

# មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

## KAMPONG SPEU PROVINCE

District	Site Name/ Visit Date	# of graves	Est. Victim	Witness	File #ID Code	Latitude	Longitude
Phnom Sruoch	PA3/ 8 June 1998	<sup>1</sup> 1 trench	50	Sann Cheav សាន់ ជាវ៉ែ	R 060805A/ 050601	N 11°20'4057"	E 104°21'2078"
Phnom Sruoch	PA2/ 8 June 1998	1 trench	50	Sann Cheav សាន់ ជាវ៉ែ	R 060804A/ 050602	N 11°20'4776"	E 104°21'0729"
Phnom Sruoch	PA1/ 8 June 1998	1 trench	60	Sann Cheav សាន់ ជាវ៉ែ	R 060805B/ 050603	N 11°20'4849"	E 104°20'4513"
Phnom Sruoch	Kunleak Mountain/ 8 June 1998	3 kilns	10-12	Chey Ros ជែ រស់	R 060807B/ 050604	N 11°25'5843"	E 104°20'2438"
Phnom Sruoch	Kiri Boeng Chum/ 8 June 1998	3 pits	50-60	Chey Ros ជែ រស់	R 060808A/ 050605	N 11°25'1758"	E 104°20'2656"
Oudong	Prey Kdam Pornng/ 9 June 1998	3 craters	450-600	Sok Sophon សុក សុផុន	R 060908A/ 050501	N 11°39'4881"	E 104°37'3925"
Oudong	Russei Muoy Kum/ 9 June 1998	800-1,000 pits	3,200-4,000	Phon Phoeun ផុន ភឿន	R 060909A/ 050502	N 11°43'3725"	E 104°38'5819"
Thpong	Sre Ta Moeun/ 10 June 1998	1 Mass grave	1,000	Sun Sem ស៊ុន សែម	R 061005A/ 050801	N 11°47'1253"	E 104°21'3419"
Thpong	Prey Kbal Khmaoch/ 10 June 1998	50-70 pits	1,500	Sun Sem ស៊ុន សែម	R 061005B/ 050802	N 11°45'0265"	E 104°25'0374"

### Monday, June 8, 1998

The mapping team of the Documentation Center of Cambodia departed from Phnom Penh City at 6 a.m. We arrived at the provincial town of Kampong Speu province at 8 a.m. There, our team met with Mr. Yim Sokhom, Third Deputy Provincial Governor, to discuss our plan and to work out how they could facilitate our research. The Governor issued an introductory permission for us to be able to visit all relevant offices and districts throughout the province. After that, we met with Colonel

<sup>1</sup> Note: Estimated 160 victims were reportedly killed at PA1, PA2, and PA3.

Meach Moeun at the Police Headquarters of Kampong Speu province. He issued another introductory permission for us to present to the police headquarters of certain districts we planned to visit in Kampong Speu. Kampong Speu province covers highland area with mountains and forests and is located along National Route 4 about 48 kilometers from Phnom Penh city. In the Khmer Rouge time, it was in the Southwest Zone and National Route 4 divided the Zone into two regions—Region 33 south of the road and Region 32 north of the road. At 9:40 a.m., our team departed from Kampong Speu provincial town along National Route 4 to Phnom Sruoch District Office where we arrived at 10 a.m. There, we met with Mr. Nuon Chorn, Chief of the district office and Mr. Satya Vuth, Governor of the district and District Office Police Commissioner. We expected to meet the officials from the District Culture Office because they are the ones who can provide us with precise information for our mapping team, but we did not for they were preoccupied with their jobs with the District Election Commission. However, Mr. District Governor reported to us as follows:

**June 8, 1998**

### ***Phnom Sruoch District Genocide Sites***

- |                                |   |                                                                    |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. O sub-district              | : | PA1, PA2, PA3, and Tuol Dar execution sites.                       |
| 2. Dambauk Khpuos sub-district | : | Sdok El and Tong Long executions sites.                            |
| 3. Prey Khmeng sub-district    | : | Prey Khmeng execution site.                                        |
| 4. Taing Sya sub-district      | : | Kunleak Mountain, Kapp Chhke, and Khloh Mountain, execution sites. |

Phnom Sruoch district is situated along National Route 4, about 20 kilometers from the provincial town. On the left of the road is the high land area with rich forests and big mountains. Phnom Sruoch district has 12 sub-districts and it is bordered on:

- the west by Sre Ambel district in Koh Kong province,
- the north by Oral District,
- the south by Baseth district, and
- the east by Samrong Tong district.

