

Field Report Public Information Room (PIR) Road Trips Third Quarter 2006

One PIR road trip was made this quarter to three sub-districts in Battambang province. The trips scheduled to Prey Veng and Siem Reap provinces in August were postponed because roads were impassible due to flooding. No trips were scheduled for September, which was still in the flood season (making travel difficult) as well as the rice transplanting season (making it difficult for people to take time to attend meetings).

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 films are screened, 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.

Summary of Activities

During this quarter, the PIR team made one field ("road") trip, visiting three sub-districts of Battambang province. During the trip, about 120 people attended meetings held by DC-Cam; an equal number of information packages were passed out to those participating in the meetings.

People who attended the meetings reported several cases of rape and forced marriages during the regime, and one couple who were killed for having an extra-marital affair. Of the five rape cases reported where one of the parties was named, two concerned victims and three perpetrators.

Banan District, Battambang Province July 10-14, 2006

This district was selected for a PIR road trip because it had only attained peace in 1998 after the Khmer Rouge integrated with the government. The team visited three sub-districts during this trip, screening the DC-Cam film *The Khmer Rouge Rice Fields: The Story of Rape Survivor Tang Kim* to 121 people. The film was better received than in other provinces because the vast majority of the audience supported the Khmer Rouge Tribunal and wanted the trials of senior KR leaders to begin soon.

PIR Activities in Banan District	
People attending meetings/film screenings	121
Information packages provided (UN-Government of Cambodia agreement, <i>Introduction to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal</i> , Khmer Rouge Law, DC-Cam magazine <i>Searching for the Truth</i>)	121
Reports of sexual abuse during Democratic Kampuchea	5
Requests for family tracing services	2

Film Screening and Discussions

Chheu Teal Commune, July 11 (61 participants). Many people spoke out during the post-film discussion, saying they did not forgive the Khmer Rouge for killing people, that trials were necessary, and that they did not feel they could reconcile with Khmer Rouge leaders. Some of the questions asked and the answers included:

- *How many Cambodians will realize justice from the trials?* Although no one could be certain whether individual Cambodians would get justice, having trials would lay a foundation for future justice in Cambodia. The lower courts can view the trials as examples and model themselves after the ECCC.
- *Will the court will still try Ta Mok, even if he is sick and in the hospital?* It will probably not be possible to try Ta Mok under these conditions, and his defense lawyer would probably raise objections to trying him if he is very ill. In a fair trial, every person has the right to a defense, even though individuals were not accorded that right during Democratic Kampuchea.
- *Would the top Khmer Rouge leaders be punished if the judge found them guilty?* The Tribunal will be based on Cambodia's constitution, and Cambodia does not have the death penalty. The leaders could be sentenced to life in prison if found guilty.
- *If Ta Mok died, could he still be found guilty?* The Tribunal will not try anyone who is deceased.
- *Why wasn't the Tribunal trying lower-level cadres?* The Cambodian government and UN agreed that the only senior leaders and those most responsible would be tried.

- *What about the Ieng Sary, who was forgiven by the former king?* The Tribunal will not forgive anyone found guilty.

Phnom Sampeou sub-district, July 12 (20 participants). In the middle of the introduction on sexual abuse during Democratic Kampuchea, a woman interrupted, saying, "I know about [a case of sexual abuse], but cannot tell you here because she is still alive and living in this sub-district." Team Leader Sokhym Em replied that the woman could tell her story after the forum was finished. Although few people had questions about the Tribunal, they stated that they supported it.

Ta Kreal sub-district, July 13 (40 participants). After the film was shown, several people commented that it depicted real events, but that no one in their sub-district committed any immoral act during the regime. Several older women were present who had lost their husbands during the regime. They urged that the trials begin soon. One woman related that the Khmer Rouge arrested 40 families (including her own) and were going to kill them when she decided to escape.

Sexual Abuse Cases

Many people made general comments on sexual abuse in their sub-district during the regime (this included extra-marital affairs, which the Khmer Rouge considered to be an offense). For example, after the film in Phnom Sampeou, people said that many women were raped and killed during the regime. Others related how the Khmer Rouge forbid people from having sexual relations outside marriage, but did not follow their own policy.

