

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

KRATIE PROVINCE

District	Site Name/ Visit Date	Site Type	Est. Victim	Witness	File #/ID Code	Latitude	Longitude
Kratie	O Lorn/ 09 December 1998	Prison 1execution site	several hundreds	Sa Say (Mrs.) ស សយ	R 120803A/ 100201	N 12°31' 2654"	E 106°07' 5745"
Kratie	Preah Kosamak High School	Prison 1execution site	50-100	Sao Khvich សៅ ឃ្លឹច	R120809A/ 100202	N12° 29' 4076"	E106° 01' 2739"
Sambo	Kok Kduoch	Prison	N/A	Koam Uk គាំ ឌឹក	R120903A/ 100402	N 12 °45' 3538"	E 105° 59' 2890"
Sambo	Kok Kduoch	1execution site	89	Ta Khmao តា ខ្មៅ	R120902A/ 100401	N12° 45' 3879"	E 105° 59' 3112"
Prek Prasap	Prek Prasap District Office	Prison 1execution site	unknown	Pav Vann Than បាវ វ៉ាន់ថាន	R121001A/ 100301	N12° 20' 2498"	E106° 02' 1266"
Prek Prasap	Way Chroy Ampil	Prison 1 well	100-150	Kiem Khean គាម ឃៀន	R121006A/ 100302	N12° 16' 2408"	E 105° 49' 2612"

On December 7, 1998, the Documentation Center of Cambodia [DC-Cam] assigned its mapping team of 4 people including Mr. Phat Kosal, Mr. Sin Khin, Mr. Ouch Sam Oeun, Mr. Yin Nean, to conduct a mapping research on the Khmer Rouge crimes, for the first time since 1995, in Kratie province. At 7 a.m. on December 7, 1998, our team departed in a speed boat from Phnom Penh along the Mekong River and arrived in Kratie provincial town at 1:00 p.m..

Kratie Province

At 2 p.m., our team met Ms. Troeng Thavy, Chief of the Provincial Cabinet, and Mr. Uch Sun Lay, Chief of Provincial Information Office. At the meeting we informed the provincial administration of our mission purposes in Kratie, and finally we were allowed to meet Second Deputy Governor, Mr. Pav Ham Phan. Before we met Mr. Second Deputy Governor, we obtained clue information about genocide sites throughout the province from Mr. Uch Sun Lay, who was a long serving official in the province administration, and particularly once an official in the Front Office. According to Mr. Uch Sun lay, the information on genocide sites is as follows:

Kratie district

Documentation Center of Cambodia

Searching for the Truth

ស្វែងរកការពិតដើម្បីការបង្កើនចំណេះដឹងយុត្តិធម៌

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1. Wat Chroy Ampil, security office, and execution site, is located in Wat Chroy Ampil, Chroy Ampil village, Sambok sub-district, Prek Prasab district.
2. Koh Troam, execution sites, is located in Koh Troam sub-district, Kratie district.
3. Chraing Tonle, execution sites, is located in front of Prek Prasab District Office.
4. O Lorng, work camp, security office and prison, is located in Da village, Da sub-district, Kratie district.
5. Khvann Py, execution sites, is located in Da sub-district, Kratie district.
6. Koh Sraka, execution sites, is located in Da sub-district, Kratie district.
7. O Khlaimpe, execution sites, is located in Da sub-district.

Sambo district:

1. Koh Sam Thom, work camp,
2. Koh Sam Tauch, work camp,
3. Kok Kduoch, prison and execution sites,
4. Phnom Sruoch, execution sites,
5. Prasral, prison and execution sites,
6. La-Ngork, execution sites, Kampong Damrei sub-district,
7. Phnom Preah, execution sites,
8. Prey Mai Sakk, execution site.

