

# មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

## Documentation Center of Cambodia Field Report Public Information Room (PIR) Road Trips Second Quarter 2007

Two road trips were made this quarter, to Banteay Meanchey and Pursat provinces. No trip was made in April because DC-Cam was awaiting permission from Cambodia's Ministry of Interior to show its new documentary, *Behind the Walls of S-21*. In addition, April was the month of the Khmer New Year, when many people travel to visit their families, so low attendance was anticipated.

### Background

The purpose of these field trips to villages throughout Cambodia is to distribute materials related to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC, the Khmer Rouge Tribunal), show films on the regime, and hold discussions on sexual abuse that occurred during Democratic Kampuchea. Staff members also answer questions about the Tribunal during these meetings.

When visiting villages, the team members always give a short talk before showing the films. The topics cover: 1) an introduction to the Documentation Center of Cambodia, 2) the purpose of the PIR team's visit to the village, 3) a presentation on the background and developments of the ECCC, and 4) an introduction to the film(s) the villagers are about to see. After the film screening, the team members ask if anyone had been sexually abused during Democratic Kampuchea, or if they knew anyone or had heard about anyone who had. People are also encouraged to make comments on the film(s), ask questions about the upcoming Khmer Rouge Tribunal, voice their opinion of the need to educate the younger generation on the history of Democratic Kampuchea, and other topics.

PIR staff also interview and film several villagers and take requests to find information on family members who disappeared during the regime.

### 1. Mongkul Borei District, Banteay Meanchey Province May 21-25, 2007

The team visited four locations in Banteay Neang sub-district during this trip, screening the DC-Cam film *The Khmer Rouge Rice Fields: The Story of Rape Survivor Tang Kim* and a new documentary produced by DC-Cam and US filmmaker Doug Kass. Entitled *Behind the Walls of*

S-21: *Oral Histories from Tuol Sleng Prison*; this 30-minute film features DC-Cam interviews with three survivors of Tuol Sleng Prison (two former inmates and a guard).

PIR Activities in Banteay Meanchey	
People attending meetings/film screenings	450
Copies of <i>Searching for the Truth</i> provided	100
Reports of sexual abuse during Democratic Kampuchea	8
Requests for family tracing services	6

## Film Screening and Discussions

### Banteay Neang sub-district, May 23 (about 50 participants)

The first public forum was held at Trang Pagoda in Banteay Neang village. About 50 villagers attended, including children, monks, nuns and adults. After showing *Behind the Walls of S-21*, the deputy chief of the village expressed surprise that Him Huy (who was featured in the film and had been a guard at the prison) was not in jail, but living freely like other people. Team Leader Sokhym En then explained to her that only the former leaders and those most responsible would be tried at the upcoming Khmer Rouge Tribunal. It would not try the thousands of former lower-level cadres because this could disrupt safety and security in Cambodia. More than ten people then asked questions related to former military commander Ta Mok and Khmer Rouge history (e.g., the former cadres who were arrested in Democratic Kampuchea's Northeast Zone). There was a consensus among those attending that people were very frightened of committing any act perceived as a moral wrongdoing during the regime because they were afraid of being killed. No one requested family tracing services; those attending said the family members they lost during the regime had been killed within the village. Many people related their stories of suffering during the regime; for example:

**Huon Ly**, age 60, lived in Kravang village, Chbar Man sub-district and district, Kampong Speu province during the regime. Her husband, two children, and parents died of starvation, and she was forced to work in the fields only a month after delivering a baby. Ms. Huon noted that some "new people" were raped by Khmer Rouge cadres, but no one dared to speak out, fearing they would be arrested and killed.

**Meas Ran**, age 62, of Thmey village, Banteay Neang sub-district, is deputy chief of her village. She said that before 1975 she and her family lived in Siem Reap province. One day her husband shot a burglar and later learned that the burglar was the child of a general. As a result, her family was forced to compensate the general's family and hold a ceremony for them. A month later, her family moved to Battambang province because the general's family still wanted revenge. In April 1975 her family was evacuated to Siem Reap; during the evacuation, Khmer Rouge soldiers confiscated her motorbike. Her husband and other April 17 men were forced to plow the fields in place of animals. A few months later, he fell seriously ill. Ms. Meas said that she had also lied to the cadres, telling them she had no valuables like gold or diamonds. But one day, she took her gold to some base people, wanting to exchange it for rice. She was arrested and detained in the Chum Teav security office in Ressey Krol sub-district. She was shackled for

three days, but not questioned. After a half month, the security guards beat her until she confessed that she had hidden the gold and was going to use it to buy medicine for her mother, who was seriously ill. Two weeks later, she was released from the prison. She added that she saw many people shackled and tortured in the security center, and then taken to be killed at Tuol Ang. Among them were four older women who were imprisoned after asking for food.

