

# មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

## KAMPONG THOM PROVINCE

District	Site Name/ Visit Date	Site Type	Est. Victim	Witness	File #/ID Code	Latitude	Longitude
Stung	Reaksmei Sophorn H.S/ 15 July 1998	Prison	N/A	Luon Khom លួន ខុម	R 071503A/ 060801	N 12°57'2704"	E 104°34'0636"
Stung	Tuol Ta Phlorng/ 15 July 1998	Memorial 250-500 pits	50,000- 100,000	Luon Khom លួន ខុម	R 071504A/ 060802	N 12°57'4572"	E 104°34'0655"
Prasat Sambo	Wat Srei Tep/ 17 July 1998	2 big pits	150-250	Lut Lun លុត លុន	R 071703A/ 060501	N 12°52'4485"	E 105°07'0239"
Prasat Sambo	Prey Neak Ta Chas Srok/ 17 July 1998	Prison 30-40 pits	100-200	Chuon Choeun ជួន ជឿន	R 071704B/ 060502	N 12°54'5281"	E 105°05'5966"
Prasat Sambo	Wat Prasat Sambo/ 17 July 1998	Memorial	N/A	Tit Than ទីត ថាន	R 071707A/ 060503	N 12°53'0758"	E 105°03'5450"
Prasat Balang	Wat Serei Sophorn Chas/ 16 July 1998	100-110 pits and 1 well	600-700	Chum Sambok ជុំ សំបុក	R 071602A/ 060401	N 12°56'3845"	E 104°56'2582"

On July 14, the Documentation Center of Cambodia assigned its mapping team of 3 staff-member led by me, Mr. Sin Khin to Kampong Thom province. We departed from Phnom Penh along National Road # 6 to Kampong Thom province. We arrived in Kampong Thom provincial town at 12 noon. It is about 130 kilometers from Phnom Penh to Kampong Thom provincial town.

At 3 p.m., we went to the provincial hall to meet with Mr. Ol Sam Iech, Deputy Chief of Cabinet of Kampong Thom province. We showed him our assigned letter including permission from the government and we also told him the purpose of our trip and request of the Documentation Center of Cambodia directed by Mr. Youk Chhang. Mr. Ol Sam Iech issued an official letter for us so that we could set a relationship with the provincial Culture, Information and Fine Art Office. We then met with chief of the office of Culture Information and Fine Arts of the province. He appointed an officer to shepherd us to various districts at our request.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> On July 14, while we were working in the province, the bridge, about 5 kilometers away from the provincial town, collapsed. So, we were not able to go down to districts.

On July 15 at 6 a.m., we met with Mr. Pa Socheat Vong, 2nd Deputy Governor of Kampong Thom province to ask for his signature so that we could go to 4 districts. The 4 districts are:

- Stung,
- Prasat Balang,
- Prasat Sambo,
- Sandan.

### **On July 15, 1998**

#### **Stung district**

At 7:00 a.m., we made our journey along the National Road # 6 toward Stung district. At 9:30 a.m., we arrived in Stung district (obstacle another bridge collapsed, but it did not take long). At Stung District Hall, we met with Mr. Chap Mel, Deputy Chief of district and with another 2 district officials. The district hall is located near National Road # 6. It is 50 kilometers away from Kampong Thom provincial town. The district is in the north of the provincial town. Stung district is bounded to:

- the north by Siem Reap province and Preah Vihear province,
- the south by Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province,
- the west by Tolesap lake, Kampong Chhnang province and Pursat province,
- the east by Prasat Balang district, Kampong Thom province.

According to the district office's report, the district consists of 13 sub-districts and 133 villages. It has a population of 97,580. There are 50,627 females. 90% of the people are farmers and 10% are business people. It has a land area of 304,00 hectares. There is fertile soil for farming 38,000 hectares. There are 48,291 people who are eligible to vote (age of 18 and over) among them, there are 2,655 female.

#### **Security**

- 1997-1998, a lot of Khmer Rouge rebels defected to the government; so 90% are better in terms of security and another 10%, are in an unstable condition. In the 10%, the Khmer Rouge Division 785 led by Ta Mok's son is in still action. On July 10, 1998, the Khmer Rouge from this division causing insecurity in this area.
- Robbery: there were cow and buffalo robberies at the borders with various districts such as Prasat Balang district and Kampong Svay district.

