

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) MAPPING THE KILLING FIELDS OF CAMBODIA, 1997: khet KAMPOT [G-7-kampot/a-cb-kp]

Location	Site Name/Date	# of graves	Est. Victim	Witness	File #	Latitude	longitude
Srok Kampong Trach	Phnom Kampong Trach/ 08 May 1997	1 pit	200-300	San Sman សាន ស រាន	R 050809A/ 70601	N10°34'242 3"	E 104°28'1393 "
Srok Kampong Trach	Pray Koh Loak/ 09 May 1997	30 pits	2100	Chhun Khom ឃុន ខុម	R 050900A/ 70602	N 10°37'1478"	E 104°26'4218 "
Srok Kampong Trach	Phum Cheun Mean/ 09 May 1997			Hang Phorn ហង់ ភន	R 050901A/ 70603	N 10°36'5542"	E 104°26'5364 "
Srok Angkor Chey	Mor Ty Tamorn/ 09 May 1997			Tep Pan ទេព ភ័ន	R 050908A/ 70101	N 10°50'5612"	E 104°38'5997 "
Srok Angkor Chey	Tra Morn/ 09 May 1997			Douk Phan ឧ ក ផន់	R 050908B/ 70102/3	N 10°50'5796"	E 104°39'1792 "
Srok Angkor Chey	Prey Ta Kuy/ 09 May 1997	136 pits	32047	Douk Phan ឧ ក ផន់	R 050908C/ 70104	N 10°50'4874"	E 104°39'3206 "
Srok Angkor Chey	Prey Cheung Wat/ 09 May 1997	25 pits	400	Houn Om ហ៊ុន អ៊ុំ	R 050909A/ 70105	N 10°53'2021"	E 104°37'0767 "
Srok Angkor Chey	wat Sre Chea/ 09 May 1997			Houn Om ហ៊ុន អ៊ុំ	R 050909B/ 70106	N 10°53'1616"	E 104°37'0912 "

Documentation Center of Cambodia

Searching for the Truth

(ស្វែងរកការពិត ដើម្បីការបង្ហាញនិងយុត្តិធម៌)

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On 8 May 1997, DC.Cam assigned Mr. Sin Khin and Mr. Hak Sophal to conduct a field study in search of documents related to the genocidal crime of Pol Pot's clique in srok Kampong Trach and srok Ang Chey in Khet Kampot.

At 7:00 a.m., we set off from Phnom Penh along National Road 5 to Khet Kampot, 10 kilometers from Phnom Penh. We reached there at 10:00 a.m.

We met with Mr. Ier Saveth, deputy chief of Cabinet; Mr. In Chhoeun, general staff; and H.E. Kun Kim Teng, provincial governor. After the meeting, we were then given an official written authorization allowing us to work in collaboration with the Commissariat of the Provincial Police. The Commissariat of the Provincial Police issued to us another authorization allowing us to contact the two Commissariats of the District Police in srok Kampong Trach and srok Angkor Chey.

Geographical Location of Khet Kampot

Khet Kampot is bordered by khet Kampong Speu on the north, Vietnam on the south, Sihanoukville on the west, and Khet Takeo on the east. In Pol Pot's time, it was in Region 35, Southwestern zone.

- Cambodian people	:	479,775	people (Female:249,924)
- Islamic people	:	13,650	people (Female: 7,232)
- Chinese people	:	628	people (Female: 324)
- Vietnamese people	:	796	people (Female: 362)

Total population : 492,562 people

Death Toll in khet Kampot

-Peasants	:	16,976	people
-Civil servants, soldiers	:	2,738	people
-Ethnic Minorities	:	34,884	people
-Monks	:	552	people
-Crippled people	:	67,423	people

Total death toll : 65,045 people

There were 25,632 people making complaints against Pol Pot's clique and his men, and filing petitions in favor of the government.

Srok Kampong Trach

At 2:00 p.m., we left for srok Kampong Trach, 36 kilometers from khet Kampot along the road 16. Srok Kampong Trach was in region 35-33, Southwestern zone (in Pol Pot's time). It is bordered by srok Daun Tung and srok Banteay Meas on the north, by the seaside on the south, by Krong Keb on the west, and by Vietnam and srok Banteay Meas on the East.

This district contains 14 khum, 69 phum, 981 groups, and 14,494 families with a total population of 78,480, of which 38,016 are male.

- Rice-field area	:	12,369.00 hectares
- Farming area	:	630.25 hectares
- Dwelling area	:	2,064.25 hectares
- Salt-field area	:	193.01 hectares
- Mountainous area	:	2,102.12 hectares

Total area	:	20,124.56 hectares
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Criminal Center

Killing site La Ang Phnom Kampong Trach (Prey Phnom Kampong Trach) is located in phum Kamnat Kantuot Tbaung, srok Kampong Trach, 1 kilometer away. There is no prison, and no memorial for keeping remains. The remains were taken to be deposited at Sadaub in srok Daun Tung.