#### **Banteay Neang sub-district, May 24 (about 150 participants)**

Both films were shown at Banteay Neang Pagoda in Banteay Neang village. Most of the 150 people attending were children. When asked if their parents had told them about the Khmer Rouge regime, almost all of them raised their hands. However, they were all too shy to describe what they had learned.

The adults stated that many people were imprisoned in Banteay Neang Pagoda. In addition, three people – a male named Hung and two women named Hing and Ly Ny – were accused of moral wrongdoing and taken to be killed. Some said they had heard about the Khmer Rouge Tribunal for a long time, but wondered why the trials had not started. Ms. Em explained that the internal rules had not been adopted yet, and hoped the discussion of the rules would be completed by mid-June. Six people told their stories during the regime. Three cases of sexual abuse were reported and one person requested family tracing services.

#### **Banteay Neang sub-district, May 24 (about 100 participants)**

About 100 people, including children, adults and monks attended the forum at Khy Leok Pagoda. One man asked whether Ieng Sary would be tried because he joined the government in the 1990s and was granted amnesty by King Sihanouk in 1994. Ms. Em explained why he could be tried by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. He man replied that he was very happy at the possibility of Ieng Sary being tried. Four people related stories from their lives during Democratic Kampuchea and related instances of sexual abuse. Three people requested family tracing services.

#### **Banteay Neang sub-district, May 24 (about 150 participants)**

The films were shown to an audience of about 150 at Ou-Andoung Kandal Pagoda in Prey Halich village. One man requested a copy of *Behind the Walls of S-21* to keep in the village and show to young people. There was much interest in the upcoming tribunal, and those attending asked many questions; for example:

Pol Pot and Ieng Sary killed many people; why did they have lawyer to defend them in the court?

When would the trials of the top leaders begin?

How many top Khmer Rouge leaders would be tried?

Why did the Khmer Rouge kill innocent people?

Why was no one talking about the Khmer Kampuchea Krom who were killed?

Other countries supported the Khmer Rouge; why weren't they being put on trial?

Most of the Khmer Rouge leaders were intellectuals; why did they kill people?

Why did the Khmer Rouge kill their own people?

Will the Tribunal involve former King Sihanouk?

How did many government officials were former the Khmer Rouge leaders? Will they be brought to trial?

Two people asked for information on their lost relatives and several related their suffering during Democratic Kampuchea. For example,

*Khao Buy Chhuoy*, age 49, of Preyhalich village, spoke about being imprisoned at Kakoh security in Moang Ressey district, Battambang province in 1978. Although he had done nothing wrong, his division chief had been accused of betraying the Angkar, so all members of his division were sent to the security office.

*Nheok Phuong*, age 57, of Ou-Kandal village, stated that in early 1977 he had seen his name on a list of people to be killed. Frightened, he escaped to Thailand with 59 other people. Fifty of them were shot and killed after they were intercepted by Khmer Rouge troops.

*Yav Hem*, age 70, of Ou-Kandal village, stated that three of her ten children died during the regime. One of them was arrested and killed after being accused of being a Lon Nol spy, and the other two died of disease. She also stated that almost all of the new people evacuated to her village were killed or starved to death. In 1976 she saw the Khmer Rouge arrest many people who were then killed in the forest near the village.

*Khut Khuon*, age 61, of in Ou-Kandal village, escaped to Pailin during the regime. A month later, she lost four of her children, her mother, and her sister. The Khmer Rouge there forced her to do hard labor and separated her from her remaining children.

### **Sexual Abuse Cases**

Eight cases of sexual abuse were reported:

*Ta An (victim)*. Im Nieng, age 60, of Banteay Neang village recalled that a man named Ta An was arrested and sent to Banteang prison after being charged with a morals violation. Later, he was released and today is 60 years old.

*Hung (victim)*. Im Nieng also reported that a woman named Hung was sent to Banteay Neang prison after being accused of having an affair. She was tortured until she confessed and then killed.