The area south of the road is very remote and insecurity pervades. According to the local authority, former Khmer Rouge soldiers, after making no money since their defection to the government, have resorted to robbery and kidnapping of rich-looking travelers and foreigners. Such incidents had happened very often until February, 1998 and they are still a threat now; we saw fresh-looking notices saying that *if anyone dares go into that area around that mountain just a few kilometers south of the road would be killed and would have grass-stuffed in abdomen.* At 10:30 a.m. of the same day, we departed from the district office to visit the sites

suggested by the district governor. First we went to O sub-district and met with Mr. Khieu Moeun at the Culture and Education Office of O sub-district. We were joined by two district policemen and walked about 100 meters to the south of the road where we reached Mr. Moeun's house. He elaborated to us all sites he knew of in O sub-district.

**Genocide site: P.A.1, P.A.2, P.A.3<sup>2</sup> (P.A.3 050601 B- P.A. 2 050602 B-P.A. 1 050603 B)**

**O Sub-district**

We went straight to these sites, 1 kilometer back along National Route 4, then turned right and after about 1.5 kilometers, turned left to the sites at Wat Putrea. Over there, we met with the police chief in charge of the police base at this Wat. We asked about security situation and after learning that it was fine, looked for those who knew, saw and lived there in the past.

**Witnesses**

We met with Mr. Sann Cheav, currently Deputy Chief of Roluos village, O sub-district, and Phnom Sruoch district. In the Khmer Rouge regime, his job was producing palm sugar in the same village. He told us that, to the east of the wat about 1,000 to 1,200 meters away, there were two killing sites: PA1 and PA2 and to the west of the Wat, there was one site, PA3. He said that between 1970 and 1975, PA1 and PA2 are the bases where Lon Nol's soldiers set up their front lines. They built large triangle-shaped trenches with pointed corners of 2 meters deep in order to place small and big weapons, and to serve as trenches for those soldiers. Each site of the trenches is around 50 to 60 meters.

**Victims**

Mr. Sann Cheav told us that between 1974-75 the Khmer Rouge controlled the area and used these trenches for killing Lon Nol soldiers who were tied and brought from Doh Kanh Chor Army Base in the same district. The Khmer Rouge cadres brought in the victims every day at 9 a.m. and killed them at 10 or 10:30 a.m. by firing. Mr. Sann Cheav saw from a palm tree when he was preparing palm juice, hearing voices from the distance crying for help and then screaming in pain. The witness told us that victims were simply killed without graves being dug. Bodies were just placed on the ground surface in the triangle-shaped trenches. All remains were eaten by animals such as pigs, or cows etc.

**Number of victims**

According to the witness, between 10 and 12 people were tied up in one line. About 3 to 5 lines were taken to be killed at each site. The estimated number would be 30 in each site. The estimated number would be 30 in each site, making a total of 160 victims in these site, making a total of around 160 victims in these three sites.

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<sup>2</sup> PA1, PA2, PA3 are the names of the Lon Nol military bases, which are still called today by the villagers.

## **Documents**

We interviewed Mr. Sann Cheav, one more time to give a complementary information and took a picture of him for future identification. At 3 p.m., we went to lunch at Trapeang Kraloeng Market. At 4 p.m., we went to the killing sites in Taing Sya sub-district. We did not find any documents but we found Mr. Sann Chheav.<sup>3</sup>

### **Kunleak Mountain            050604            B Taing Sya Sub-district (050604)**

This site is about 500 to 600 meters from Kraing Takan village. We walked through the forest along an ox-cart trail. We found Mr. Chhey Ros, 53, who came with us and agreed to be witness. Presently, he lives in Kraing Ta Kan village, Taing Sya sub-district, Phnom Sruoch district. In the Khmer Rouge time, he was imprisoned. In 1979, he returned to his native village.

## **Witnesses**

Mr. Chey Ros told us that he had heard about the killings at this site known as Kunleak Mountain, where victims were brought in and killed in between 1975-76. He saw with his own eyes that the Khmer Rouge cadres pushed the victims into the charcoal kilns of 4 meters wide and 1.5 meters deep. (Estimated 20-30 victims were killed in each of 3 kilns, totaling up to 50-60 victims). The victims were ordinary people and Khmer Rouge cadres who were accused of committing immoral acts.

### **Kiry Boeng Chum            050605            B Taing Sya sub-district**

This genocide site lies at the foot of Kruos Mountain about 100 meters to the south of Wat Kiri Boeng Chum in Kraing Ta Kan village. The victims were also pushed into charcoal kilns but the total number is only from 10-12 victims.

## **Remains of victims**

The villagers have not collected bones or skulls to keep as a memorial because this area was long occupied by the Khmer Rouge until 1985.