The above information our team obtained from Mr. Uch Sun Lay, currently Chief of Provincial Information Office, just serves as a guidance. Afterwards, Mr. Uch Sun Lay accompanied our team to the office of Mr. Second Deputy Governor. Our team once again informed him of our mission purposes and requests for certain visits to certain districts in Kratie province. We also requested him to produce a permission letter for our team to obtain cooperation from lower level authorities including the Provincial Inspection Police for security guarantee, and district governors of the districts we aimed to visit in the province.

According to Mr. Second Deputy Governor, we obtained some more information regarding the genocide sites. Kratie province is situated in the northeast of Cambodia, 340 Kilometers by road and 220 Kilometers by water. In the Khmer Rouge regime, Kratie was called Region 505 on the southern bank of the Mekong River. Kratie province was under the Khmer Rouge control since 1970 until 1979, which was different from other provinces or under longer control by the Khmer Rouge. It was also known as an autonomous region of the Khmer Rouge. This province is bordered on:

- the north by Stung Treng province,
- the south by Kampong Cham province,

- the east by Mondul Kiri province,
- the west by Kampong Thom.

According to Phan, Second Deputy Governor, Kratie has 5 districts:

- Kratie district,
- Sambo district,
- Prek Prasap district,
- Chhlong district,
- Snuol district.

This province has 40 sub-districts, and 250 villages. The area of this province is 11,094 square kilometers, out of which 34,492 hectares are for cultivating area. There are 3,183 government officials, out of which 1,114 are female government employees. The total population of this province is 262,944, equal to 49,214 families. The female population is 133,086. The population is made up of 8 ethnic minority groups: Phnorn, Stieng, Kuoy, Khuonh, Mil, Kraol, Thnaun and Cham. Most of the people do farming, fishing, fetching firewood, and cutting trees.

After our meeting with Mr. Second Deputy Governor, he sent us to meet the Provincial Inspection Police, where we met Mr. Touch Narong. We discussed with him about security situation pertaining to the districts we aimed to visit. We also asked him to provide security for our team in those districts, and he asked his assistant to call all district police inspectors by radiophone, and he instructed them to receive us according to the trip schedules he and our team had set.

After our contact with the high level of the provincial authorities, on the same day, we searched for other long-serving officials from Culture, Information, and Front offices for further information. Most of the information from those officials we met confirmed what we had obtained from Mr. Uch Sun Lay. On that day, we also met two witnesses namely Mr. Chhneang Phat, and Uk Chroeng, who were once imprisoned in O Lorng, Da village, Da sub-district, Kratie district.

1. Mr. Chhneang Phat, 52, Provincial General Inspection officer.
2. Mr. Uk Chroeng, 50, Deputy Chief of Provincial Information Office.

Mr. Chhneang told us that there were about 200 prisoners imprisoned with him. 100 prisoners were killed, and the National Salvation Solidarity Front forces liberated the other 100 in late 1978. The forces entirely liberated Kratie on December 30, 1978. He said that those prisoners were gathered from various sub-districts throughout Kratie province. Those prisoners were accused of having tendency

towards or associated with the Lon Nol regime, and of moral wrongs. If they could not be “re-educated”, they were killed. Detailed information was recorded in cassette tapes.

December 12, 1998

Kartie District

We started our real trip to genocide sites in Kratie district. We departed from the provincial office via the National Route #7 leading to Snuol district. At Kratie district office, we met Mr. Yin Thim, District Governor, and Mr. Sa San, Deputy Chief of the district administration.

The district office is located on the National Route #7, in O Ressey sub-district about 2 Kilometers from the provincial town. According to Mr. Thim, the district is bounded to:

- the north by Sambo district,
- the south by Chhlong district,
- the west by Prek Prasap district,
- the east by Snuol district.

Kratie district has 15 sub-districts, and 74 villages. It has a population of 69,666 equal to 13,304 families. The female population is 35,416. The people do farming, growing crops along the Mekong River. The total area of the district is 1,391 square kilometers. The area of farming land is made up of 80 per cent of the total area. The population density is 50 per square kilometers.

