

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

KANDAL PROVINCE

District	Site Name/ Visit Date	Site Type	Est. Victim	Witness	File #/ID Code	Latitude	Longitude
Ponhea Leu	Oudong Mountain/ 9 June 1998	1 memorial	N/A	Sok Leng សុក ឡេង	R 060902A/ 080901	N 11°47'4321"	E 104°46'1430"
Ponhea Leu	Chamkar Svay/ 9 June 1998	20-50 pits	Prison 300-500	Vorn Veun វ៉ែន វ៉ែន	R 060903A/ 080902	N 11°47'5556"	E 104°45'5148"
Ponhea Leu	Wat Kasap Preah Vihear/ 9 June 1998	1 prison	N/A	Sim Pring ស៊ីម ព្រីង	R 060903B/ 080903	N 11°47'2160"	E104°46'2640"
Ponhea Leu	Wat Ang Serei Suosdei/ 12 June 1998	1 memorial	N/A	Sin Touch ស៊ីន ទូច	R 061205A/ 080904	N 11°40'5814"	E 104°49'5640"
Ponhea Leu	Pralay Ta Pe/ 12 June 1998	2 lakes	2,000- 5,000	Sin Touch ស៊ីន ទូច	R 061206A/ 080905	N 11°39'5364"	E 104°50'3465"
Ponhea Leu	Tvear Tik/ 12 June 1998	1 pond	2,000- 5,000	Eng Siry អេង ស៊ីរី	R 061206B/ 080906	N 11°39'3293"	E 104°48'3068"
Ponhea Leu	Baset Traey Troeng/ 12 June 1998	1 memorial 1 execution site	300	Khlok Meas ខ្លោក ម៉ាស	R 061208C/ 080907	N 11°39'5490"	E 104°44'5569"
Ponhea Leu	Chamkar Svay/ 12 June 1998	Prison 1 burial site	7,000	Khlok Meas ខ្លោក ម៉ាស	R 061209A/ 080908	N 11°39'5659"	E 104°44'4844"
Muk Kampoul	Wat Roka Kaong/ 15 June 1998	1 memorial 1 prison 1 burial site	N/A	Tuy Pon ទុយ ប៉ុន	R 061502B/ 080701	N 11°50'4907"	E 104°59'4069"
Muk Kampoul	Koh Moronak ¹ / 15 June 1998	1 burial site	Over 10,000	Tuy Pon ទុយ ប៉ុន	R 061503 A/ 080702	N 11°50'2755"	E 104°59'4889"
Muk Kampoul	Serei Mongol H.S/ 1 pond	Prison 1 pond	Over 10,000	Tuy Pon	R061503 B/ 080703	N 11°50'2153"	E 104°58'5996"

¹ Also known as Koh Roka Kaong.

	15 June 1998			ទុយ ប៉ុន			
Ang Snuol	Prey Sre Kach/ 15 June 1998	1 prison ² Burial site	30-50	Soeung Duk ស្មៅ ឌុក	R061508A/ 080801	N 11°32'5737"	E 104°40'3305"
Ang Snuol	Wat Snguon Pich/ 15 June 1998	Prison/ Memorial 1 burial site	300-500	Kim Se គីម សែ	R061508 B/ 080802	N 11°30'3387"	E 104°46'2442"
Khsach Kandal	Sanlong School/ 16 June 1998	1 prison ³	12-15	Lonh Launh ឡុញ ឡុញ	R 061603A/ 080301	N 11°41'1851"	E 105°04'0217"
Khsach Kandal	Daem Run/ 16 June 1998	1 pit	20-30	Eng Setha អេង សេថា	R 061604A/ 080302	N 11°44'4514"	E 105°00'3772"
Khsach Kandal	Chamkar Siv/ 16 June 1998	1 execution site	700-1,000	Moeung Horl ម៉ឺង ហ៊ុល	R061606A/ 080302	N 11°45'2869"	E 105°01'0432"
Khsach Kandal	Chamkar Siv/ 16 June 1998	Prison/1 execution site	2,000- 5,000	Muy Hong Ky មុយ ហុងគី	R061606B/ 080304	N 11°45'3122"	E 105°01'0350"
Khsach Kandal	Wat Svay Romiet/ 16 June 1998	Prison 1 pit	10-12	Ek Krauch ឌក ក្រូច	R 061608A/ 080305	N 11°47'3350"	E 105°01'0871"

On 12 June, 1998

The Documentation Center of Cambodia assigned a team of four members led by Mr. Sin Khin and Mr. Phat Kosal to do a research in Kandal province. The team departed from Phnom Penh and headed along National Road # 2 to Kandal province. The team departed at 6 a.m. and arrived at Ta Khmao, provincial town of Kandal, at 8 a.m.. There, we waited for about one hour before we met Mr. Chhung Sirung, and Mr. Tam Vey, deputy police commissioner of the province. We told them our purposes and proposals. We wanted the local authorities to create favorable conditions so that we can work closely with the governors of the districts, districts police, relevant departments, and sub-district authorities in the province. We wait for one hour.

² This prison was also used for execution of victims.

³ The prison was also used for execution of victims.

Ponhea Leu district sites⁴

At 9 a.m., our team departed for Ponhea Leu district by turning back to National Road # 6 via Phnom Penh, and which connects Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang and Siem Reap⁵ provinces. At 10:30 a.m., we reached the district office, which is about 42 kilometers from the provincial town of Kandal province. We met Mrs. Pheng Sothy, director of administrative office, Mrs. Aok Sarun, deputy chief of administrative office, and Mr. Khut Sokhon, district financial officer. The district chief and deputy district chief were not present, nor officials at the District Culture Office; so we instead asked for some reports from three district officials to conduct our research in all sub-districts of Ponhea Leu district.

Geographical Features of the district

Ponhea Leu district is located along National Road # 5. It is 30 kilometers away from Phnom Penh, and 42 kilometers from Kandal provincial town. The district is topographically covered with lowlands, plain and mountainous areas, and run through by the Mekong River. Most part of the district was covered with inundated forests. Ponhea Leu district is bordered on:

- the west by Oudong district, Kampong Speu province,
- the east by Batheay district, Kampong Cham province,
- the north by Kampong Tralach district, Kampong Chhnang,
- the south by Russey Keo district, Phnom Penh.

According to the existing Kandal report, there are 14 sub-districts and 141 villages in the district. The district has a population of 87,246 (45,433 are females). The people do farming in both rainy and dry seasons, produce palm sugar, handicraft materials, make sculptures, do fishing and grow rice for to meet their living needs. In the Khmer Rouge time, the district was called Region 32, District 25 of the Western Zone.

Genocide sites, Prisons and Memorial

The district officials reported to us that the genocide sites are:

- Chamkar Svay (**080902 B/P**), execution site (mango tree orchard) located in Phnom village, Phsar Dek sub-district.

⁴ Some genocide sites of Ponhea Leu district were visited on June 9, 1998.

because they are so close to the sites in Oudong district, Kampong Speu province.

⁵ Spelled according to the UNTAC map.