*Unnamed couple (victims)*. Chan Vandy, age 50, is the chief of Kok Phnao village. He recalled the story of a couple who loved each other. The woman was a new person and the man was a base person, but was married. The couple made no attempt to hide their love. When the Angkar learned about them, they arrested the couple and forced them to confess during a meeting at the cooperative. A man was released because he had many relatives who were in high positions in the village and helped him, but the woman was sent to prison and killed there. Today the man, who is over 60 years old, lives in O-Snguot village, Ou- Prasat sub-district.

***Dam and Oak (victims).*** Khat Cea, age 70, of Phnom village stated that a man named Dam and woman named Oak were accused by Angkar of a morals violation. They were arrested and sent to the re-education office. Later, Mr. Khat heard that Dam was killed.

***Meas Ran (victim).*** Ms. Meas, age 62, of Thmey village, said that in 1977 she was 7 months pregnant and forced to carry water 40 times a day and spray it on sugarcane. A month after delivering her baby, she was forced to return to hard labor; at the same time, her husband died of malaria in the forest. Several months after that, she was accused her of being pregnant because she was fat and beautiful. A man named Seu, who was a security guard in the cooperative, arrested her and was going to take her to be killed. But another security guard named Tai helped her by saying that she had done nothing wrong. If it was proven later that she has committed a morals violation, he would pay the Angkar with his life.

During the regime, Ms. Meas went to find food in the forest. There Phreoung, the chief of Phnom Thom sub-district, tried to rape her. She shouted for people to help her, and Phreoung freed her when his wife arrived on the scene. Ms. Meas was then forced to marry a widower. But he loved her and treated her children as his own; they are still married today.

***Yam (victim).*** Meas Ran recalled a man named Yam who was the child of a Khmer Rouge cadre in the cooperative. Yam fell in love with a woman who was a base person; she was married to a man named Theang, but began a secret affair with Yam. However, after they were discovered, Yam's father helped them and they were not punished. Today, the woman is living in Thailand and her husband is living in the United States.

***Unnamed woman (victim).*** Chhoy Kimly, age 63, of Khy Leok village, reported that a woman who was the daughter of Yeay Yun was arrested and killed after it was discovered that she had fallen in love with a man in her village.

***Unnamed couple (victims).*** Phan Samih, age 60, of Ky Leok village, stated that during the regime, he was the chief of social affairs in Mongkol Borei district. He had the right to go anywhere he wanted because he had a permission letter from Ros Nhim, the chief of the Northwest Zone. In 1977, he and his team went to Sam Laut district to find a *kravanh* tree for making medicine. When they arrived in Ou-Rumpoek village, he saw the corpses of a man and woman who had died after being tied together. He asked villagers about this and they told him that the couple had committed a morals violation and had been killed.

## **Family Tracing**

Six people requested information on their relatives who disappeared during Democratic Kampuchea.

***Chhoy Kimly,*** age 63, of Khy Leok village, asked for information on her younger brother Nout. The Khmer Rouge forced him to join the army and she has not heard from him since.

***Mom In,*** age 90 of Khy Loek village, inquired about her husband Pheang Phon, who disappeared in Phnom Basit. Her four children, Sok, Kim, Sim, and Phim, also disappeared after the Khmer Rouge forced them into battle in 1978.

*Phan Samih*, age 60, of Ky Leok village, asked for information on his two male cousins. Iv Saman, 64 years old, was a pilot and Iv Kim-Yi was a policeman in Phnom Penh. Both men disappeared in 1977 after being sent to Pursat province. Their parents Ta Lan and Ieng are living in Ky Leok village, Banteay Neang sub-district.

*Pen Sokun*, age 54, of Banteay Neang, wanted information on her husband Tep Bunheng, who disappeared in 1977 when they were living in Kampong Trabek district, Prey Veng province. She said that her husband was known to be good at magic, and his body could not be chopped or burned. When the Khmer Rouge heard this, they ordered him dig up a tree stump, and then tried to chop his back, but could not. Her husband then became worried about his safety and fled in secret.

*Ma Yit*, age 38, of Ou-Kandal village, asked for information on her older sister who the Khmer Rouge took to the border in 1979. Their father's name was Thoang Thai; the Khmer Rouge arrested him after he scolded them for not giving people enough food.

*Nim Sam At*, age 45, of Ou-Kandal village, inquired about her older brother who disappeared in 1977 when he was sent to a mobile unit in Canga village, Damloung sub-district, Mongkul Borei district. Their father's name was Nim Tatt and their mother's was Tang Voeng.