### **The genocide sites**

1. Security Office and Prison in Reaksmei Sophorn High School.
2. Execution sites at Tuol Ta Phlorng, which is located in Trach village, Kampong Chen Cheung (north) sub-district (3 kilometers away from district office. Then turn left and goes further about 200 or 300 meters you will reach the site). Tuol Ta Phlorng execution site is 500 meters away from the prison. Four 4-room school buildings were used to keep victims and one building was used for interrogation. (The buildings are still there, but they were repaired by the new government). 3 main execution sites on the high hill of Tuol Ta Phlorng. Nowadays, there is a stupa (memorial) which is full of bones and skulls.
3. Bones were well kept in the stupa as the one at “Cheung Ek” memorial about 15 kilometers southwest of Phnom Penh city. Rich families whose relatives were killed there built the stupa. It was taken good care of.

### **Number of pits and victims**

There were two main pits. It is 20 meters in length, and 5 meters width and 2 meters in dept. There are 200 or 500 small pits. In 1990, the Khmer Rouge crime documents produced by the district were stolen because the tripartite cliques seized Stung district for 40 days. During the State of Cambodia in the 1990's, the documents were suspected to burn down before 1993.

### **Victims who were killed at Tuol Ta Phlorng and prisoners of Reaksmei Sophorn High School Security Office and Prison.**

- In 1976 evacuated people from various cities.
- In 1977 the Khmer Rouge cadres killed base people who were wrong doers and those who had connection with city dwellers, and government officials, police, teachers and medical staff.
- Chief of district of the Khmer Rouge regime, stayed in the Stung district office, which is now the house of Mr. You Kimra, who lives in Leap Torng village, Kampong Chen Tbaung (south) sub-district. The house is now rent to Medecine Sans-Frontier.
- There is an execution site near the Tonle Sap riverbank. It is 35 kilometers far (no access, and security). We could not go there. There is a killing site, not prison.

Security office and prison, and execution site of Neak Ta Svay, are in Trea sub-district. It is 15 kilometers away from district-headquarters. The way to the site is cart lane with forest surround. There were no people's houses. (Not safe, landmine zone). The site is isolated from villages. Mr. Touch Meng Hor, who used to be in the security office and prison of Neak Ta Svay in the Khmer Rouge regime, is our witness.

### **The inspection of the site**

Before going to various sites, we met Mr. Touch Meng Hor, who told us about Neak Ta Svay site. Mr. Hor is a deputy chief of the agriculture office of Stung district now. He told us that the security office and prison of Neak Ta Svay was built around the 1970s. He was in the prison in 1974 and was released between the end of 1974 and early of 1975. In Neak Ta Svay, there were small prisons. All sorts of prisoners were handcuffed. The prisoner allegedly seriously guilty was put to a standing position in a tiny cell all day. They could not move because the cell was too small. There were a great many prisoners. They forced to work hard; if they wanted to kill someone, they singled out from the queue and then killed. All prisoners were killed except for 3 prisoners who were still alive today. Mr. Touch Meng Hor, our witness is one of the 3 prisoners who survived the Khmer Rouge regime.

### **Victims**

1. Between 1970 to 1975. The Khmer Rouge cadres killed base people, Lon Nol's soldiers, officials who were arrested when the Khmer Rouge captured Lon Nol military bases and cadres who morally misbehaved.
2. Between 1976-1979, the Khmer Rouge evacuated people from various cities. Number of victims could not be estimated but prisoners could be about over 100. We could not estimate the number of pits because we could not reach the site and the witness did not tell us about that. The witness said, chief of security was comrade Thoeun. He is dead now. He was chief of security of Neak Ta Svay.

