

**June 28, 2013**

**Dear Voices of Genocide,**

After reading all the four episodes of Voices of Genocide which have been posted on the website, I've gained more knowledge about Khmer Rouge regime, famine and genocide, and the related law. The following is my reflection on the four broadcasted episodes that I would like to share.

### **Episode 1**

The first episode of the Voices of Genocide: Justice and the Khmer Rouge Famine gave the basic information about KR and famine. It also mentioned about the Case 002 at the KR tribunal. This reminded me of things about with my parents used to talk. I took some notes recording what I noticed while reading.

I found the radio program and the papers you gave me helpful as I read carefully and decoded information. I have acknowledged how hard people lived in KR regime and the policies the KR leaders led the country. I noticed a point on page 4 of English version, which was about the penalties – beating or execution on starving civilian. I have watched a movie "Lost Love", filmed by Mr. Chhay Bora. In the movie, there was one thing to be noticed, which was about the way of giving penalty. KR soldiers caught a man and cut his wrist to drain the blood. I wonder whether this really happened during KR regime.

On the other hand, the story at the back page of the paper was so interesting and touching. I wish the famine would be heard in the court.

### **Episode 2**

I felt so amazed by the second episode, especially the first part which was about the propaganda of KR leaders. They did a good job in fooling the citizens. Behind the propaganda, there was a hell.

I thought they made a promise without thinking carefully or chose the wrong way to lead the country. Wrong decision and policies led to fail in leadership. I felt so bad after reading on how starvation killed. Millions of people died due to the starvation and diseases. How cruel the KR regime was!

After reading the story at the back page, I was so shocked. It was so unbelievable that human ate human. I've honestly never heard about this before. I also asked my parents and my aunt. They said they had never known about this. They told me that the story was a lie. As I was told, people were killed by KR soldiers and cut open their body to take out their liver or some other parts. The soldiers took those livers to fry and eat.

Because there was still a blur of this case, so it would be good if the case could be taken to be investigated and studied. A voice from Mrs. Krouch Som An was not enough to be believed.

### **Episode 3**

I have read the story of Sao Van. It is believable that a few local leaders were a kind-hearted person who would help people. The movie 'Lost Love' also showed a kindness of one local leader toward a Phnom Penh evacuee, who did not know how to farm.

The article was a good one and gave readers useful information; however, I think the article missed a few important quotes. All elder generation knew that a few local leaders were kind, but new generation do not know at all, and what they know is the fact that KR is bad. The writer interviewed only Ms. Sao Van, who was the only person giving the information. So, who knows whether what she told was true or not? Some readers might believe that her story was true while some might not really believe.

I think the writer should interview one or two people to get their quote that Ms. Sao Van is a good and helpful person. Those quotes could convince the readers to believe that the story was true.

### **Episode 4**

There is a few interesting things to read in this episode, especially the part showing about main elements of crime of genocide. This episode gives information about genocide so that those, who are not studying about law or International Relation, can know.

The statement, the KR leaders wanted to maximize production of rice, may be a good reason to avoid from the crime of genocide. The KR leaders raised that they did not really know what was going on with the mass death and put the blame on local leaders. They wanted to make themselves innocent, and I felt bad about it. If the court said the famine was not a genocide, famine can still be counted as a crime against humanity.

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