Genocide site in Kratie district:

1. O Lorng, execution sites, and security office. At O Lorng, there was one work site, re-education center. The execution was just carried out right there. This site is in Da village, Da sub-district, which is 10 kilometers from the district office. The site is about 5 kilometers away from the road further into the forest. It is 15 kilometers from the district office. We met sub-district chief, Mr. Ke Sum.
2. Preah Kosamak High School, security office and execution site, in Trapeang Pring village, Kratie sub-district. The site is located near the district office. (We decided that this site would be the last one to visit as it is closed to the provincial town.)
3. Kbal Koh Trong in Koh Trong sub-district. It is an island in the middle of the Mekong river. According to Mr. Thim, and Mr. Lay, about 10 families were killed there. (The site was washed out by seasonal flooding).
Koh Krum (Krum island) and Koh Sraka, execution sites. The site is on this island in Thma Andaek village, 30 kilometers away from the district office. (Cannot access, as there is no road).

4. O Sampauch in Thmei sub-district. This site is an execution site. There is a re-education camp right there. We were told to meet Deputy Chief of the sub-district, Mr. Mum Kham. The site is about 30 kilometers away from the district office. (Difficult to access, and cannot be access by car as the lane is too small through the forest).

O Lornng 100201 B/P

Execution sites, and security office

After we obtained information from the district governor, we were accompanied by 10 district policemen led by Chief Police Inspector, Mr. Phal, jumped onto a borrowed ISUZU pick-up truck with the royal government number plate, belonging to Chief of Provincial Public Work Department, towards O Lornng site in Da sub-district.

O Lornng is 15 kilometers away from the district office and took us about 20 minutes to get to the Da sub-district. We met Mr. Ke Sum, sub-district chief from whom we asked for witnesses who were imprisoned or tortured at O Lornng. As a matter of time and distance of O Lornng site from the road, our team was separated into two small teams. The first team was escorted by 5 policemen and transported by our pick-up truck speeding down the road (which leads to Snuol) for about 1 kilometer and took a left turning into a small, ox-cart road which cut through the forest. But the car was stuck half way in the middle of the forest, as the trees block the road. The team walked leaving the driver and two policemen guarding the car, and took three others to accompany the first team through the forest toward the site. The second team interviewed two witnesses—mother and daughter—who were imprisoned at O Lornng in the Khmer Rouge regime. Mrs. Sa Soy, 62, now lives in Anh Chanh village, Da-sub-district. Her daughter Mrs. Kon Peou, 42, now lives with her mother. In the Khmer Rouge regime, she was in a mobile work brigade, and she was imprisoned at O Lornng for about nearly 3 years.

The two know several other people who were in prison with them. They are Ke Soth, Anh Chanh village (not at home at the time we were there), Pan Chheang in Anh Chanh village as well (not at home at the time we were there). So we could obtain information only from Mrs. Sa Soy and Mrs. Kon Peou.

Mrs. Sa Soy said that she was imprisoned because her husband served in the Lon Nol military. She said that the prisoners at O Lornng numbered between 200 and 300. The Khmer Rouge fortified the sites with a strong fence structured by big tree poles, and covered by barbed wires. She commented on how strong the fence was by saying that, *“even a small chicken had no way to get out.”* The chief of O Lornng site, which she called *“Chief of Murderer”*, was Comrade O. The prisoners were gathered from various villages, and sub-districts throughout Kratie district, including wives, children, and old people. Whereas husbands were sent to Koh Sraka. Mrs. Sa Soy told us that at O Lornng prison, prisoners including herself were forced to do farming, dig canals, build dams, and so on. Prisoners, who could stand this, lived a bit longer. The prisoners were forced to work day and night, and gave watery porridge as basic food. For young women, the Khmer Rouge raped before killing them. She saw Mrs. Phal—mother of a child—was tricked into being raped at a

small mound nearby by lying to her that she had to go to take her Angkar-given clothes. After being raped, she was killed. Other prisoners were taken to kill at nighttime, but she did not know where they were killed.