### **Reaksmei Sophorn High School (Security office/prison)**

**060801**

**P**

At 11:00 a.m., we went to Reaksmei Sophorn High School. The killing site is known as Tuol Ta Phlorng. We met with Mr. Luon Khom, 36, who lives in Reaksmei Sophorn High School. He was plowing near the site and we approached him for information. Mr. Luon Khom, in the Khmer Rouge regime, lived in Trach village, Kampong Chen Cheung sub-district, Stung district. He now lives in the same village. He is a farmer. He was a young boy in the mobile work brigade in the Khmer Rouge regime. The site is 1 kilometer away from villages. No one dared to come to this site. He told us that during the Khmer Rouge time, he came to look for his cows near the prison, and the Khmer Rouge security guard arrested him. The guards asked for his chief of village or village cadres or sub-district cadres that he knows. They attempted to kill him, but the Khmer Rouge cadre he knew helped him out. Mr. Luon Khom told us the same as Deputy Chief of the district that most of the victims were evacuated people from cities. They killed all children and adults, males and female in 1976. Trucks of victims were interrogated and killed right afterward. There were 2 kinds of victims.

- In 1976, they killed new people.
- Between 1977-1979 they killed base people who were wrong doers such as theft picking rice, or those who had minor offences.

These people were put in prison of Reaksmei Sophorn high school.

**Tuol Ta Phlorng      060802      B/M**

At 11.30 a.m., we inspected Tuol Ta Phlorng execution site with, Mr. Luon Khom. We inspected pits and took photographs of the stupa (memorial) in which victims' bones were stored. The execution sites are on 3 high hills with a lot of palm trees, Bayan trees and tamarind trees. Ta Hul Leang takes care of victims' bones. We did not meet him. After we took photographs of bones, pits and the execution site, we did not yet estimate the number of victims, but we seek for witness who lived near the site and who used to be in the prison in Reaksmei Saophoan High School. We saw a great many bones were stored in the memorial. At 12 noon, we found Mr. Chum Vin, 62, used to be in Reaksmei Sophorn High School prison. He lives in Trach village, Kampong Chen Cheung (north) sub-district. He was in the prison in 1977 and was released in 3 months and 10 days later. He was in prison because of stealing and picking rice. Mr. Vin saw a lot of people in the prison with him. The interrogation place was north of the school building. He was tortured until one of his legs crippled. The Khmer Rouge took the prisoners to kill every night at Tuol Ta Phlorng 500 meters away from the school. He added that after 1979 in 1980 or 1981, villagers dug up graves to explore gold and they found uncountable corpses. They did find gold. All people who were killed in 1976 (new people) from various cities. The victims were mixed: Khmer, Chinese, and officials. Mr. Moeng Huot Hoeun gave the same information as Mr. Chum Vin. He also went to dig for gold. So, the information from the witnesses, Huot Hoeun, Luon Khom and Deputy Chief of the district seems important and similar.

***The estimation of pits and victims at the execution site of Tuol Ta Phlorng***

According to informants and witness who witnessed the events, and made the following estimations:

- There are two 5 meter x 20 meter pits. The pits were 2 meters deep. There are 200 or 500 small pits.
- There are 100 or 200 corps per main pit and 1 or 3 or 4 corpses per small pit according to big or small families. So there are 50,000 or 100,000 or 150,000 corpses. Bones were not all stored in the memorial, because there were too many. Cows ate a lot of bones because villagers dug the graves up to explore gold and the bones were in mess all over the killing hill.

***List of surviving prisoners***

Mr. Chum Vin, Mr. Moeng Huot Hoeun and Mr. Luon Khom told us that: There are 3 surviving prisoners:

1. Koan Prik lives in Trel Village, Kampong Chen Cheung (north) sub-district.
2. Koan Sieng, died after 1979.
3. Prin Meas lives in Chy Meas village, Msa Krang sub-district.

These people can be found, if needed because they are all still alive.

**Conclusion:**

We went down to Stung district along 50 kilometers road. Security was good. However, the difficulty was road for 2 sites as they were very far. The roads to the sites were cart lanes, and security was not stable. We were able to reach and take photographs of only 2 sites: 1) prison, and 2) execution site. Bones of victims were kept at the prison with good care. The bones can be in a good condition for long time. There were a lot of people killed at the sites. The security has been better since 1997 up to now (July 1998). Before 1997 the security was very complicated. There are mine lands being demined by CMAC. As the result, we succeeded in conducting field research only two sites, but if we did not go we would have no information about this. We intend to go down to the site we did not yet go, but we have to wait for years. The places will be accessible when there is stability; real peace, no Khmer Rouge soldiers and all mines have been demined.