## **Victims**

The victims were Khmer Rouge cadres or villagers accused of committing immoral acts, brought from other places. We did not have supporting documents but we based this information on Mr. Chey Ros, who knew, heard, and saw with his own eyes. We took pictures of him and recorded our interview with him on a cassette tape.

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<sup>3</sup> Note that relevant documents may be available from the District Culture Office. Unfortunately, they could not be met, as they were busy with their work for the District Election Commission.

## **Conclusion**

We have made good contact with local authorities at the provincial and district levels and the police. We were able to make visits to only 5 sites in two sub-districts, O and Taing Sya sub-districts. Yet, we were not absolutely satisfied with this achievement. Going through the local authority from province to sub-district levels took us half a day allowing us only short time to work on the first day of our visit. Secondly, the security is not so favorable. Thirdly, the culture officials who hold documents could not be reached as mentioned above. We hope to return to this site again in the future.

## **Further recommendation**

Large sites to be targeted in the future are:

- Dambauk Khpuos sub-district (Sdok El, Tong Long, execution site).
- Taing Sya sub-district (Kopp Chhke, executions site).
- O sub-district (Tuol Da, executions site).

Reportedly, these execution sites are mass massacre sites because top leaders were there in the Khmer Rouge time. This is our important hint for the next visit. We need to allow more time and arrange for increased security escorts.

**June 9, 1998**

## ***Oudong District***

At 1 p.m., our mapping team arrived at Oudong District Office to inquire about genocide sites, witnesses and documents related to the genocide sites in Oudong district. At 2 p.m., we met with Mr. Sok Sophon, District Chief. The capital of Oudong is Batt Doeng, which is located along Route 23, about 6 kilometers from National Route 5. It was in Region 15 of the Southwest Zone in the Khmer Rouge regime. Oudong district is bordered on:

- the west by Thpong district, Kampong Speu province,
- the east by Ang Snuol and Ponhea Leu district, Kandal province,
- the north by Samaki Meanchey and Kampong Tralach district in Kampong Chhnang province, and
- the south by Samraong Tong district, Kampong Speu district.

## **People of Oudong**

The people make their living by farming, producing sugar palm. There are 15 sub-districts and 25 villages. The population is 973,000 (1998). The genocide sites in Oudong district are reported as follows:

- Boeng Va village, Trach Tong sub-district.
- Russei Muoy Kum sub-district, and Trach Tong sub-district.
- Prey Kdam Pornng, Chan Sen sub-district.

### **Prey Kdam Pornng 050501 B Chan Sen sub-district**

We departed from National Route 4 from the district office of Oudong toward the sub-district office of Chan Sen. There, we met with the sub-district Chief named Mr. Chhuop Saran, and several other villagers. We collected information about genocide sites at Prey Kdam Pornng, according to two witnesses, Mr. Chuop Saran, Chief of Chan Sen sub-district, and Mr. Bou Moeun, 45, in Trapeang Antong village, Chan Sen sub-district. In the Khmer Rouge time, he was a militiaman in this village.

### **Victims**

According to the witness mentioned above, 1 kilometer from Chan Sen sub-district to the west at Prey Kdam Pornng, there were many mass graves and craters made by US B-52 bombs during the 1970s. At these sites, victims were soldiers, their wives, children and people evacuated from the cities. They were brought along Route 41 to be killed and thrown by the Khmer Rouge cadres into these US B-52 craters until they were filled.

### **Remains of victims**

In 1979, the witnesses came to Prey Kdam Pornng. They found bones in three US B-52 craters. They did not search in the other craters. In 1979, people came to dig the graves and looked for gold. He estimated the number of the victims at between 450 and 600 in three US B-52 craters, 10-12 meters across and 3-4 meters deep each. The victims were killed in 1974 and 1975 by bamboo pipes and sticks or hoes. Bones of victims from these US B-52 craters have not yet been collected or kept properly. The reason is that in 1985-86 and 87, the Khmer Rouge took permanent control over this area. They estimated the number of the victims at 150 and 200 at the site per pit. We also closely looked at the pits at Prey Kdam Pornng together with sub-district chief, and witness. We took pictures of witnesses and pits for our records. Then, we met three boys at the site:

1. Poeu, 16.
2. Moeng Koeun, 16.
3. Hong Ban, 20.

These boys live in Trapeang Antong village, Chan Sen sub-district. They told us that they saw US B-52 craters full of bones when they were looking after their cows in 1986 and 1987. They had picked up skulls and put them on mounds.