## 2. O-Tapaong Sub-District, Bakan District, Pursat Province June 26-29, 2007

The team visited two locations in O-Tapaong sub-district during this trip, screening the DC-Cam film *Behind the Walls of S-21: Oral Histories from Tuol Sleng Prison* in two locations: Batt Korki Thmei and Srash Mkak villages, and in Anlung Kray and Batt Korki Chas villages. About 200 villagers, half of them between the ages of 45 and 70, participated in the film screening. They took a very keen interest in seeing and discussing the Khmer Rouge regime.

PIR Activities in Pursat	
People attending meetings/film screenings	200
Copies of <i>Searching for the Truth</i> provided	300
Reports of sexual abuse during Democratic Kampuchea	3
Requests for family tracing services	0

### Film Screening and Discussions

Those attending made a wide range of comments on the film. Some simply said that the footage was interesting, such as the firing of artillery in the battlefields and the personal descriptions of Tuol Sleng prison survivors. Others felt that it was a little difficult to follow the film because it switched back and forth among the speakers. Many expressed their pity for the two former



prisoners, Bou Meng and Chum Mey, who endured horrible lives in the notorious Tuol Sleng prison or S-21, known by its code name. Dressed in dirty clothes, a man in his early 50s, who came to see the film on his lunch break from transplanting rice, wondered if former guard Him Huy would fall into the category of a suspect to be put on trial.

With regard to the ECCC, most people expressed their satisfaction with the updates they received from DC-Cam staff. The village chief of Anlung Kray said the villagers have not obtained much information on the ECCC through the radio. When asked whether they wished to hear information on the Tribunal from NGOs or the ECCC, five people said they preferred to hear from the ECCC, which was a more direct source of information.

Villagers asked many questions about the tribunal. These included: who would be brought to justice before the ECCC and would there be a defense counsel for the Khmer Rouge leaders, and if so, would a foreign or Cambodian lawyer defend them? Others wondered whether foreign countries would be tried. One man also asked whether deceased leaders such as Pol Pot and Ta Mok would be tried, and some asked whether compensation would be made to the victims.



*Villagers watch the film "Behind the Walls of S-21: Oral Histories of Tuol Sleng Prison" in a classroom.*



*Villagers discuss the Khmer Rouge regime with DC-Cam staff.*

## **Sexual Abuse Cases**

Four people spoke of sexual abuse during the regime; most of their accounts were hearsay:



*Ms. Phon*

67-year-old Phon of Srah Mkak village, said: "I heard about moral offenses during the Khmer Rouge regime. I knew that those committed this offense would be punished by death. I do not remember the names of the victims. However, most of them were youths, not senior people." Ms. Phon, who lost four children to the regime, explained that moral offenses could be something as simple as a man and woman talking to each other. Sometimes, she noted, a woman would complain to Angkar, accusing the man of "bad behaviors."

Ms. Phon also mentioned another form of sexual abuse: forced marriage. "During the regime," she said, "all the couples were assigned by the Angkar without any consultation with those individuals. Between 20 and 30 couples were married. In Battambang province, I witnessed 30 collective marriages during a one-day and one-night celebration. No one could say no to the arrangement. For example, my younger sister Loeng told me that Angkar required her to get married. At first, she did not know about collective weddings. After that, those couples would be under the Angkar's surveillance. If they discovered found that [the couple] they did not get along with each other, they would be sent for re-education. If they persisted existed, a punishment would be meted out."

Prum Loep, 63, said that during Democratic Kampuchea, she realized that those who committed a moral offense would be killed overnight. She raised an example of two new people who the Khmer Rouge assigned to get married. The couple did not love each other. Thus, the woman refused to sleep with her new partner because she was unsatisfied with the man. That was categorized as a moral offense and both were killed.

Khun San, age 62, of Srah Mkak village, said, "I did not witness any people being killed for moral offenses. However, I heard a case that occurred west of this village. A couple was shot dead due to their love affair."



*Ms. Khun San*

Anlung Kray village chief Um Sam, 51, reported that during the regime, people realized that those who violated the rules on sexual misconduct would be killed instantly if they were found guilty. He stated that "a unit chief had a love affair with a woman who was a 17 April evacuee."



He was then removed from his post. Realizing his guilt, he fled to escape punishment. However, he returned to his unit three weeks later and was killed shortly thereafter; the woman was killed too.”