**On July 16, 1998****Prasat Balang district**

Our mapping team departed from Kampong Thom provincial town along National Road #6 to Prasat Balang district. When we arrived at the fork, we turned right toward Prasat Balang district. We arrived the district office at 8:00 a.m.. The district office is 28 kilometers away from the province office. At the district office we met with Mr. Chhun Sinuon chief of district and Mr. Ho Huot, deputy chief of district. We told them our purpose and request. They agreed to our proposal and supported our mission. Prasat Balang district is a new district formed in 1991. The district consists of 7 sub-districts and 65 villages. In the Khmer Rouge regime, the district was District 73, Region 43, Northern Zone. Balang district is bounded to:

- the north by Preah Vihear province,
- the south by Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province,
- the west by Stung district, Kampong Thom province,
- the east by Prasat Sambo district, Kampong Thom province.

According to district report, Balang district has a land area of 129,360 hectares. Producing land: 17, 696 hectares, dry season farming land: 10 hectares, rainy season farming land: 10,324 hectares, plantation: 1,372 hectares, vacant land 27,292 hectares, and forestland: 90,972 hectares. The district has a population of 738,581, which is equal to 6785 families. Among them there are 19,359 males. There are 1,763 people who are eligible to vote.

## ***Security Information***

The Khmer Rouge is not the problem but landmines are the serious factors being solved. Mines are being demined everyday by Cambodia Mine Awareness and Clearance (CMAC).

## **Genocide site information**

Due to the district is the newly formed district, 5 sub-district of the district detached from Kampong Svay district and 2 sub-districts from Stung district. So, the execution sites are not remarkable. The execution sites are:

1. Trapeang Krasal village:
  - Andaung Kra-Aup execution site: It is in between Phan Nheum sub-district and Tuol Kreul sub-district.
  - Wat Krapeu and Tuol Kreul Chas: They are 24 to 25 kilometers from the district headquarters. There is not proper road, but cart lane surrounded by forest and there are no people's houses. Unstable security (landmine zone). A few hundreds of people were killed at this site.
2. Chun Pikar village (Hanicapped village):
  - Trapeang Chambakk is in Trapeang Russei sub-district. It is inaccessible place (landmines). A few hundreds of people were killed during the Khmer Rouge time.

## ***Wat Serei Sophorn Chas 060401 B***

Wat Serei Sophorn Chas was used by the Khmer Rouge as security office, prison, and execution sites. It is 5 kilometers away from the district office and it is on the right hand side. It is in Sala Visai village, Sala Visai sub-district, Prasat Balang district. The last execution was conducted here in 1978 before the Vietnam's invasion in 1979. The most people killed were females, children and adults (new people).

## ***Inspection of killing sites and interview with witnesses***

At 9:00 a.m., our team arrived at Wat Serei Sophorn Thmei to meet with 5 elderly villagers.

1. Mr. Kong Chhun, 66, lives in Sala Visai village, Sala Visai district Prasat, Balang district, Kampong Thom province.
2. Mr. Saom Hum, 69, lives in Sala Visai village, Sala Visai sub-district, Prasat Balang district, Kampong Thom province.
3. Mr. Roat Pum, 78, lives in Sala Visai village, Sala Visai sub-district, Prasat Balang district, Kampong Thom province.
4. Mr. Roat Chum, 73, lives in Sala Visai village, Sala Visai sub-district, Prasat Balang district, Kampong Thom province.
5. Mr. Chum Sambok, 43, lives in Sala Visai village, Sala Visai sub-district, Prasat Balang district, Kampong Thom province.

In the Khmer Rouge regime, they were base people who all lived in Sala Visai village, Sala Visai sub-district, (KR) District 73, Kampong Thom province. As they all were base people who lived here in the Khmer Rouge regime and knew that the killing was committed in Wat Serei Sophorn Chas. We asked them to be our witnesses. They all agreed. They confirmed that Wat Serei Sophorn Chas was really a security office, prison and execution site. The site is 1 hectare by 1 hectare size. The Khmer Rouge cadres killed people and buried everywhere in the Wat compound. There are uncountable rows of pits. They also killed people outside the Wat about 500 meters. A well in the Wat was full of corpses.