- Oudong Memorial⁶ (**080901 M**), in Phnom village, Phsar Dek sub-district.
- Wat Kasap Preah Vihear (**080903 P**), prison, in Phsar Dek, village, Phsar Dek district,
- Chrolorng Traeng, execution site, Samrong sub-district,
- Pralay (canal) Ta Pe (**080905 B**), execution site, Samrong Tbong village, Samrong sub-district,
- Wat Samrong Tbaung, memorial, in Samrong Tbong village.
- Baseth Mountain located as having a prison, burial and execution site, and a memorial, on Baseth mountain top and forests at the west of the mountain.
- Baseth Traey Troeng, execution site, Phnom Baseth Kraom, and Phnom Baseth Leu. (Three separate sites in close vicinity)

Chrolorng Traeng and Pralay Ta Pe sites **080905 B**

At 11 a.m., we departed from Ponhea Leu district office to Samrong sub-district. We met sub-district chief, Mr. Kang Sen, and we asked for information relating genocide sites in Chrolorng Traeng and Pralay Ta Pe. He showed us the map of the district. Then we looked and noted down with the participation and examination from the village chief and villagers. We had lunch at 12 noon. at Prek Phnov market. At 1 p.m., we continued our trip to the execution sites of Chrolorng Traey and Pralay Ta Pe on the road to the west of Baseth Traey Troeng mountain. At 2 p.m., we met villagers who had known, heard, seen, and recognized the execution sites. Those villagers were: 1) Mr. Sin Touch, 53; 2) Mr. Chum Samoeun and 3) Mr. Ung Sin, 54. We got information from them as follows: The execution site is located at the same place mentioned by the sub-district chief. They showed us the site that was located along the road from Prek Phnov to Baseth Mountain at the entrance of Wat Samrong Tbaung (south).

Victims

The three informants used to dig up remains for gold and for keeping in Wat Samrong Tbaung (in a stupa). We took photographs as evidence. The informants also said that in 1975 when Phnom Penh fell into the hands of the Khmer Rouge, civil servants of Lon Nol's administration including soldiers, high-ranking officials were sent to death there. The Khmer Rouge cadres also killed their wives and children by firing, not beating. The perpetrators shot them dead and dropped them into water pipes in Chrolorng Traeng, which still exist up to now as evidence. (The site is located behind 5 or 6 houses with four witnesses including Mr. Ket Chantha, who once dug the graves looking for jewelry which he thought was attached to piles of bones. At Chrolorng Traeng, 50 skulls of corpses were dug out and many others left there. There were also in the other place, Pralay (canal) Ta Pe on the right hand side of the road and 500 meters from Chrolorng Traeng. The remains taken from these two sites were kept in stupa at Wat Ang Serei Suosdei (**080904 M**). The remains were dug in 1984 in Samrong Tbaung village. The site consists of two canals, each of them with 2 meters in width, 400 meters in length and 1.5 meters in depth. Mr. In Chin had transported between 150 to 200 skulls by water buffalo-carts each time, but

⁶ Also known as Ethreus memorial.

could not finish. He estimated the number of victims at about 2,000 to 5,000 victims. We took photos of the four witnesses and recorded their interviews.

Tvea Tik 080906 B

This site is 2 kilometers from the National Route # 5 on the road to Baseth Mountain just in the middle of the village called Anhchanh. There are two lakes where according to Mr. Eng Sin, 54, between 2,000-5,000 victims were killed. This site bears scripts by the Khmer Rouge mobile work brigade on the water gate edges. This site is flooded in the raining season. No bones or skeletons left visible.

Baseth Traey Troeng 080907 B/M

Chhveang sub-district

At 3 p.m., we met Mr. Sok Khy, deputy chief of Chhveang sub-district. We asked for the exact location of the genocide sites we had learned. Then we jolted down to visit some other sites in the sub-district. We learned that in this sub-district, there were only three sites including Baseth Traey Troeng or Baseth Kraom (lower Baseth), Baseth Leu (upper Baseth), and Kong Sy Im Mountain. Then we reached the sites, located about 20 kilometers away from Prek Phnov via National Road # 5. When we learned that there was a man named Khlok Meas, who had been living near the site during the Khmer Rouge regime, and he is a high commissioner of Wat Baseth on top of the mountain. Mr. Khlok Meas is 54 years old. Nowadays, he lives in Ta Pech village, Chhveang sub-district. In the Khmer Rouge regime, he lived in Prey Kol village, Chhveang sub-district, Ponhea Leu district. The village located near Baseth Traey Troeng Mountain and Ta Pech village. At Baseth Traey Troeng Mountain, there were 4 prisons: 1) Daem Mai Sakk located in the west of the mountain foot, 2) Chamkar Svay (Mango groove) (**080908 B/P**) located in the district northwest of the mountain, 3) Wat Baseth Kraom and 4) Wat Baseth Leu.

Genocide site

The killing was committed at the foot and on top of the mountains, Phnom Baseth Leu and Baseth Kraom, Baseth Traey Troeng in bushes around the mountains. Nearby, there is a house called Phteah Baraing (Frech house) where killing and interrogation was conducted. The house has the size of 8 meters in length, 5 meters in width. After the interrogation, the victims' feet were tied, and hanged up and then their heads were plunged into the well. In case that the victims were conscious, the Khmer Rouge cadres let dogs bite the victims and forced them to look for firewood. There was no time to have a rest. If any one could no longer work, he or she might be killed.

The Khmer Rouge cadres set many steps to kill people such as first step, do this, and second step, do that etc. They called on a meeting in every 2 or 3 weeks. During the meeting they asked people “who want to return home or your cooperatives? If you really want to return, Angkar will not punish you”. So at this time, if 50 to 100 people raised their hands, meaning they wanted to go home. In stead, they all were killed. Next time, the Khmer Rouge cadres still did the same way as to other victims. But before being victimized, the victims were allowed to eat delicious food until full. When the victims returned to their cooperatives, perpetrators secretly killed them in the forests along the road. More information received from Ta Khann, who lives in Sleng village, Chey Loas sub-district. He used to be in the prison. He is a friend of Mr. Khlok Meas, our informant.

Number of victims

Mr. Khann estimated the number of victims at about 7,000 or more. The people were killed between 1975 and 1979. Most people were killed in late 1978 and early 1979. They were accused of moral wrong doings or mutual hatred. These people could not be released. According to Mr. Khann, no one else but Mr. Khann, who was released because he had good connection and could go along with the Khmer Rouge cadres, and was an active worker.

Victims

The Khmer Rouge cadres gathered victims from various directions, from sub-districts, districts, and cooperatives. All types of people were brought to this prison. This prison was considered the biggest and fiercest prison in the district. Three informants said the remains of the victims kept in a memorial on top of Baseth Traey Troeng Mountain, and chains and shackles remain right there. We took photos of witnesses, the memorial, chains and shackles. We also recorded the witnesses’ testimony as evidence. The informants are Ta Chey, Mr. Huoy, Mrs. San. Nowadays, these people were laymen and nun living on the Wats on top of Phnom Baseth Leu and Phnom Baseth Kraom. It is now 5 p.m.; so we could not interview any more.

Genocide site

Chamkar Svay execution site 080908 B/P

It is located at the foot of the Ethreus Mountain, Phnom village, Phsar Dek sub-district. There is a memorial for keeping the remains of victims in the Khmer Rouge regime, which is located near Ethreus Mountain, Wat Kasap Preah Vihear prison, and Wat Kampong Luong prison (in front of Ethreus Mountain). Those sites are located in Phnom village, Phsar Dek sub-district, Ponhea Leu district. We traveled along National Road # 5 until we reached Oudong School. Then, we turned left and went further about 1 kilometer and we reached Ethreus Mountain. Then we decided to do our research here as we know that there are sites here.

First we looked for sub-district chief, but after we found his house and asked his family, he was not at home. Later we met 4 villagers living nearby. Those villagers are Mr. Heng Hun, School Principal, Mr. Nav Sok Heng, Mr. Chaom Thai, and Mr. Kim Khan. The four live in the same village. In front of Mr. Heng Hun's house, we took photographs of several photos of pit exhumations at Chamkar Svay site, procession of transporting remains from pits to store in the memorial. That was between 1981-82, according to these 4 villagers. After having detailed information from them, we were informed that there were such sites as a memorial, security offices, and a prison. Then we went to visit those sites. First we took photographs of the memorial for keeping the remains of the victims. Then we went on to examine the execution site of Chamkar Svay.