She told us to talk to three other surviving ex-prisoners:

- Ms. Phan Khin, 50,
- Mr. Ke Vann, Ms. Phan's husband,
- Mr. Ke Ham.

They all live in Da village, Da sub-district. But they were harvesting rice crops in the field far away from the village. Mrs. Sa Soy said about 100 prisoners were killed. She assumed that about 100 survived the regime when the National Salvation Solidarity Front liberated Kratie on December 30, 1978.

Preah Kosamak High School 100202 B/P
Security Office and Execution Site

The national democratic revolutionary movement in Kratie started at the school in 1970. In the Khmer Rouge regime, this place was used as ammunition warehouses. The execution site is just 100 meters behind the school. At the School Management Office, we met Mr. Kim Do, Principal of Preah Kos Samak High School, and Sok Seang Meng, Deputy Principal.

From the principals of the school, we have obtained information that this school was really a security office and prison in the Khmer Rouge time. In addition, the Khmer Rouge used school buildings to store ammunition, and weapons, and hospital. There were several buildings—one used for ammunition storage, another one for prison, one for hospital. In 1977-78, before the Khmer Rouge was defeated by the Liberation Front Forces and ran away, the Khmer Rouge burned down the ammunition storage, set the building on fire. (The photos of the ruined buildings are displayed at the School Management Office at present).

The building, which was used to keep prisoners, has 2 stories and each story has 5 rooms. There we met an important witness named Mr. Sao Khvich 70. He was an ordinary person in the Khmer Rouge regime, and lived near Preah Kos Samak High School. Nowadays, he lives in Wat Paoy Cha village, Kratie sub-district, Kratie district.

He told our team that he has lived here near the school since the Khmer Rouge time up to now. He witnessed that this school was the Khmer Rouge prison, security office, and execution sites, 100 meters behind the school. He told us that the first killing period was 1970-75 and the second wave was between 1975-79.

a) Victims between 1970-75, those with connections with the defeated Lon Nol Military/Government

Policemen and soldiers from the Lon Nol regime were singled out from various villages and sub-districts. At the time, some Khmer Rouge cadres were also imprisoned there for moral wrongs, and having affairs with women. Many of the prisoners were accused of peace alliance with the enemy and association with Khmer Sa “White Khmer”.

b) Between 1975-79, the New People

The prisoners, officials, soldiers, policemen, teachers, professors, and students, who were evacuated from cities or towns, were sent to this prison. There were Base People among the prisoners too, but only a few, as far as he knows.

Execution sites

About 100 meters behind the school, there is a lake. People were killed at night at the edge of the lake. The pits are invisible now because they were filled up and covered by forest. He said that he saw skulls scattering in the forest after the downfall of the Khmer Rouge regime. He estimated the number of the victims at between 50 to 100.

The school principal and deputy principal, as Base People in Kratie town, told us that they saw Comrade Hou Nim, Comrade Hou Youn, and Comrade Tiv Ol came for propaganda, and political campaigns in Kratie. He added that Comrade Ieng Sary also came to Kratie town. In 1978, the Southwest Khmer Rouge cadres were sent to Region 505 to track down the network suspected of being associated with Viet Nam. Those found associated with Viet Nam were all killed instantly.

The main chiefs at the prison were Comrade Kuon, Comrade Yem, and Comrade Kang. They were Region secretary cadres. The Region secretary cadres from the Southwest Zone were Comrade Boeun, Comrade Khon, and District Chief Comrade Yeng. The school principal and his deputy have no idea where they live at present. What they know is that the Southwest Khmer Rouge leaders killed all their predecessors who were Base people.

Conclusion

In Kratie district, there were many genocide sites but we managed to visit only two sites because other sites are far from people's houses into the forest, and the roads to those sites were very difficult or cannot be accessed by car. Another reason is that this is our first trip to Kratie, and we have limited time and security is not promising.

It is noticeable that there were fewer victims in this province than other provinces. The executions were not carried out en mass but people were singled out and secretly killed frequently in isolated areas far from people's eyes. We hope that in the future, the road to Snuol will be renovated and we will visit the not-yet visited sites.