### ***Victims***

The victims were children, adults, males, females and especially females and children of new people who evacuated from cities. Some of them were base people. The last killings were in 1978 before the Vietnamese invasion in 1979. The 5 witnesses saw villagers dig the pits for gold after 1979. There were a lot of bones, but no body took good care of them. All witnesses added that in 1976, the Khmer Rouge sent 10,000 families of new people evacuated from cities to 2 districts--Prasat Balang district (5,000 families) and Sandan district (5,000 families). Among the 5,000 families, the witnesses knew that only one person, soldier's wife, is alive. The rest died, but died in many sites. Husbands were killed first in 1976, 1977 and 1978. Wives and children were killed later in 1978.

### ***Number of pits***

- A water well consisted of 50 to 70 skulls.
- There are 100 or 120 small and mass graves.
- Killing was according to the size of the family, 2, 3, 4 or 5 people. If it was a mother with 2 children, they were killed and buried in a pit of 3 corpses, and if 5 member families, they were killed and buried in mass graves.

We estimated that there were 110 or 120 by 5 = 600 or 700 dead people unaccounted for the sites outside the Wat. The lowest number is estimated between 500 or 600.

### ***Confirmation***

All 5,000 families died (some of them died in Kampong Svay district) because they were sent to a main security office (Wat Sangke).



## **Conclusion**

Prasat Balang is a new district. It was formed in 1991. 7 sub-district originated from Kampong Svay district and Stung district. The execution sites and security office (prisons) are not noticeable. These sites and security office and prison were all under the responsibility of the sub-district, in the Khmer Rouge regime. There are only 2 important execution sites. Among the 2 sites, we were able to get access to one, but not the other one. So, it is not so important in the future to go down to this site again, only if the security is stable and mines are demined, we will be able to get access to the site, but we have to wait for years. As the way to Prasat Sambo district is difficult and far, we decided to go on July 17, 1998. We can spend only one morning to conduct the field research in this district, and we spent an evening to write report on 2 district we had been to.

**July 17, 1998**

### **Prasat Sambo district**

Prasat Sambo district is 35 kilometers east of Kampong Thom provincial town, but only 25 kilometers if travel along the middle road. It is 50 or 60 kilometers far if we travel by waterway from district to the provincial town. The Prasat Sambo district is bounded to:

- the north by Prasat Balang district,
- the south by Santuk district,
- the west by Kampong Svay district,
- the east by Sandan district.

The district was newly formed in 1987. The Khmer Rouge burned down people's houses but the houses have been rebuilt since 1991 up to now. According to the district report, this district was the administrative region, not district-headquarters. In the Khmer Rouge regime, the district was in Region 35, Central Zone. The district consists of 5 sub-districts and 66 villages. These sub-districts were detached from Kampong Svay district and Sandan district. It has a population of 36,354, in which there are 18,953 females. There are 9,692 people age over the age of 18 years old and have the right to vote. This district has over 100 temples and is full of forest. There is not much land for farming. People's occupations are farmers and sellers.

## **Security information**

Mr. Deputy Chief of Prasat Sambo district informed us that there is problem with security and Khmer Rouge high ranking leaders of the Khmer Rouge defected in 1997-1998. But mines are really a noticeable problem, too. CMAC is demining so that people can build their residences and do the farming. However, there are robberies of cows and buffaloes.

### ***Informants and information on genocide sites***

1. Mr. Sean Seang Hao, deputy chief of district,
2. Mr. Tit Than, chief of provincial party.
3. Mr. Khuon Vutha, district officer.

They informed us the following information:

1. Wat Srei Tep: Execution site was in front of Wat Srei Tep.
2. Prey Neak Chas Srok (district ancestor's jungle), execution site in Chramass Chas village.
3. Memorial and execution site at Wat Sambo.

Chramass village has security office, prison and execution site. Chramass village is in Sambo sub-district, Sambo district. There were little massacre in various sub-districts, but not significant.