Ta Chham, Chief of Region 3, Battambang Province (alleged perpetrator). Villagers in two subdistricts pointed out this former cadre as being guilty of sexual abuse. Informants in Phnom Samepou said he raped a new woman (a former city dweller) and then killed her; he was a cruel and they could not forgive him for committing this crime. In Ta Kreal, another man said Ta Chham ordered the burial of those the Khmer Rouge killed. He saw the corpses of many women who were not clothed and said that some had been stabbed in the vagina with bayonets.

Sokh Sakhon, age 52, cited a case in Phnom Sampoou cooperative where a soldier was having an affair with a woman weaver. When Ta Chham learned about this, he arrested the couple, tied their hands behind their backs, and forced them confess before a meeting. Both confessed that they had fallen in love with each other. Then Ta Chham ordered his militia to kill them in front of the people in the meeting so those attending would avoid making the same mistake. She also added that Ta Chham himself had also raped a woman named Somaly, who had been a teacher during the Lon Nol regime. After that, Ta Cham arrested her and had her killed.

Ta Cheng, chief of Phnom Sampeou cooperative (alleged perpetrator). Te Theang, age 50, said that Ta Cheng raped a woman named Ny. Her husband Thet Sambath had been a singer in the Lon Nol regime. A few months after the rape, Ta Cheng had Thet Sambath arrested and killed, while Ny was sent to a mobile unit. After 1979 people heard that she still alive, but do not know where she lives today. Te Theang added that Ta Cheng was married to a woman from Takeo province, but because she was not beautiful, he was always looking at any

women who were beautiful. When he saw one, he pretended to call her to a meeting, but when she arrived, he raped her.

Te Theang added that a woman who was raped by Ta Cheng is living in her village (see below).

Anonymous (victim of Ta Cheng). Following up on Te Theng's report about a woman (she is not named here to protect her privacy) who was raped by Ta Cheng, the PIR Team went to her home in Phnom Sampoeu cooperative. She has been living with her three children; her husband divorced her after he learned that she had been raped by the Khmer Rouge. The team began by telling her about the work of DC-Cam, and she seemed very receptive and friendly. However, when one of the team members told her what they had learned during the meeting, her facial expression changed. She quickly said she did not have time to talk because she needed to go to the school where she taught. The team again tried to persuade her to tell her story, and asked general questions about her parents and family during the regime. However, she did not change her mind.

Team Leader Sokhym Em then told her about Tang Kim, who allowed her story to be told to encourage Cambodian women to relate their suffering during the regime, and to act as a model for younger women. The woman then seemed more relaxed and said her story was not as serious as that of Tang Kim. She was given DC-Cam's phone number and the team asked her to call if she decided to tell her story.

Tauch, chief of Chheu Teal sub-district (alleged perpetrator). Hing Penh, age 70, reported that it was Khmer Rouge policy to keep people from loving each other. If people knew others were having an affair, they were to report it to Angkar, who would then arrest and kill the couple. He also noted that the Khmer Rouge themselves committed sexual abuses. He gave an example of a cadre named Tauch, who fell in love with a woman named Phaon who worked with him. When two siblings – Sun Reoun and Sun Run – learned about the affair, he had them arrested and killed. In 1977 when Khmer Rouge from the Southeast Zone took over Battambang, both Tauch and Phaon were killed.

Ran (victim). Um Sokha, age 57, said that the Khmer Rouge sent a new woman named Ran to farm in the fields. When she arrived, four cadres raped her. To conceal what happened, they arrested Ran and killed her husband.

Family Tracing

Two people for information on their relatives who disappeared during Democratic Kampuchea:

Te Theang, age 52, of Kampov village, Phnom Sampeou sub-district, asked about her older brother Bou Po, who was a musician in O-naloam Pagoda, which became a military garrison near Deum Kor market. Before 1975 Bou Po was living in Phnom Penh with his wife Tuot Run; they had six children. Her brother disappeared after the evacuation of Phnom Penh. After 1979 she heard that her young brother had been imprisoned in Tuol Sleng and that his photograph was there. (DC-Cam did not find her brother's name on the prisoner lists it holds.)

Met Duch, age 56, of Ta Kream village, Ta Kream sub-district, asked for information on his younger brother Pech Mony, who worked in Es-sca Da in Kampong Som. His brother was

there in 1975 when the Khmer Rouge took over; after that, he heard that the Khmer Rouge had shot his brother's ship along with six others. After that, Pech Mony disappeared.