The site is located northwest of the mountain about 500 meters from and just north of the foot of the mountain. In that site, we together with the local authority and villagers found that the killing pits are between 20-50 just in row at the base of those mango trees. We took photographs of the pits and witnesses who were pointing at the sites. The size of each pit is 2.5 to 3 meters square meters wide and 1.5 to 2 meters deep. And the size of the site is about 3,000 square meters and the estimated number of victims is about 300 to 500.

Victims

According to Mr. Vorn Veun, 42, now lives in Thlork Tra Bek village, Baseth sub-district, Ponhea Leu district, the killing was conducted in 1978 and early 1979. The Khmer Rouge perpetrators transported the victims by one or two trucks every week. The trucks were completely covered. The victims including children, men, women and old people were transported there from Muk Kampoul district, and from the Eastern Zone. They were killed by bamboo pipes and hoes. After the killing, the bodies were hanged on the mango trees. Mr. Veun said that in the Khmer Rouge regime, while he and other six people including a Khmer Rouge cadre, his guardian, were looking for tree roots and leaves traditional medicine, he heard a scream for help, and then the scream was followed by a crying voice, "Mum, help me". He suspected. Then he went to see what had happened. Having yet reached the place, he met a security guard. The guard by putting him at gunpoint asked him why he went there. Then he begged for mercy by saying, "I am here to dig roots, peel tree barks and get tree leaves to use as traditional medicine for killing insects. The Khmer Rouge security guard brought him to security chief and shouted "Is Vorn Veun your member, comrade?" The chief replied "Yes". After that the security chief told him that "next time, if you come here again, you will be responsible for yourself⁷". A few minutes later, the witnesses were released. From then onward he was not allowed to go about looking for traditional medicine anymore. All information was recorded and kept as documents. So we concluded that Mr. Vorn Veun was the most important witness. We met him in person and we learned about the murder. We rarely met such good witness as him. There was no Khmer Rouge document left. Because the Khmer Rouge regime took so long a period of time, perpetrators were not alive, and we did not know where they were. The location of prison,

⁷ This sentence means that he will be arrested and killed.

security office, interrogation cell in Wat Kasap Preah Vihear, is about 100 meters southeast of Ethreus Mountain. We also met Mr. Sim Pring, 58, who lives in Srah Po village, Phsar Dek sub-district of Phnom Leu district. He is our witness.

Witness, Sim Pring

Mr. Sim Pring told us that in the Khmer Rouge time, he was imprisoned by the Khmer Rouge in Vihear Leu prison. The Khmer Rouge used the Wat as a prison where they interrogated victims' everyday. If any one died, she or he would be buried in the western part of the prison. Before there were some killing pits, but they are now invisible after years of natural washout. In this prison, the Khmer Rouge cadres kept many prisoners. They were sent to Baseth Traey Troeng Mountain, and Baseth Mountain for interrogation. All prisoners were killed, except him. Because he was sent to work in the farm. In 1979, Mr. Oeu Doek arrived and saw the blood stain on the pillars and walls of the Wat. He is 79 years old and lived in Srah Po village, Phsar Dek sub-district. The size of the prison is 15 meters in width and 28 meters in length. We took photographs of the prison.

Victims/Memorial

The victims were ordinary people, and soldiers of the Lon Nol regime. In the east of the mountain, there was a big hall (memorial), which was well built for keeping the remains of victims during the Khmer Rouge regime. We took photographs for documentation.

Conclusion

The sub-district chief, villagers, laymen, monks, especially local authorities of Phsar Dek sub-district were deeply involved in helping to preserve the evidences. The remains are also in good condition. We came down to Ponhea Leu district, where we have found 4 huge and important genocide sites. The witnesses were very sure, and experienced the torture when they were in prison during the Khmer Rouge regime. We found many big prison and execution sites. All evidence and the sites still contain remains in good condition. In the future, if we want to get more information from the witnesses including Mr. Khann, Mr. Vorn Veun, and Mr. Sim Pring, and many others, we can easily get them. Our team continued to other districts of Kandal province.

June 15 1998

Muk Kampoul District

We departed from Phnom Penh city at 6 a.m. and arrived at Muk Kampaul district office at 8 a.m.. The district office is located near National Road # 6. It is about 20 kilometers from Phnom Penh. Muk Kampoul district is bordered on:

- the north by Kang Meas district, Kampong Cham,
- the south by Russei Keo district, Phnom Penh,
- the west by Ponhea Leu district, Kandal,
- the east by the Mekong River, Khsach Kandal districts.

According to the district report, Muk Kampoul district has 9 sub-districts and 47 villages. It has 75,083 people (38,090 are female). 14,633 families earn their livings by farming in the dry season and fishing. In the Khmer Rouge time, Muk Kampoul was called Region 20, Eastern Zone. We obtained information from the district chief and officials of the district culture department about the genocide sites including prison, security office, execution sites in Roka Kaong sub-district and Roka Koang

Wat Roka Kaong 080701 B/M/P

2. Wat Roka Kaong is located in Roka Kaong village, Roka Kaong 1 sub-district. Execution sites are located in the southern riverbank of Roka Kaong village, Wat Darei Sa in Roka Kaong 2 sub-district. Serei Mongol High School located in the surrounding area of Wat Damrei Sa was used as a prison and security office in the Khmer Rouge regime. This is about 12 kilometers from the district office. We departed from the district office of Muk Kampoul to Roka Kaong 1 and Roka Kaong 2 sub-districts, where we met a sub-district chief named Mr. Touch Neng and a village chief, Mr. Tuy Pon and also other village chiefs. Detailed and tangible information on execution sites obtained by asking witnesses who had known, seen, and used to be in prison there. The sub-district chief and deputy chief of village were born there. They also lived in Roka Kaong village, Roka Kaong sub-district 1. They told us that those sites were used as prisons, security offices which were located in Wat Serei Mongol (**080703 B/P**) is now located in Roka Kaong sub-district 2. Before the war, it was complex of 9 schools which were later full of victims. All prisoners were killed in Koh Moronak⁸ (also known as Koh Sneha⁹) located south of the riverbank.

⁸ Koh Moronak: Koh means island and Moronak means death; so Koh Moronak means “Death Island”. The residents on this island during the Khmer Rouge regime gave the name because the island was the “death place” for those who were sent there by the Khmer Rouge cadres.

⁹ Koh Sneha: Sneha means love. The residents on this island gave the name during the People’s Republic of Kampuchea because your lovers often went there to talk about their love affairs or eloped to the island according to local folks’ saying.

Prison in Wat Roka Kaong (also called Wat Keo Muny Chot)

The Khmer Rouge used the Wat as a prison for torturing and interrogating people. Some prisoners were killed in the surrounding area. During the interrogation, if prisoners died, they would be buried in the compound of the Wat. And if the perpetrators could not answer the questions the Khmer Rouge cadres would be sent and killed in Koh Moronak **(080702 B)**. The Khmer Rouge used these two big sites as prisons, security office, and execution sites.