### ***Inspection of sites***

#### ***Wat Srei Tep                      060501              B***

At 10: 00 a.m., we took 3 motor taxi to the sites at Wat Srei Tep. It is 6 kilometers away from the district office. There, we met with Put Khlok, 79, chief of monks. The chief of monk said that in the Khmer Rouge regime, Wat Srei Tep was a real execution site. The execution site was around the stupa in front of the Wat in the cluster of palm trees and there were 2 pits. The monk saw 5 meters x 12 meters pits and they were 1.5 meters deep. This was not prison, but execution site. The victims here were 37 Lon Nol military families. There were about 150 or 250 people killed. All of the victims were Lon Nol's male soldiers, and a few females. The dead people were not base people. Another monk, Lut Lun, 75, gave us a similar information. These 2 monks were base people in the Khmer Rouge regime and they clearly knew the activities of the Khmer Rouge. Mr. Khim Khier , 50, who lives in Chramass village, told us that Wat Srei Tep was the real execution site as the report of the monks.

#### ***Prey Neak Chas Srok                      060502              B/P***

At 11:00 a.m., we took motor taxis towards Chramass village to visit Prey Neak Chas Srok, a security office and prison and execution sites. There were 2 execution sites in Chramas village, Sambo sub-district. It is 6 kilometers from the distric office. We found a witness. So Hang, 70, was base people in Chramass village, Sambo sub-district. He lived near the execution site. Mr. So Hang told us

that he clearly knows that Chramass village, really had security office, prison and execution site. This was under the supervision of Kampong Svay district in the Khmer Rouge regime. Two kinds of victims who were in prison and killed here. They were:

1. Soldiers and officials of the Lon Nol regime (Most of them are male. They were purged from various village and sub-districts in 1977).
2. New people (successively purged from the first category). They killed husbands and then wives and children.

A few base people were killed such as people who morally misbehaved. All new people were killed. Mr. So Hang added that when looked after cow in the daytime, from 6 to 7 a.m., he saw the Khmer Rouge cadres shepherded rows of 10 or 12 people to be killed. Some of them were killed in Prey Neak Ta Chas Srok and some in jungle. He saw they shepherded victims every day from prison in Chramass village.

### ***Number of pits estimated in 2 sites mentioned above***

Mr. So Hang said that there were 2 sites. One in Chramass village and another one in Prey Neak Ta Chas Srok. There were 2 mass graves. Each mass grave is 5 meters wide by 12 meters long and 2 meters deep; each pit contained more than 100 corpses. There are about 12 or 20 small pits. Each pit contained 2 or 3 corpses. There were about 200 or 250 victims. We then arrived at the execution sites, took photograph in Prey Neak Ta Chas Srok, and witnessed pits. They are still visible. A farmer, Mr. Nhim Toem, guided us to the site and showed us the site. He has lived in Chramass village since the Khmer Rouge regime.

At 1:30 p.m., we met a witness, Mr. Chuon Choeun, 36, lives in Chramass village, Sambo sub-district, Prasat Sambo district. In the Khmer Rouge regime he was a messenger in security office, prison and execution site in Chramass village, Prey Neak Ta Chas Srok. He was 10 years old then. Mr. Chuon Choeun was a messenger who took letters to chief of Kampong Svay district and to various sub-districts. He provided the following detailed information about perpetrators of the security office, prison, and the killing site as follow:

- Comrade Ly, chief of security office (dead).
- Comrade Lai, deputy chief of security office, (disappeared).

Mr. Chuon Choeun added that he clearly know, heard and witnessed their activities. Comrade Ly and Lai gave order to various sub-districts to gather those who had tendency, especially new people evacuated from various cities. The Khmer Rouge cadres took 15 or 20 people once or twice per week or every 2 weeks from every cooperative in villages or sub-district. There were only few base people who were victims here. There was only one 7 x 30 square meters prison. The prison contained 3 rows of cuffs for prisoners. They plugged prisoners' feed to the central row and hands to others. They put 30 prisoners per row. The prison could load 100

prisoners. The witness confirmed that Khmer Rouge cadres interrogated prisoners every day. They hammered nails on prisoners' hands through tables forcing the prisoners to confess. Whenever they finished interrogating they took the prisoners to kill. They took 15 or 20 prisoners to kill each time. When they killed some or all prisoners, the killers took new prisoners from various villages, sub-district to replace the old ones. They killed once or twice per week and sometimes once every 2 weeks. The witnesses told us that there were no victims alive, if they released any prisoner. The victims were too skinny, unhealthy, and weak. They had to grasp or hold onto something when they wanted to stand up. Therefore, the prisoners died also on their way home or in their home.

