [Ta] Phan was a deputy chief, right?

SS: Right.

LD: When did [Ta] Phan became a deputy chief?

SS: Too long ago. He probably was since 1975, because I saw him since the first time - both [Ta] Krak and [Ta] Phan. However, I don't know an exact date. They were since the early days until the cadres from the South West Zone took power from them.

LD: What did he do after the South West cadres arrived?

SS: [Ta] Krak was arrested when the cadres arrived and [Ta] Phan tried to gain favor from the South West cadres.

LD: Did you know about his position during the time?

SS: [Ta] Phan, right?

LD: Right.

SS: I knew. He was a big boss and it was easy to know him. For example, we are normal people and they are big bosses, but and we found it easy to know them. They were big bosses; they always went to work and meetings across the sub-district and we were able to identify who they were. While we were normal people, when someone came to ask for us he/she hardly could find us, but if they were big bosses, we could easily find them by knowing that they lived in this place or that place.

LD: Who was a chief of Preah Netr Preah Sub-District after they arrested [Ta] Krak?

SS: I don't know.

LD: A South West cadre took his position?

SS: Yes. He was replaced by a South West cadre. However, I don't know [who replaced him]. Please ask [Ta] Huy and he may know about this.

LD: Did you know Trapeang Veng Village?

SS: Trapeang Veng within Preah Netr Preah, right?

LD: Right.

SS: Trapeang Veng is near the military tank garrison right now.

LD: Who was the village's chief during that time?

SS: I don't know.

LD: Do you know [Neary] Man, [Neary] Han, and [Neary] Aun?

SS: No. We had no contact with each other. Almost like from one village to another village if we had no connection we would have not known each other. If we wanted to travel from one village to another village, we had to ask for permission. It was very strict. If they did not allow us, we could not travel during that time. It was not easy as today.

LD: Did you know [Yeay] Chaem clearly?

SS: Yes, Clearly. I knew her clearly when she went to have a meeting. I knew her; however I never contacted her or talked to her. I just saw her.

LD: What was her position?

SS: She was a chief of a district.

LD: Which district?

SS: I don't know whether she was a district chief or a regional chief. As for her husband, he was Phnom Srok District's chief.

LD: Her husband was Phnom Srok District's chief, right?

SS: Right.

LD: What is her husband's name?

SS: His name is Nhen. I don't know whether he is still alive or not.

LD: How about Preah Netr Preah District?

SS: I was not close to them. However, [Ta] Maong was Preah Netr Preah District's chief and [Ta] Sam-at was second.

LD: They all died, right?

SS: They all were arrested.

LD: Do you know who came to arrest them?

SS: The South West cadres arrived and took over their position and then, [Ta] Maong and [Ta] Sam-at were arrested.

LD: Who was the district's chief after [Ta] Maong and [Ta] Sam-at were arrested?

SS: I don't know after the event. It was chaos and hard to know. They arrested a lot of the chain of command of the old cadres.

LD: When did [Yeay] Chaem come here?

SS: She arrived. I don't know what year that I started to see her, but I saw her around 1977. I do not know an exact year. I saw her in 1977 or 1978. However, I did not know the cadres who came before [Yeay] Chaem and I never saw them.

LD: Who did [Yeay] Chaem come to replace, [Ta] Maong or...?

SS: I did not know during the time. I heard only that she was a district chief. I don't know, but she was only at Phnom Leap. She was probably a district chief and I heard only [Yeay] Chaem.

LD: Did [Yeay] Chaem know the Phnom Troyaung security prison?

SS: She was near the place. Phnom Troyaung and Phnom Leap are only a few kilometers away.

LD: How many kilometers was it from her house to Phnom Troyaung?

SS: It is around four or five kilometers. It is not far from each other.

LD: Do you know who [Yeay] Chaem's deputy chief was?

SS: No. I don't know. I don't hide them, but I really don't know about this.

VDP: You said, you know [Yeay] Chaem, because she went to have meetings in this place and that place, right?

SS: Right. She came to have meeting with villagers.

VDP: Did she have meetings when you were at Phnom Troyaung or before? Did you attend the meetings that were led by [Yeay] Chaem? How many times did she come to have meetings?