Witness

Our witness is San Sman, deputy chief of srok Kampong Trach. After 1979, he was told that the victims killed at this site did not necessarily come from this province only. They were people who had breached Pol Pot's code of morality, had stolen crops to eat, were lazy or sick, or who pretended to be ill. The victims were comprised of politically-involved people such as civil servants in the city, soldiers, police, spies, custom officers, etc. Victims were typically killed either singly or in pairs. The killing lasted from 1976 to 1978.

Around 300 dead bodies could be seen in La Ang Phnom Kampong Trach during 1979-80.

Killing site Prey Koh Loak is located in phum O'Sleng, khum Damnak Kantuot Khang Choeung, srok Kampong Trach, khet Kampot. The location is 7 kilometers from the district office of srok Kampong Trach, near the house of Chhi Ra and his wife Chhun Khom.

We also obtained additional information from 2 other witnesses. Hang Porn, age 54, is the chief of phum O'Sleng, khum O'Sleng, srok Kampong Trach, khet Kampot. Chhun Khom, age 32, lives in the same phum, khum and srok as Hang Porn.

Accompanied by the witnesses, we went to visit the killing site. Two months prior to our visit, the place was full of mines which had caused many deaths of animals and people. However, by the time of our visit, the mines had been cleared off. It was a very hot battle field. There were many large pits, each of which was 10 m wide, 12 m long, 1.50 m deep. The site contained around 20 to 30 mass graves.

Hang Porn, the chief of phum O'Sleng, said that when people excavated the pits in search of gold in 1979-80, he saw about 60 to 70 skeletons in one of the pits. From this observation, he estimated that 2100 victims were killed here. The killing was carried out from 1975 until 1979.

He added that the victims were gathered from srok Kamong Trach in 1975. A great number of victims were taken from all collectives throughout the commune in 1976. Those victims were accused of committing various kinds of wrongful acts. If the father did something wrong, his wife, his children, and the family on the father's side were all killed. Likewise, if any child committed any wrong-doing, the parents, brothers and sisters of the child were killed, too. Pol Pot's henchmen carried out the slogan: "To dig up grass, you must dig up all its roots".

Many other victims were taken from phum Chin prison (now called Dey Lo Sang Thmey). The prison is in phum O'Sleng, khum O'Sleng, srok Kampong Trach, khet Kamppot. It is about 500 m from the killing site which is now surrounded by coconut trees and mango trees (we have photos and documents). The prison, according to the witness, was for detaining victims.

The victims were supposed to be interrogated, then were all taken to be killed. Once the prison had been completely liquidated, new victims were gathered. The prison was built between 1975 and 1979. Hang Porn testified that shortly after the first arrivals at the prison in the beginning of 1979, he discovered the Khmer Rouge practice of harvesting the organs of its victims for use as food.

He found there many human gallbladders that had been hung to dry. Apparently the Khmer Rouge forgot the gallbladders when they departed. Based upon the relative freshness of the gallbladders, Hang Porn assumed that the execution of the victims had been committed in November and December of 1978.

Srok Angkor Chey

We arrived at srok Angkor Chey at 11:00 a.m., where we met with the district chief and the chief of the Office of Culture.

Geographical Location of srok Angkor Chey

Srok Angkor Chey is bordered by srok Tram Kok in khet Takeo on the north, by srok Banteay Meas in khet Kampot on the south, by srok Chhouk in khet Kampot on the west, and by srok Treang Kirirum on the in khet Takeo on the east. It was in Region 16, Southwestern zone (srok 106 in Pol Pot's time).

There is a population of 7,420 people, of whom 3,929 are women.

-Planting area	:	14,344.45 hectares
-Farming area	:	1,816.56 hectares
-Dwelling area	:	3,626.82 hectares
-Mountainous area	:	1,500.00 hectares
-Flooded area	:	34.00 hectares
-Road area	:	915.51 hectares

Total area	:	22,237.34 hectares
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Most of the people grow rice and a variety of other subsidiary crops to make their livings.

Criminal Center

Phum Tamorn criminal center is comprised of prisons, a memorial and a killing site. The center is located in phum Reussey Dom, khum Pra Phnom, srok Angkor Chey, khet Kampot.

There are 3 prisons in the center. One was a prison for women only-this prison was a house whose the owner has now come back to live there. The second one, which is composed of dark cells, is located behind the house. The third prison is near the memorial. In Pol Pot's time, the prisons were surrounded by 7 layers of barbed-wire fence. No one dared to show up near this location.

According to the witness, only Pol Pot's party members and their families could live the prisons. If any victims tried to escape from the prisons, there was no need for the prison guards to arrest the escapees; the people living there were far more vicious than the murderers.

The memorial is a concrete stupa in phum Reussey Dom (phum Tamorn), khum Pra Phnom, srok Angkor Chey, khet Kampot. The remains are kept up properly. However, before the stupa was built, some of the remains were eaten by animals. The remains were excavated from the pits at Prey Takuy. Near the 3 prisons above are also some killing sites but not as many as at Prey Takuy.