Victims

The victims were divided into 2 types and the killing process was also divided into 3 steps, which took place between 1975 and 1979. In 1975, when Phnom Penh fell into the hands of the Khmer Rouge, government officials, civil servants, soldiers, military police, and teachers were sent here. In 1976-77, the Khmer Rouge selected those who had been involved in the political trend in 1977-78. For those who had been accused of moral offences, especially those that fought against Comrade So Phim in the So Phim time. A chief of Eastern Zone was also accused of conspiring with Comrade So Phim. He was called a Khmer with the “White Head”. After being questioned, prisoners in both places were sent to death at Koh Moronak. After receiving detailed information from Mr. Tuy Pon, a village chief, we learned that he had been in prison for two years (1975-77) in Wat Serei Mongol. He was accused of conspiring with Comrade So Phim¹⁰ against Angkar.

Koh Moronak 080702 B

We visited Koh Moronak by taking a boat. A Militia Unit Chief of Roka Kaong 1 sub-district, Mr. Thon Thol, 40, accompanied us. We reached the place at 10 a.m.. Then we collected the GPS data for site location attributes. Some remains were thrown into the water and others were kept in a stupa in Wat Roka Kaong. The informant told us that a large amount of the remains were thrown into the river because they believed in Buddhism that the souls of those victims would be at rest. In 1979, some fishermen found the remains after they cast fishing net.

Mr. Tuy Pon estimated the number of victims at about more than ten hundreds. All victims were sent to Regional Security Office based in Prek Po, Srei Santhor district, Kampong Cham province.

At 10:30 a.m., we reached the memorial, which is located in the compound of Wat Roka Kaong **(080701 M/P)**. This Wat was also used as a prison, an interrogation center and execution site during the Khmer Rouge time. The perpetrators tied victims’ feet and hanged them up. Then they dropped the victims from the roof of the Wat to the ground. We met another witness named Mr. Phal

¹⁰ Comrade So Phim, Communist Party of Kampuchea Zone Secretary, Commander Zone Armed Forces (suicided in 1978).

Thuon, who is a militia chief in Roka Kaong 1 sub-district. He found blood stain and it remained there until 1979. He showed us the place and said the victims' remains were dug out by the Khmer Rouge Crimes Research Committee (during the People's Republic of Kampuchea) in 1982-83, and the number of victims who had been killed was more than 100.

At 10:50 a.m., we departed for a prison located in Serei Mongkol High School. According to Mr. Tuy Pon, some prisoners died during interrogation period. Then they were buried in the surrounding sites of the prison. We also took photos of that site.

Ang Snuol District

At 11:00 a.m., we departed for Ang Snuol district office. At 11:30 a.m., we had lunch at Bek Chan Market located nearby the district governor, Mr. Our Sam Oun, and chief of the district culture department.

Geographical Features:

Ang Snuol district is located along National Route # 4, about 26 kilometers west of Phnom Penh, and covered by lowland soil and mountainous areas. According to the district report, there are 16 sub-districts and 307 villages. It has 46,819 people from the age of 18. The total population is about more than 90,000. Angsnuol district is bordered on:

- the north by Ponhea Leu district, Kandal province,
- the south by Kandal Stung district, Kandal province,
- the west by Samrong and Oudong district, Kampong Speu province,
- the east by Dangkao district of Phnom Penh.

In the Khmer Rouge time, the district was called Region 32, Western Zone.

Genocide sites:

Prison, security office and execution sites located in:

1. Wat Baseth Leu located in Makakk sub-district,
2. Wat Sgnuon Pich¹¹, Sgnuon Pich village, Kantok sub-district,
3. Sre Amprum, Trapeang Veng located in Samrong sub-district, Sre Amprum village.

¹¹ Attached herewith is the Phnom Penh Post article "Evidence of killing field horror crumbling to dust" by Ms. Elizabeth Moorthy and Mr. Pok Sokundara.

Prey Sre Kach 080801 B/P

At 2 p.m., we departed for prison, security office and execution sites in Sre Amprum, Trapeang Veng. When we reached Thnal Totung market, we turned right and continued on National Road # 26. The site about 12 kilometers away from Thnal Totung market. There, we met Mr. Soeung Duk, Chief of Amprum village, and Mr. Duk Dam. This location was used as prison, security office and execution sites for Samrong sub-district. All prisoners included both new and base people who had been accused of espionage, hatred, lazy, sick too often and moral abuses. The nephew of the village chief also used to be in this prison. He was killed in Prey Khla Tah known as Prey Sre Kach (**080801 B/P**) or Trapeang Tauch Muoy. Prey Khla Tah is located about 150 to 200 meters west of National Road # 26 and west of the security office mentioned above. The informant estimated that in the killing pit there was about 20 to 50 victims. And the rest were sent to the main security office located in Phnom Baseth Leu, and Phnom Baseth Kraom. None of them was alive after being sent there. We took photos of Mr. Soeung Duk and his wife and also interviewed them. The prison is located in Sre Amprum village, Samrong sub-district, Ang Snuol district.

Wat Sguon Pich 080802 B/M/P

Snguon Pich village, Kantok sub-district

We departed from Sre Amprum to Wat Sguon Pich on the same road. There, we met Mr. Chuop Hour, Mr. Kim Se and two monks in the building # 1, who were community chief of Wat Sguon Pich. In the Khmer Rouge time, the two old men lived nearby the execution sites. Mr. Kim Se lived in the Gun Shooting Center (a military center in the suburb of Phnom Penh city) about 50 meters from the Wat. He told us that the building # 1 on the right hand side was used as a prison # 1 and the school building on the south of the Dining Hall for monks was used as prison # 2. All prisoners were shackled and queued up in lines in the school and the monks' building. The security guards lived in a concrete house, south of the Wat. The Wat was used as a place for offering scanty ration of watery porridge to the prisoners. Execution sites are located in the compound of the Wat such as in a small canal in front of the Wat, in pond and on the areas of vicinity west of the school. This location was the biggest site for the whole Ang Snuol district. There are 16 sub-districts.

Victims

All the victims were accused of moral offences or being involved in political trend, KGB or CIA. They were selected from 1977 to 1979. The victims include Chinese and Khmer Muslim, both young and old. Women were separated from the rest and some of them were brought in from various districts.

Witnesses

Mr. Kim Se said the Khmer Rouge perpetrators had many ways to torture prisoners. The prisoners were made to lift hyacinth out of the water. Some were tied and hung up and then were plunged into water. They used pointed steel to bear the victims' chins, and some others were burned in a stupa. Moreover, they forced people to work with their feet chained. All prisoners were very skinny. The Wat was used as an interrogation place where prisoners were tied and hung up.

Mass graves

A killing pit behind this school was 5 meters square and 1.5 to 2 meters in dept. The number of victims killed was about 150 to 200. In front of the Wat, there was a canal in which about 300 to 500 victims had been killed, there were too many killing pits conceited of 1 or 2 victims, but so far most of killing pits are invisible because of natural washout. In this Wat, there was a memorial for keeping the victims' remains. Mr. Kim Se once came in the Wat to get resin from rubber trees for patching inner tube of tires for the Khmer Rouge cadres. He was the only one who got the sight of the killing in 1979. So, all witnesses are very important. We interviewed and took photos of them to use as documents. The total number of victims is between 450-700.

Khsach Kandal district

On June 16, 1998, our mapping team conducted a research in Khsach Kandal district of Kandal Province.

At 8 a.m., we arrived at Khsach Kandal district office. We departed from Phnom Penh along National Route # 6. After passing Muk Kampoul district office, we turned right at Long Svay At village to catch a ferry for crossing the Mekong River to get the district located on the southern bank of the river about 26 kilometers from Phnom Penh and 1.5 kilometers from the ferry.

In the district office, we met Mr. Eng Seta, District Culture Department Officer. The district governor assigned his job to Mr. Eng Seta and Mr. Chim Than.