- The killing was conducted in 1977-78.
- The witness estimated that there were 100-250 prisoners killed at this prison.

### **Wat Sragne (not yet mapped)**

We then met with Mr. Khim Choeung, 46. He claimed that he told us the truth about the security office, prison in Wat Srange, Tbeng sub-district, Kampong Svay district. We went to this site already in 1997.

### **Witnesses:**

- Mr. Khim Choeung was chief of security group of the site.
- We want him to be our witness for the future because he was a member of Khmer Rouge perpetrators there.

Mr. Khim Choeung is a group chief (chief of 10 households). He lives in Kampong Chheu Teal village, Sambo sub-district, Prasat Sambo district. In the Khmer Rouge regime, he was a village militiaman, then chief of mobile work brigade of Kampong Svay district and then chief of security in Wat Srange until 1979. He knew clearly the names of chiefs and deputy chiefs of the security office, but they all died. One execution site was in front of the Wat, and another execution site was a paddy field, 1 kilometer further in wild bamboo bush. He said his obligation was only to spy in various villages, sub-districts, but not killer.

### **Victims**

New people, soldiers, civil officials evacuated from the cities were killed in 1977. The Khmer Rouge cadres also killed new people left from the 1st category including base peoples who were allegedly wrongdoers or who had tendency toward new people, and city dwellers. The Khmer Rouge cadres who morally misbehaved (especially misconduct or had sex with women without Angkar's permission). The witness added that killing took place over one-year period, between 1977-78. In the end of 1978, all victims were killed. They killed the victims after interrogating. 10 or 15 victims were taken out to kill overnight. There were 15,000 or 25,000 or 36,000 people killed.

**Wat Sambo****060503 M**

At 3:00 p.m., we went to inspect, take photos of bones stored at the memorial in Wat Sambo, Sambo sub-district near the district office. There are a lot of bones properly stored in the museum (memorial). All bones were gathered from execution sites behind the Wat, and various sites as mentioned above. We already took photographs of the site behind Wat Sambo. There were about 20 or 30 corpses. The information was taken from deputy chief of Prasat Sambo district. In short, there were 2 important witnesses and also few informants. We took photographs for documents already.

**Conclusion**

We have visited only 3 districts in Kampong Thom province. We spent 1 day for each district, we visited from 1 to 3 genocide sites. Other two districts are new districts with a few killing sites, but we were not able to get access to. Stung district consists of 3 execution sites, but we could not go because of insecurity as mentioned above.

**Sandan district**

We could not go to Sandan district by car. It took a long time to travel by boat. It took one and a half-day and if we include working days and travelling days, it took us 3 days to complete the visit to this district. As the result, we could not go to work there. This time, we had obstacles. A bridge, 5 kilometers from the provincial town collapsed on July 14; so we wasted one day. On the way back to Stung district, another bridge collapsed, but it did not interrupt our work. We had to overcome all obstacles including landmine zone. We struggled against the obstacles so that we could go to the remote districts. There were a lot difficulties on the ways, for instance, the roads were in bad condition and difficult to make our journey because of sand, jungle, isolation and muddy and slippery road. Also we have to go through water. During the journey, we were very careful. Even through we had difficulties; we struggled and tried all our best to get access to various killing sites as we scheduled.

Further more, Kampong Thom provincial officials complained that in these circumstances they are focussing on only the National Election, so all work have to be postponed. We went to their province this time to interrupt their work. I think that what they said may be right because it is time for the election what they want to hear is election, they just do not care about the other things. I think we should postpone our journey to Prey Veng province and will do it after the election.