Sambo District

On December 4, 1998, our mapping team departed the provincial town toward Sambo district office along the Road # 13. At 8.5 a.m., we arrived at the district office and there we met District Chief Mr. Thon Try and his Deputy Mr. Chreng Sam Oeun.

Information

After our team described to them our purposes and requests regarding our missions, the district office reported as follows:

Sambo district office is located along the Mekong 36 kilometers north of the provincial office. In the Khmer Rouge regime, this district was in Region 505. This district is situated in high river land area along the Mekong River. This district is rich in forest and logs. The district is bordered on:

- the north by Siembo district, Stung Treng province,
- the south by Kratie district, Kratie province,
- the west by Kamong Thom province,
- the east by Mondul Kiri province.

According to the district chief, the district has 10 sub-districts and 52 villages. The population is 41,272 people equal to 7,589 families, out of which 2,136 are females. 85 per cent of the people do farming, cutting trees, fishing, and getting rattans from the forest. The Khmer Rouge is not a worry, but there are kidnapers in this district as already happened recently.

About information regarding genocidal site

1. Prison, security office of Sambo district

The Khmer Rouge prison was located in Sambok district, and Sambo district. There are a number of execution sites near there about 1 kilometer from the prison.

2. Kuk Sam is the hottest work site in the district in the Khmer Rouge regime.

3. Koh Sam is located in Yay village, Kampong Cham sub-district. It is an island 4 kilometers from Sambo district in the middle of the Mekong River. The execution site took place at the tip end of the island. The corpses were let float in the river. Some corpses were buried in some places in the body of the island. It is very hard to get there because we can not access due to a thick forest.

The genocide sites, which are far away, include:

1. Prasral, security office and work camp,
2. Phnom Sruoch, security office, and work camp,
3. Au Sampauch, security office, work camp and prison,

4. Au Khlainpe, security office, and work camp,
5. Au Changkrang, security office, work camp and prison,
6. Peam Au Changkrang, security office, prison and execution site.

These sites are very far. There are no roads toward these sites and no local residents at the sites. We received some more information that there were two places called Trach Leu and Trach Krom located in Kratie district. They are security office and prison. These sites cannot be accessed and when we were working in Kratie provincial town, we were not informed of these two sites because they were not recorded in the district report.

Security Office, Prison and Execution

Kampong Cham Sub-district

Trapeang Daun Ong 6 kilometers from the sub-district. You have to walk 2 kilometers and take a boat 4 kilometers along the Mekong River. We could not visit this site at this time because of the forest and time constraint. It is very difficult to travel. Our team decided that we would go to Kok Kduoch only.

Kok Kduoch	100401	B
	100402	P

Prison, Security Office and Execution Site

Kok Kduoch is located in Sambo sub-district. It is about 1 kilometer off the road from the sub-district office. At 9:30 a.m., our team arrived at the sub-district office, where we met:

1. Mr. Ung Khuoy, sub-district clerk,
2. He or She Saom Bun Nan, Second Deputy Chief of Sambo sub-district,
3. Mr. Ry Chem, Third Deputy Chief of Sambo sub-district,
4. Tuoch Sambaem, Justice Official in Sambo district. At the sub-district office, the local authorities gathered witnesses to wait for us.

Before we started our research, we divided out team into two small teams. One team went to take GPS reading and the other conducted the interview with the following witnesses:

- Mr. Kaom Uk, 73, was once imprisoned in Kok Kduoch. Nowadays they live in Chamkar Knong village, Kampong Cham sub-district, Sambo district.
- Mr. Uk Iem lives in Keng Prasat village, Sambo sub-district

- Mr. No Saret, 52, was once imprisoned at Kok Kduoch. Later he was sent to Prasral Work Site, where he was responsible for burying corpses. He took bodies of the victims who were killed by the Khmer Rouge cadres to bury.