Geographical features

Khsach Kandal district is located on the east of the Mekong River. Lowland areas, rivers, and inundated forest cover it. It is bordered on:

- the north by Srei Santhor district, Kampong Cham province,
- the south by Lvea Em district, Kandal province,
- the west by Muk Kampoul and Russei Keo districts, Kandal province,

- the east by Pea Reang district, Prey Veng province.

In the Khmer Rouge time, it was called Region 22 of the Eastern Zone. According to the Khsach Kandal district report, there are 18 sub-districts and 93 villages. The total population is 109,801 including 57,171 females. They earn their livings by rice farming, weaving, manual work (weaving mat, Sarong, mosquito net, and silk clothing such as Phamuong, Haul, and Sarong Saut).

Genocide sites

1. Prek Ta Meak sub-district
Chamkar Siv Prison. There are security offices and execution sites.
Prek Ta Meak Market (former Khmer Rouge district office).
2. Svay Romiet sub-district
Prison, security offices and execution sites located in the Wat in Svay Romiet village.
3. Vihear Sub-district
Tuol Rum Chek (military detention center). *This site is not yet mapped.*
4. Sanlong sub-district, Sanlong Junior High School used as a prison.

Other location outside the district:

1. Kampong Ampil sub-district (execution site)
2. Svay Chrum village located on the other side of Tonle Tauch (execution site).

Before visiting the exact locations, we had received information from Mr. Eng Setha. He said that in 1975 all urban evacuees were killed within only one night. He could not remember all locations and was not so sure, but he remembered two sites:

1. Execution site in Sanlong School (in a pond).
2. Execution site in Tuol Rumchek (not yet mapped).

We left the district office via a newly built road for Sanlong and Vihear Suor sub-district by crossing Preah Kanlang Bridge. We arrived at Vihear Suor at 10 a.m., where we met Mr. Norng Seng Ly, sub-district chief, and Mr. Meng Chheang Heng living at Dam No 1, and Mr. Lonh Launh, who once was in prison during the Khmer Rouge regime. Mr. Norng Seng Ly told us about the locations of Tuol Rumchek and Sanlong School. Tuol Rumchek work site was a place for educating and changing habit of minor crime

offenders who just had been released. If they failed to do what they were taught, they would be in prison again or be killed. Those victims were made to do farming (plowing, raking or transplanting). Sanlong School was used as detention center and execution site for Khmer Rouge cadres. Perpetrators collected these kinds of victims from sub-districts of Khsach Kandal district.

Sanlong School 080301 B

The execution sites were located behind the school (Sanlong School) in an old pond where 12 to 15 victims were killed. Mr. Lonh Launh was once in prison (at Chamkar Siv) and later was sent to Tuol Rumchek. During his time in prison, he was appointed as a group leader. He had been accused of moral offence because he was found guilty of incest with the second woman causing her pregnancy. For he was a Khmer Rouge cadre, and had good relationship with security guards of the district, he was not killed. He added that another person named Mr. Mean Norng Sophat, who lived in Koh Oknha Tey was also in prison with him and knew the event. After the Southwestern Zone Khmer Rouge cadres came in 1978, he was released. At that time, the Southwestern Zone Khmer cadres killed people from the Eastern Zone, and the sub-district, district and cooperative chiefs were tortured in the presence of the villagers. Some victims were burned alive. The witnesses lived in Vihear Suor village, Suor sub-district, Khsach Kandal, Kandal province. The distance between these two sites is about 12 kilometers.

Daem Run 080302 B

This site is located in Kampong Damrei village, Prek Ta Meak sub-district, Khsach Kandal district. This site is just 50 meters away behind Wat Sovann Muny. There was one pit. According to our witness, Mr. Eng Setha, 45, in Prek Ta Meak village, Prek Ta Meak sub-district, Khsach Kandal district, about 30 people were killed in this pit.

Chamkar Siv 080303 B

We returned, then moved following locations. At 11:30 a.m., we visited a memorial in Wat Sovann Vortey, but it was ruined because of poor care. Then we moved to the prison, and execution site behind the Wat. There, there was no witness to claim that how many

victims were killed. However, we met Mr. Dim Daut, 60. In the Khmer Rouge time, he also lived there. He told us that most of the victims were urban people and estimated the number of victims at between 20-30.

Chamkar Siv 080304 P

This location was considered the biggest prison and security office in Khsach Kandal district at that time. We got 3 witnesses. A witness named Mr. Moeung Horl, 67, said that he was a cadre and deputy chief of Prek Ta Meak sub-district in 1975. Before 1974, he was a soldier of the Lon Nol regime in Prek Ta Meak. The Khmer Rouge conscripted soldiers and some were transferred from the village to other places. Some others had no choice but serve the Khmer Rouge revolution. He himself also served the Khmer Rouge in 1975. From 1976, to July 1977, he was in prison--base people informed to the Khmer Rouge--for being involved in Lon Nol's soldier activity. He was sent to Chamkar Siv prison, which was the biggest one in Khsach Kandal. There were many types of victims with him in that prison. All the victims could not answer the questions posted by the Khmer Rouge cadres; those victims would be killed straight away. The execution site was located east of the prison, where there were mango trees and bamboo bushes. Mr. Chim Chort, 83, was pointing the site (in the photo). Moreover, Mr. Moeung Horl continued that 9 victims, accused of serious crimes were with him, and there were about another hundred. The Khmer Rouge cadres killed victims in many waves. In each wave about 30 to 40 people were killed. This killing process went on through out the period of between 1975-79. But most of victims were killed in 1978 and early 1979. Everyday, prisoners were offered 3 spoons of maize and a bit of salt. They were emaciated. After taking photos and interviewing the witness, we moved to the prison in Chamkar Siv in Kampong Damrei village, where we met Mr. Muy Hongky, 69, and Mrs. Mao Chamraen. They are our second and third witnesses. In the Khmer Rouge time, the Khmer Rouge security chief brought Mrs. Mao Chamraen to detain in a department (see photos).

Mr. Muy Hongky showed us 2 prisons, which are now the houses of Mr. Hun Leng and Mr. Pann Peng Hun. He said in 1979, after the Vietnamese invasion, pits were full of swelling corpses. There were many killing pits, but now invisible because of years of flood and natural washout. The remains have not yet been exhumed. In the Khmer Rouge time, Mr. Muy Hongky lived nearby the prison, but he could not visit the sites because it was a forbidden area. He just heard victims' screams of pain. Mr. Sang was also our witness. In the Khmer Rouge time, Mr. Sang was beating his own father into confession. The father shouted, "Kill me. You do not need to beat me". The guard replied "I beat enemy not you, father." Having seen the son's brutality toward his father at Damrei Sa village, Prek Ta Meak sub-district, he was extremely shocked. Mr. Moeung Horl and Mr. Muy Hongky estimated the number of victims at about 300 to 1000. This prison was the biggest one in the district. All victims were killed between 1976 and 1979. We took photos of Mr. Muy Hongky and Mr. Moeung Horl—prison, security office and execution sites.

Wat Svay Romiet***080305 B/P***

We departed from Chamkar Siv to Svay Romiet sub-district, 5 kilometers from the district office. We arrived at the sub-district office and the house of the sub-district chief at 3:00 p.m. There, we met his wife and Mr. Yoeun Phal, 42, villager in Svay Romiet village, Svay Romiet sub-district. The security office in Svay Romiet sub-district is located inside Wat Svay Romiet. There were two killing pits. One was in the south of the Wat (now invisible) and the other was under the Bayan tree nearby a pond, 400 meters in front of the wat.