The Prey Takuy killing site is located in phum Damnak Krasang, khum Pra Phnom, srok Angkor Chey, khet Kampot. It is 1 kilometer from the prisons. Previously, the site was a bamboo forest. The pits are scatter around the pond and in the pond. The pond, 50 meters wide and 60 meters long, was dug by the prisoners everyday. The previous prisoners dug the pits for the next prisoners to come. When the digging finished, the prisoners were killed at once. Prisoners were executed from 4 p.m. until dawn. No more than 250 victims were killed each night. Now, this killing site is marked by a palm tree, Krasang tree, and a pond bordered by high ground every side.

We compiled this information through direct examination. coupled with the testimony of the following **witnesses:**

- Tep Pan is 68 year old, layman. His brother was imprisoned in phum Reussey Dom during Pol Pot's regime.
- Duk Chuh is 70 year old, male. He has lived in phum Reussey Dom (phum Tamorn), khum Pra Phnom, srok Angkor Chey, khet Kampot both during and since Pol Pot's time. His testimony is very important because he witnessed the daily processions of victims who were marched to this prison during the day, and killed at night from 1974 to 1979.

Kinds of victims killed at Prey Takuy:

During 1973-74: Victims were gathered and killed one at a time. They included the revolutionary base people, retired cadre members or officers, and the people whose relatives in the city were accused of being spies and underground enemies.

1975: During this period, the categories of victims were expanded to include civil servants, soldiers, police officers, spies, and custom officers who were evacuated from the city.

During 1976-78: It was a mass killing in 1978. The victims included Khmer, Vietnamese, Islamic and even European families (also Khmer Kampuchea Krom).

When asked about the methods of torture, the witnesses told us that victims, when interrogated, were tied and hung upside down. Others were tied by the neck and dragged behind horses, which often resulted in death. These witnesses saw the remains excavated out of the pits by people in search of gold during 1979-80. Each of the large pits holds 54 bodies--young and old of both sexes. Some large pits can hold up to 135 bodies. Many other pits contain women only. These corpses, unlike those of the men, were naked. In the prison for women only, all the women were killed.

There is a total of 136 pits in Prey Takuy, some of which have not yet been excavated. The death toll is 32,047 victims. We also used the GPS machine to pinpoint the locations of the prisons, the memorials and the killing sites. We took pictures of the memorials, the remains, the witnesses, and the killing sites, and interviewed witnesses until 3:50 p.m.

Wat Sre Chea Criminal Center

This criminal center is located in phum Sre Chea, khum Champei, srok Angkor Chey, khet Kampot. It is 17 kilometers from the district office. The center is comprised of a prison and a killing site. The killing site is at Prey Cheung Wat, which is in phum Sre Chea, khum Champei, srok Angkor Chey, khet Kampot.

We met with one witness named Hun Om, male, age 55, and another witness named Om Khut, male, age 61. Both of them live in phum Sre Chea, khum Champei, srok Angkor Chey, khet Kampot. These two witnesses led us to the killing site, where we saw 25 pits.

The witnesses, who had seen people dig up these pits in search of gold, estimated that the total death toll was approximately 400 victims. They reported that they had seen many skulls piled up somewhere in the forest, and testified to the existence of many small and big pits, each of which could hold 40 to 60 bodies.

The victims killed in the Prey Cheung Wat were taken from the prison in Wat Sre Chea and from Marom in khum Marom. There were 4000 young and old people of both sexes gathered from khum Marom to live in khum Champei. Afterwards, those people were all taken to be killed at Prey Cheung Wat.

The prison in wat Sre Chea is in phum Sre Chea, khum Champei, srok Angkor Chey, khet Kampot. The prison is about 100 m from the killing site which is located north of Wat Sre Chea. Houses for monks were used by Pol Pot's henchmen as the prison and the place for interrogation. Women were sexually assaulted before being killed, said the witnesses. We visited the wat Sre Chea criminal center until 5:30 p.m. We finished our work and came back to Phnom Penh along National Road 3. We safely arrived in Phnom Penh at 7:00 p.m.

CONCLUSION

With regard to administrative procedures with the province of Kampot, we generally communicated and coordinated with local authorities well, although we spent some time waiting on the provincial governor who was attending a meeting. Despite being a mountainous area, this province is very stable. Security did not pose a problem.

We conducted research in 8 locations, which is appropriate for the time we allocated. The absence of security and stability difficulties enhanced our ability to work efficiently. Additionally, the driving was not so difficult; roads in this province are generally better than in many other provinces. We intentionally avoided locations that could only be reached on foot – specifically Au Tapav in phum Tuol Khpuos, khum Pra Phnom Chong Keut, srok Angkor Chey, khet Kampot-or others that were difficult to reach by car.

Based upon our past experience, we know that the killing sites, prisons and memorials in the many criminal centers that we actually find in provinces such as khet Kampot indicate the existence of many more. Therefore, additional programs should be resumed in years ahead.

Another important experience is that we should avoid going to work on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays because all functionaries are principally supposed by the royal government to relax from their work.