SS: No. I went to attend the meeting only one time at her house and then the Vietnamese arrived in Cambodia. It was not quite often.

VDP: So, did you hear [Yeay] Chaem's name before you were in Phnom Troyaung?

SS: She went to have a meeting in Rohal Sub-District.

VDP: She went to have a meeting in Rohal!

SS: Yes. She went to have a meeting in Rohal.

VDP: Did you see [Yeay] Chaem at that time?

SS: I saw her. She came to have a meeting with the villagers.

VDP: Did you attend the meeting?

SS: Yes.

VDP: In Rohal!

SS: Yes. She came to have a meeting with the villagers, and we saw her.

VDP: Did you see her in Chup Vary Sub-District?

SS: I did not see her there. I only saw her the one time when she was in Rohal.

VDP: How many times did you see her in Rohal?

SS: I saw her only one time during the meeting.

VDP: What did she say when she was leading the meeting in Rohal?

SS: She said only about harvest and crop production. She talked about crop production and she advised us to work hard for the KR Angkar. They spoke only in their logical framework. The communist word is very hard.

VDP: So, when [Ta] Nop sent you to Phnom Troyaung Security Prison, you saw [Yeay] Chaem again?

SS: Yes. I saw her again just before the Vietnamese arrived in Cambodia in 1979, when she called for a meeting.

VDP: Did you know [Yeay] was near Phnom Troyaung when you were in Phnom Troyaung Security Prison?

SS: I knew about her village.

VDP: Yes.

SS: I knew. I saw her house at that time and the house is scattered today.

VDP: You said, you knew [Yeay] Chaem was in Phnom Troyaung when [Yeay] Chaem called for a meeting!

SS: She called us to have a meeting in Phnom Leap. She was in Phnom Leap.

VDP: So, did you know [Yeay] Chaem was in Phnom Leap before you were in Phnom Troyaung?

SS: I knew.

VDP: How did you know?

SS: I knew when I arrived. She was a big boss and everybody could easily get to know her, because her place had bodyguards to guard her house. So we found it easy to know. Moreover, people told me that this is [Yeay] Chaem's place. So we remembered that this is [Yeay] Chaem's place.

VDP: So, you were in Troyaung Security Prison before [Yeay] Chaem called for a meeting and did you know that [Yeay] Chaem was in Phnom Leap before that?

SS: Yes. I knew.

VDP: How did you know?

SS: She was near a national road. So, it was easy to see.

VDP: So, did you ever go out to the national road, otherwise how did you see [Yeay] Chaem's house?

SS: Yes. Because, it was a road go in and out. Her house was in Phnom Leap like this and the road goes in and out like that. So, it was easy to see her house. Her house was on the right-hand side. However I forgot the place at the present, because no house is at that place and the people built new houses in the surrounding area. The villagers bought the spot and built new houses. I do not remember and I have lost the place now.

LD: Did you know [Ta] Kann?

SS: I don't know.

LD: I seem to have no more questions to ask you. So, do you have any information to add that we did not ask you?

SS: I have not. I don't know how to speak. But what I spoke, what I told, I told almost my experience during the time. I have no mere idea on this.

VDP: So, is it ok if we write an article about what you have told us related to your experience during the KR regime?

SS: How will you write the article?

VDP: We will write about your life so that the younger generation can be able to learn and understand about your experience during the KR time and know that you are still alive until the present. That is a lesson for them to learn. Do you allow us to write it?

SS: No matter, it is up to your organization. That's alright; if you think that it is proper to write a book and documents, because it is a kind of your work.

VDP: Thank you so much for your time.

SS: Yes.

VDP: Say, you mentioned above that your birthplace in...

SS: Stoeng Kambot Village.

LD: What is the sub-district?

SS: Rohal.

LD: Preah Netr Preah District!

SS: Preah Netr Preah District, Battambang Province in a previous time.

LD: How about today?

SS: Yes. I live in Chop Chakry Village.

LD: Cho Chakrey Village within Preah Netr Preah Sub-District, right?

SS: Chup Vary Sub-District.

LD: Preah Netr Preah District!

SS: Yes.

LD: Thank you so much!

SS: Yes.

[End]