Witness

Mr. Yoeun Phal and Mr. Ek Krauch, are members of the pagoda comMitee. They told us that here there were two types of victim (1) Vietnamese (1977), and (2) Khmer Rouge cadres of sub-district ranking. The Vietnamese were killed by the Eastern Zone security guards and buried under the Bayan tree in front of the Wat. The killing pit has the size of 5 square meters and 1.50 meters in depth. The number of victims was about 70. In the other killing pits, where in 1977-79 southeastern people killed small groups and big group of Eastern people, there were about 10 to 12 victims. Mr. Ek Krauch lived in Prek Ta Ben village, Svay Romiet sub-district. This house was near Wat Svay Romiet. In the Khmer Rouge time, he also lived there.

Personal comments

During our visit to the killing field, pits full of victims in the Khmer Rouge time in Kandal province, we got such good result such as witnesses and photos of them. All witnesses were very sure about what was happening in that site during the Khmer Rouge time. Even though the time for visit was a bit short, we reached the main and important execution sites, prisons and security offices. There was no security problem for our team. Because of short time and the absence of officials of district culture and culture department, we received just a few documents. Most of documents in the Khmer Rouge time here disappeared.

August 25th, 1998***"Sang" prison, its witnesses, and their accounts***

In the morning of August 25th, 1998, Mr. Sin Khin, Mr. Sok Vanak and I, Vanthan Peou Dara, a team of three assigned under guidance of the DC-Cam Director to collect factual evidence regarding the history of prisons and what had happened in there, as well as the testimonial accounts of living witnesses during the Khmer Rouge regime, set off to Kandal Stung District, Kandal Province, where we were told that a prison built by the Khmer Rouge, which is now called "Sang" prison, is located.

At 8.30 a.m., we reached the common border of Kandal and Takeo Provinces. Along the National Road 2, not far from these border about 60 meters into Takeo territory, we met two witnesses, a couple who, during Pol Pot regime, lived in a village near the Sang prison located in Trapeang Sva Village, Trea Sub-district, Kandal Stung District, Kandal Province.

The first witness we met is Lon Meng Kry called Ta Khmaoch Lorn, male, 70, who now lives in Kraing Sambatt Village, Put Sa Sub-district, Bati District, Takeo Province. Kry described that he had been a village chief between 1970-1973, though he resigned in 1973. It was owing to his resignation that he was taken by the Khmer Rouge to a trial, in which ten people [allegedly found guilty] were executed. Concerning the tactics to blur people's eyes from clearly seeing, to keep their attention from realizing the murder, the Khmer Rouge arranged for a theatrical performance to entertain people while taking prisoners to be killed. Kry told us that the reason why he was set free was that he had several draft cows for working the fields, and that he had his son join in Khmer Rouge's army. He recalled that in late 1975, executions began; and he sometimes saw the Khmer Rouge kill people. He also affirmed that near "Sang" prison, a plot of land of one kilometer away, was used as the site of killing. He added with grief that the Khmer Rouge killed one of his children in 1975 by injecting poisonous solution into the body. Further asked who was in charge of the prison, he told us that the list of victims taken in for detention and out for execution was the responsibility of a person named Roeung. Roueng, male, currently lives in Trapeang Sva Village, Trea Sub-district, Kandal Province. According to Kry, among the male security guards of the prison were Mao, Chhun, Tam and Him, who all now live in Trapeang Sva Village.

Second witness is Ly Lay Heng, female, 62, Kry's wife. She added to her husband's account, saying that there were two large pits of about 6 cubic meters each dug, under the order of the village chief, by prisoners themselves who did not know what the pits were for. She confirmed that in fact they were used to bury the bodies of inmates killed by the Khmer Rouge. She added that the inmates had their ankles shackled and were posed to sit against the prison wall. Shackles were linked to one another by a straight long iron bar, so that the prisoners were bound in a line altogether. If any prisoner whose size of ankles was bigger than that of the shackles, his/her ankles would be pounded on so as they become smaller enough to fit into the shackles. Finally, Ly Lay Heng told us about the names of the victims who had been detained in "Sang" Prison and who are now still alive. They are:

1. Phom, female, a palm cake street vendor at Daem Ampil market in Boeng Khyang Village, Boeng Khyang Sub-district, Kandal Stung District, Kandal Province.
2. Oeun, female, lives in Wat (*pagoda*) Koh Bunly, a Buddhist temple in Boeng Khyang.

Then, we finished our interview with Kry and Lay Heng because we needed more time to find main witnesses and to visit the location of "Sang" prison. We moved back a bit and turned our car into the gate of Sokram pagoda. About 5 kilometers from the gate leading to the pagoda, we arrived at Trapeang Sva Village, where, according to the witnesses, the "Sang" prison's five prisoner guards we wanted to meet and interview reside. Upon arrival in Trapeang Sva Village, we made our way to meet with the local authority, though

we only met Sa Sam, Deputy Chief of Trapeang Sva Village. Sa Sam, male, 29 described to us the full names of the five security guards once working for Prison "Sang". Their names are:

1. Roeung's full name is Touch Roeung, male, typist responsible for recording the prisoners' names and the number which were hand-written by the Khmer Rouge on papers handed down to him.
2. Chhun's full name is Chuon Chhun, male
3. Tam's is Sak Tam, male
4. Mao's is Suos Mao, male
5. Him's is Ngin Him, male

With kindly heart-felt support from Sa Sam who accompanied us to find and talk to those former guards in person, we first went to look for Sak Tam, although we would not be able to meet him since he was away, busy transporting rice seedlings to the fields. We, however, guided by Sam, then met Suos Mao whom we interviewed as follows.

Suos Mao, 51, now lives in Trapeang Sva Village, Trea Sub-district, Kandal Stung District Kandal Province. The first impression of him was that he was in a poor state of health with chronic, old-aged diseases confining him to a permanent sleeping bed. Though unable to walk or even to sit up, he was still happy to tell us his story both in childhood and in Pol Pot regime. Mao said that while riding on the back of a cow when he was a young boy, he fell, breaking one of his ribs. That was the bane leading to his present state. He, lying in bed, said that in 1977 he was a security guard responsible for guarding and minding prisoners in "Sang" prison. He told us that he neither killed nor tortured any prisoners, but just brought them to the work site and back into the prison. He said that most of the inmates of "Sang" prison were village chiefs, sub-district chiefs and Khmer Rouge cadres—all accused of being enemies betraying *Angkar*. The rest were the relatives of those village chiefs, sub-district chiefs and cadres who had been killed or who were being imprisoned. Mao said that the murder of prisoners was usually conducted at night. Once the prisoners were walked out to the killing site, the prison guards were allowed to take a rest. Mao thought probably because the killers did not want the guards to know about the killing. Mao, however, said that he did not know there were any killings at the prison in which he worked as a security guard at that time. He stated that it was until 1979 when he returned to his village and was assigned by the local authority to excavate near the prison, that he realized it was evident that the killings of prisoners were conducted at the killing site. That was a big surprise to him, he said. To confirm that he did not kill or know of killing people, he mentioned that if he had known about manslaughter before, he would not have come back into the village, because he would become an object of dislike or revenge by the villagers. As for perpetrators at that prison, he said they were killed after 1979 by the people living in the village. Mao told us at the end of the interview the names of persons in charge of the prison built in 1977. They were Mong, male, chief of the prison, and Meng, male, deputy chief. But, he does not know whether or not they are still alive. After ending our interview with Mr. Suos Mao, we went, as suggested by Lon Meng Kry, to meet and interview Chuon Chhun. The whole content of our interviewing Chuon Chhun is as follows.