**Rusei Muoy Kum 050502 B**

**Trach Tong sub-district**

There are three sites: 1) Boeng Va, 2) Rusei Muoy Kum, and 3) Prey Pramatt Dey and a Security Office at O Thlok Angkrang (an island), where the perpetrators reportedly live along the stream of O Thlok Angkrang. We went to Trach Tong to visit Rusei Muoy Kum, which is 18 kilometers from the district office. At 4 p.m., we met the Trach Tong sub-district Chief named Mr. Phon Phoeun, 54. We collected information from him. He said Rusei Muoy Kum, 1 kilometer from the sub-district office, is where thousands of victims were killed. We went with the sub-district chief and looked closely at the site. We recorded our interview with him on a cassette tape. Mr. Phon Phoeun reported in details to us that there were 800 to 1,000 pits. Each contained 2 to 4 victims. The pits were dug in a row before the victims were killed. The perpetrators buried the victims on top of one another. He saw these with his own eyes in 1976. He estimated that a total number of victims was between 3,000-4,000.

**Victims**

The victims were brought from Phnom Penh, Kapp Srov Prison, Anglong Kranhan, Baseth Mountain, from the Eastern Zone, and from various other places, the victims rang from old to young people and include Khmer Rouge soldiers themselves who were escaped from the front battle with Heng Samrin<sup>4</sup> troops. The witness stressed that in the Khmer Rouge regime he lived in Prey Kol, Tranub Thom village, and Trach Torng sub-district. He visited the forest near the site because he plowed and looked after his cows, seeing directly what was going on at the site. He has been sub-district chief since 1979. He allowed us to record our interview with him at 5:30 p.m. Then we came back to Phnom Penh.

**Conclusion**

Good contact. We met with district Chief and met with two sub-district chiefs: Mr. Chan Sen and Mr. Trach Torng. Security in Oudong district was not a problem, so we did not need policemen to escort us even though we had to go to a remote site. We could work until we finished our work at 5:30 p.m. at Rusei Muoy Kum.

**Further Recommendation**

The genocide sites to be visited in the future in Chan Sen sub-district:

1. Boeng Va, Pramatt Dey, and Krasaing Pa-em (burial sites)

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<sup>4</sup> He led the Kampuchea National Liberation Front Forces in late 1978 to topple the Khmer Rouge regime with the support of the Vietnam National Army Front and became Head of State of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in 1979. He is now first Parliamentarian of the Cambodian National Assembly.

## 2. Stok Trat (prison) Angkrang (prison on an island)

We anticipate that there are possibly more sub-districts in Oudong district that have genocide sites but we did not have time. We regret that we had only one afternoon left because in the morning, District Chief, district officials, policemen, and sub-district chiefs went to the greetings of Samdech Hun Sen at Tmat Porn district. So, in the morning, we turned our way to Wat Oudong in order not to waste time and this investigation will be included in the report for Ponhea Leu district. We came back through Route 41 and 43, through Baseth Mountain, Prek Pnov district, and arrived in Phnom Penh at 7 p.m.

**10 June, 1998**

### ***Thpong District***

At 7 a.m., we departed from Phnom Penh via National Route 5 to Oudong Market, 40 kilometers from Phnom Penh. And we made a left turning into a bumpy road, which took us almost three hours to cover a 38 kilometers stretch of the road to get to Thpong district. So it is 78 kilometers from Phnom Penh to Thpong district. We arrived there at 10:40 a.m. and we met with Deputy Chief, Mr. Suon Sem. We told him about our purposes and requested his district authority for cooperation, guards, directions to genocide sites, and other issues. Thpong district is a mountainous area with landmine, forests, streams, and lakes in the north of Kampong Speu Province. Thpong district is bordered on:

- the west by Oral district,
- the east by Oudong district,
- the north by Samaki Meanchey, Kampong Chhnang province, and
- the south by Samrong Tong, Kampong Speu province.

In the Khmer Rouge regime, this district was in Region 32, Western Zone. According to the district office's report, the current population is 812 families equal to 43,503 people, of whom. 22,758 are female. There are 7 sub-districts and 72 villages.

### **Genocide Sites**

According to the description by the District Chief and Deputy Administrator, we learned that there were genocide sites at:

1. Sre Ta Moeun, 700 meters from Wat Kanseng Sam.
2. Prey Kbal Khmaoch, Tranh Veng village, and Prambei Mum sub-district.
3. Ta Kaong village.
4. Prison at Veal Porn district.