Chuon Chhun, male, 30, now lives in the same village as Mao. Chhun told us that during Pol Pot regime he was a prison guard at "Sang". He spent eight months working there. He said that he was young at that time. He was given an AK rifle by the prison chief who assigned him to walk prisoners to the work side and back from there into the prison. Chhun said that Khmer Rouge working for Prison "Sang" were divided into two groups: a group of guards and a group of perpetrators. Chhun said that the prisoners were taken out of the prison to the work site two times: in the morning from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and in the afternoon from 1pm to 5 p.m. He stated that the prison chief Mong was killed by the other Khmer Rouge just 2 or 3 months before the Vietnamese invasion in 1979. Chhun's testimony is a confirmation of Mao's account saying that usually the prisoners were taken out to be executed at night, and that every time of taking them out, the prisoner guards were allowed to take a rest, staying far from the prison. He continued that he did not know about any killing at Prison "Sang", and that he only knew that after he was forced by the local authorities of the new government to excavate pits and mass graves in 1979. Chhun told us that when there were foreigners coming to search for this, they always came to see him. There was once Americans came to see and interview him as we did and they gave US\$100 to his children.

The next witness we met was Ngin Him. We interviewed Him as we did with the above mentioned witnesses. Ngin Him called Him, male, 42, now lives in the same village as Mao and Chhun. Him described that he was a prison guard in 1978. He had previously been a soldier of Kandal Stung District. He said that when he was brought to work at Prison "Sang", he was told that he was *"to serve as prison guard"*. In fact, he was spied upon because he was accused of being an enemy for digging potatoes for several female prisoners of small offenses to eat. Him recalled that the prisoners at "Sang" ate only a bowl of gruel containing a few rice grains mixed with the leaves of potatoes. Him told us that the inmates of the prison were not only ordinary people, but also a mixture of people including, for instance, former soldiers, and former security guards. Him confirmed that the prison chief's name is Mong, which is exactly the same what Mao and Chhun said. Finally, Him concluded that the prison chief Mong was half-bred Vietnamese and that most of the perpetrators were Vietnamese such as Thaong and Yang whose names are similar to Vietnamese ones. He said that other people killed those perpetrators. Him swore that everything he mentioned above is true or let his life be taken in the car accident while driving his taxi-motorbike every day.

For further detail regarding what happened at Sang prison, we sought more people who had lived near the location of the prison during the Khmer Rouge regime, and who know the history of what happened around the prison. So, we thought meeting with anyone considered "base people" by the Khmer Rouge would be helpful. Below are our interviews with some base people.

Van Thon called Thon, 49, was a base person who had lived in Boeng Village, Trea Sub-district, Kandal Stung District, Kandal Province, and who now lives in Trapeang Sva Village near the now broken-down Sang prison. Thon said that at that time the prison building was repaired by the Khmer Rouge who were to use it as prison, in 1977. He told us that he used to see the prison security forces walk to labor many prisoners—mostly Khmer Rouge's persons in the rank of its authority and those struggling against the

Khmer Rouge, accused of being betrayers. For prisoners who were Khmer Rouge cadres, not only the prisoners themselves but also their family as a whole were also executed. But the Khmer Rouge killed only 17-April (*new people*) prisoners who had mistakes like moral offenses.

Finally we went to meet Tao Sam Oeun who, according to Ly Lay Heng who calls her Che Oeun (*Che is a Chinese word Cambodians use to address to an older "Chinese" woman or sister*), was a victim detained in this prison. Tao Sam Oeun, 70, is a nun now living in Koh Bunly pagoda. The gateway into this Buddhist temple is opposite to the gate of Sokram pagoda. She described that her husband was taken away and never came back, whereas all her family remaining were a short while later arrested and taken to be detained in Sang prison by the Khmer Rouge lying that they were to get together her whole family at another place. And there she had been imprisoned for one year. She recalled with her eyes full of tears that the Khmer Rouge then executed her daughter and two sons. Living in the prison, she said that she was forced to work very hard such as to clear stumps and to grow rice.

Tao Sam Oeun further told us that the female prisoners were segregated from the male prisoners, and that the killing site was located in the nearby bamboo forest, east of prison. She continued that after the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime in 1979, she has never returned to see the prison because she does not want to have so much painful feeling any more that may affect her focus on the learning of the Buddhist religious teachings. Presently, she has only a daughter living in Ta Khmao District, Kandal Province. Finishing our interview with her, we gave some charitable gifts for her to use as part of contribution to Buddhist religious celebrations. Finally, we went to visit the location of the former Prison Sang, whose building is now broken down with just some remaining broken wall and iron chains mingled with the skulls and bones of victims killed by the Khmer Rouge.

We see that the people we met and interviewed are important witnesses whose testimonies are reliable and worth meeting and interviewing because they all were former prisoners, prisoner guards, security guards, and those who used to live near the prison during the Khmer Rouge period 1975-79. In addition, there are some factual proofs remaining such as bones, skulls, shackles and chains in the decrepit prison building, which are substantial visible evidence. And there are, however, some other witnesses, namely Touch Roeung, Sak Tam and Phom, as mentioned in this report, whom we have not interviewed.

August 27th, 1998

Additional reports about Sang prison and witnesses

After having visiting the genocide sites in Trapeang Sva Village, Trea Sub-district, Kandal Stung District, Kandal Province, our team made a report to the director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia in regard to our interviews with some important witnesses who had lived near the location of Sang prison in the Khmer Rouge time, and who used to be security guards or prison guard thereof. The director however thought that second visit was required because that some accounts are unconfirmed and questionable, such as the witness who said that it was Yuon (Vietnamese) not Khmer Rouge who were perpetrators. We needed to interview several more

witnesses such as Touch Roeung, a holder of the list of prisoners, Sak Tam and Phom, whom we have not met in our first visit. The Documentation Center of Cambodia, therefore, arranged for our team to go there on August 27, 1998.

To compare Kry's account with those of former prison guards, we came to see Lon Meng Kry again. For what happened at the Sang prison in the Khmer Rouge time, Kry said that he used to see prison guards, each with a rifle, walk prisoners to a place where they were forcibly required to labor. The stated security guards such as Chhun, Him, Mao and Roeung were just ordinary prison guards, not perpetrators, according to Kry who added that the perpetrators were all killed (by angry villagers who resorted to taking revenge). He also said that when Ta Mok took over that area, the chief of Sang prison was killed by another Khmer Rouge group, while some of cadres replaced with new ones.

Mr. Ngin Him, who used to be a prison guard at Sang prison, said in a manner seemingly angry with the authorities of the new government (the State of Cambodia) that he has been to Pailin twice, to fulfill an obligatory duty required by the state to clear forest—a duty called "Labor K5"—where he was so sick he nearly died twice of malaria. This is the main cause leading to his present poor physical state, leaving him not only slightly deaf but also so weak. Most perpetrators, he said, were riverine inhabitants who came from Koh Thom Sub-district, Kandal Province. He continued that Mong was the most vicious prison chief, big, tall, white-skinned, red-eyed, with slightly curly hair, who was already killed. His wife was Khmer Kampuchea Krom (Lower Khmer). But Ngin Him said that he did not know much about what happened at the prison during that time when it seemed that he was both a prisoner and a prison guard. He admitted that it was only two times that he used to walk female prisoners with slight offense, and it was when he stealthily dug potatoes and baked them for the female prisoners to eat that the Khmer Rouge trusted him no more. There was once when he was accused of committing moral offense with a woman (for example: sleeping with women without permission from Angkar is considered immoral), he was nearly taken to be killed. Fortunately, he said, he was spared because he was put in the clear by the woman, with whom he was accused, who confessed that he was not guilty and that it was she who blamed him. The Khmer Rouge, however, executed the woman. Him also stressed that obviously he did not conduct that moral offense. He recalled that it was him but also Prison Sang's cadres, Yang and Meng for example, who were also accused of having wrongdoing, and then imprisoned. Him further described once a festival, such as the Khmer new year, was celebrated, there was no extra food or party arranged for the inmates in Sang prison, though they were merely allowed not to labor. No new clothes were provided during the New Year celebration. Rather, the prisoners had nothing to wear but the very clothes they took with them once arrested and detained in the prison. One day, Him heard some Khmer Rouge talking among themselves that before each time they took prisoners to kill, they had to get drunk on alcohol. Regarding the other work within Prison Sang, Him said, there was an issuance of orders originated gradually from the top downward to low level, a chain of commands so secret that the last person to receive them did not even know who were the previous issuers of those commands. As far as the statement that the execution of people was the Vietnamese plan is concerned, Him confirmed that this is only his own assumption based on the fact that Sang Prison chief Mong is a Cambodian half-blooded with Vietnamese. Mong's wife is also a half-blooded Vietnamese whose father is Vietnamese who cannot speak even a single word of the