5. Memorial exhumed in 1982 at Prey Veal. But it had a fire.<sup>5</sup>

**Sre Ta Moeun      050801      B**

**Amleang sub-district**

Our team traveled to the genocide site, Sre Ta Moeun, by taking Route 43 to Amleang sub-district. Amleang is 9 kilometers west of Thpong District Office. The genocide site, Sre Ta Moeun, is 700 meters away from Wat Kanseng Sam in Amleang. The road is in bad condition with big holes caused by heavy trucks loaded with huge logs, and it is very slippery.

**Number of graves and victims**

There are two graves at Sre Ta Moeun. Victims were reportedly killed, buried and covered by using tractors. In one grave, the witness Mr. Sun Sem estimated the number of the victims at 700 to 960 victims. He said victims were brought by the Khmer Rouge from Pochentong Airport and factories in Phnom Penh. The perpetrators by using tractors to dredge out two old ponds dug the genocide sites. The site is 10 meters wide and 16 meters long and 2 meters deep. The perpetrators brought 12 truckloads of victims, each of which contains between 60-80 victims. Victims were young boys and girls, adolescent virgins, all blindfolded. At Wat Kanseng Sam, the victims had their hands tied and linked to one another with a string and led to the killing sites. We took pictures of the graves and witnesses on the trip to the site of Sre Ta Moeun and recorded the interview with Mr. Buo Sem.

**Prey Kbal Khmaoch      050802      B**

**Prambei Mum sub-district**

This site is in Tranh Veng village, one kilometer from the district office. We turned left, went past Mr. Suon Sem's house for about 500 meters, to the site of Prey Kbal Khmaoch.

**Victims**

Mr. Bou Sem looked closely at many graves that were not completely covered yet. We saw clothes such as shirt, trousers, and buttons with dark blue color and Kaki. Mr. Sem concluded that the victims were workers and soldiers from the Eastern Zone. We were informed that the kinds of victims killed there were factory workers in Thpong district from 6 cement factories, (1 engineering factory existing these days). Blue color clothes could be the uniforms of soldiers from the Eastern Zone. The killing was committed in 1979. Thpong district was not liberated until March 1979.

**Number of pits**

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<sup>5</sup>The memorial to store the remains is in Wat Kanseng Sam, Amleang in 1984, and fire broke out in 1985.

We saw these mass graves in rows all over the forest, totaling about 80 to 100 mass graves, in Prambei Mum sub-district, Thpong district. Bou Sem's position is Deputy Administrator of Thpong district, Kampong Speu province. We took pictures of and interviewed the witness, but we lacked documents because our research visit was conducted twenty years after the events. Villagers could not keep documents and the perpetrators can not be found. We finished the days' tasks at 1:30 p.m. We had lunch at Thpong Market with Thpong district officials and 6 colleagues in the trip. Lunch ended at 2 p.m. We got help by the district Chief, the Deputy District Chief and the policemen who joined our trip and who knew all the sites in the district. However, we had a hard time because the road from National Route 5 to the district was very difficult that we were late. For security, there were guards along the road, so security is not really a problem. But further way from Trapeang Chor, and Oral districts could not be reached without an escort force. We went to only two sites: Sre Ta Moeun, a large site and Prey Kbal Khmuoch site. We have found many hints for the next trip in the future. If we have another trip, we have the target already and we hope to visit the sites in the future. Inaccessible sites because of security problems are: a) Kampong Tik, Thnall Bambek is 12 kilometers and 700 meters in further, across a river at Tik Phoh district, Kampong Chhnang province, b) 11 kilometers north of Ta Kaong village will be Amleang sub-district. The site is 3 kilometers from the sub-district. Trapeang Angkrang district is 14 kilometers from Tik Phoh district.

### **Samrong Tong District (no noticeable genocide sites)**

Samrong Tong district is along National Route 4 to the east of the provincial town of Kampong Speu. In this district, in 1997, we already met with the district chief and district culture officials. The district chief then told us that there were no genocide sites in the district. We can assess that the district is along the road and close to the town and National Route 4. We seem to agree that the Khmer Rouge would not keep people over there. They must have pushed people further away.

### **Conclusion**

We have visited 3 districts of Kampong Speu province in June 1998. The program of one day per district is sometimes not appropriate because each district has 12 or 15 sub-districts and hundreds of villages taking long trips facing security problems. So we have to study the place before we go down (this is what takes time). Another problem is along way to go to the districts, and villages. Sometimes, we have to walk. So one day per district is too short. Please, consider. Important officials like district cultural staff were in the electoral sub-district. So we lack documents, and information. Even though the time is not enough, we do have information about important sites in some sub-districts and districts. So we have hints for planning next trips every well. For security reasons, we secured our transport means, measures, planning, staff, and fund to successfully overcome the difficulty. Our success depends on patience and courage.