Khmer language. Later, Mong was sought to be killed by Ta Mok subordinates. Remarkably, in our interviews with him, Him always takes an oath, in which he swears that everything he said is true. For things he did not see with his own eyes, he said, he dare not say.

As we failed to meet Sak Tam, we then continued our way to meet and interview him for additional information. Sak Tam called Tam, 38, currently lives in Trapeang Sva Village, Trea Sub-district, Kandal Stung District, Kandal Province. Although Lon Meng Kry said Sak Tam was a security guard at Prison Sang in the Khmer Rouge time, Sak Tam himself told us that he was just a cook and was sometimes held responsible for transporting rice from other places. Tam said that before he became a cook, he had been a security guard of Trea Sub-district. He recalled that his cooking team was composed of three people: himself, another person whose name he does not know, and Oeun (not Tao Sam Oeun called Oeun), who now lives in Sa-ang District, Kandal Province. Tam stated that during the time Mong was in charge, the prisoners had only gruel to eat, a ladle of gruel for two (a ladle of gruel equals two small bowls). Once running out of rice, Mong ordered him to take rice from Prek Ho Sub-district, Ta Khmao District, Kandal Province, but if rice was not available at Prek Ho, Sak Tam had to seek it from other sub-districts. As there were, according to Sak Tam, approximately five hundred prisoners in "Sang" prison, so he had to cook six large pans of gruel, though he said he used no standard measurement in putting the rice into each of the pans. He just put some handful, though insufficient, of rice into the pans, to make thin rice gruel. Every day, he recalled that prisoners, at least 10 to 15, died of starvation or of illness. As we still wondered and so asked him further about issues relating to the total number of prisoners detained in the prison, also those newly taken in for detention and those taken out for execution, Tam explained that day by day prisoners died while there also came in gradually new prisoners, who were mostly accused of making such small mistakes as breaking plowshare, sickle and even a spoon. Tam said that he did not know much of what happened at the prison, because the cooking house where he worked was far from it. But, he continued that the corpses of prisoners who died of starvation or of illness, rather than the corpses of victims killed by perpetrators, were taken by the Khmer Rouge to be buried in two large pits in front of Sang prison. Tam stressed that killings did exist, but the killings were secretly carried out, with prisoners transported by trucks to be killed mostly at night. Later, everything changed after the prison chief Mong was arrested and taken away to be executed, then replaced by Sim. Under Sim's control, Tam described, it was better than before, because the prisoners were not forced to work hard, ate some rice and sometimes ate rice with pork. It was only two or three months after Sim took control when the Vietnamese invaded the country in 1979. Tam told us that later 1979, he also joined the excavation, initiated by the local authority, of the pits and mass graves near Sang prison, from which he himself took skeletons and corpses, some of which were not rotten yet. Finally, Sak Tam made a promise that he is willing to testify: "I will be a witness if a tribunal is established and I am needed".

Then, we went to see a woman, who, according to the report by Kry and Heng, was a former prisoner of Sang prison. Her name is Samrith Phom, 47, now living in Prey Ta Tauch Village, Boeng Kyang Sub-district, Kandal Stung District, Kandal Province. Previously, she lived in Damrei Slap Village, Trea Sub-district, Kandal Stung District, Kandal province. In the Khmer Rouge time, she had been imprisoned for one year. Asked about her personal life in the Khmer Rouge regime, Samrith Phom described to us that

her husband was taken to be killed by the Khmer Rouge who lied to her that he was taken to be educated. And then, she said, she and her children were also taken to kill by being told that she and her children were taken to see her husband. But, she and her children were, in fact, were arrested and transported by an ox-card away to be executed at a killing site. Fortunately, when the ox-card she and her children boarded arrived at the gateway to the location of Sang prison, the cows instead drugged the ox-cart into the compound of the prison, not toward the killing site. So because of the cows moving to the wrong direction they were out of life danger, though they were detained in the prison. Samrith Phom shed with her tears while recalling her life in prison, which she said was so miserable that she was on the brink of death. She had to eat whatever she had, although having not enough to eat to survive was a common thing. She said with her eyes full of tears that a piece of cooked rice, about the size of a person's wrist, was provided for her and her two children. Samrith Phom was forced to gather water hyacinths from the edge of river near the location of Sang prison and put them into a pit in order to make fertilizers to be used for banana growing. There were a mixture of young, and old, male and female prisoners, but the female prisoners were separated from the male, said Phom, adding that the prisoners all had to sleep directly on the earth inside the prison. She said that was painful enough for her living with too many hardships in the Khmer Rouge regime until she has survived to this day. She said that at that time she never saw people killed, but that once she witnessed, while she was on the way to a work site, pits near banana trees, which were freshly buried and filled with bodies of victims just killed, as well as the sticks used as a tool for killing left near the banana tree. She told us that there were trucks coming mostly in late evening to take prisoners away, though she did not know where they went. She, however, stressed that the bamboo forest, located east of the prison, was the place where the inmates were killed. She added that Heng and Mong were in charge of the prison, and that the prison chief was Mong whose father was purely Vietnamese who cannot speak Khmer at all. Chuon Chhun called Chhun, Samrith Phom continued, had been a chief of prison guards at Sang prison. But Chhun himself refused to say he had, saying that he was just an ordinary prison guard. Currently, Samrith Phom is a palm cake street vendor with her two sons. Her older son was a leg handicap since he was a soldier of the State of Cambodia. Finally, Samrith Phom promised us that she would be a witness to testify before a court when needed.

Two visits to Sang prison enabled us to meet and interview nine important witnesses: Three are ordinary people who lived near the prison in the Khmer Rouge time, four used to work for the prison and two were former prisoners in the prison. The information we got from these people regarding what happened at the prison are not much different from one another, instead an account by a witness is just a confirmation, otherwise an additional information, to other accounts by other witnesses. The only witness we did not meet is Touch Roeung, holder of the list of prisoners at Sang prison. His older sister told us that Touch Roeung is not a construction worker and that he is now a military policeman at Tuol Kok and lives with a general Man Met called Neou Met in Phnom Penh capital.

Conclusion

We had good relations and cooperation with villagers and provincial officials because we told them our purposes and proposals that would depend on government cooperation. We thought that both DC-Cam and Cambodian government in the future might obtain

historic achievements. We thought that it would be better not to research on national holidays, Saturday or Sunday. Because we need cooperation with the government officials—They are not around at the office during holidays and weekends. For a long distance provinces and districts, we should not finish our work within one day for two districts, because in the evening we found it hard to meet district governor or sub-district chief and the time was short. But if there was no execution site in a particular district, we could keep going from one to another.