Detailed information from our interview with the three witnesses

According to the three witnesses, Kok Kduoch was used as a prison, a security office, and execution site of Sambo district in the Khmer Rouge regime.

1. The executions are closed to the security prison.
2. The witnesses told us that the prisoners who were not killed at Kok Kduoch were sent to O Sampauch and Prasral Work Site for “*work probation*.”

Victims

The prisoners at Kok Kduoch who were affiliated with /had had tendency toward the Lon Nol’s regime including policemen, soldiers, and moral wrong doers. Besides, the Khmer Rouge cadres committed moral wrongs were also imprisoned there. The witnesses said that those who were imprisoned had their hands and legs shackled. They were not walked to work at the work site. If they slept, they slept altogether. If they sat, they sat altogether. It was every difficult, and they did not have a chance to take a rest. The witness said that there were at least 60 to 100 prisoners at the site. They were all killed.

The number of the victims at Kok Kduoch can not be exactly estimated because they were killed secretly. However, Mr. No Ret knew clearly that at Prasral, where he was told to bury corpses. He remembered that 89 victims were killed because he buried them himself. He said he was in charge of “logistics”, but his duty was to bury the corpses. He told us that the people on work probation at Prasral were interrogated through torture everyday, and young women or men with one child were taken away and raped before execution by firing.

The Khmer Rouge Prison Cadres at Kok Kduoch were:

1. Comrade Tan, now lives in Keng Prasat village, Sambo sub-district,
2. Comrade Saroeun, now lives in Keng Prasat village, Sambo sub-district,
3. Comrade Keang (also killer), in Keng Prasat village, Sambo sub-district,
4. Mrs. Met, wife of Comrade Mon (diseased), who was Chief of the Security Office,
5. Comrade Ol (diseased),
6. Comrade Ha Meng An now lives in Phnom Penh,
7. Comrade Moeu, perpetrator, now lives in Keng Prasat village, Sambo sub-district, Sambo district,

8. Comrade Ngoy still alive but his whereabouts is not known,
9. Comrade Kai Yabel lives in Keng Prasat village,
10. Comrade Tuon Sai, security cadres in Sambo district in the Khmer Rouge regime,
11. Comrade Duk Sour, Comrade Mao Sai, Comrade Uong Khmoeun, Comrade Man Saman, Comrade Tann Srin, now live in Sre Khmoeun village. Sambo sub-district.

Our team attempted to talk to the security chiefs and their fellow cadres in the security office and cooperatives, but the district chief told us that they would not allow us to meet them. They would escape, if the team approached them. Even if you somehow met them, they would not answer your questions. Our team was very much wondering why the people in this district especially those who suffered torture and other brutal activities would not take vengeance against many of these Khmer Rouge security cadres. The district officials asserted that the people in Sambo district are kind and since 1979 they have never taken retribution against any Khmer Rouge cadres. Obviously, the first witness, Mr. Kaom Uk called Ta Khmao was stabbed with a rifle bayonet through his ankle, and he knew well who did this cruel act. The perpetrator is still alive and live in the same sub-district with him, but he does not resort to retribution.

This is strange, and seems a mystery to us. Our team assumed that these Khmer Rouge cadres could have connection with the local officials and has, therefore, received protection. Whereas at Prasral Work Site, the perpetrators were all minority people, namely, Comrade Lakk, Thmaun minority, Comrade Vy, Thmaun minority, Comrade Toeum, Thmaun minority.

The security chiefs were:

1. Comrade Uon Rim, now lives in Keng Prasat village, Sambo sub-district.
2. Comrade Chin Hoeun Kheng, alive, now lives in Prasral village, Sambo sub-district. He is still alive.

The district chiefs in the Khmer Rouge regime were:

1. Comrade Voeun, District Chief,
2. Comrade Chhouk, Deputy District Chief.

These two were Khmer Rouge cadres sent from the Southwester Zone to control this zone.

Conclusion

In Sambo district, information from witnesses was so clear and important that we have never had witnesses' testimony in other provinces since we started the mapping project. The witnesses like killers or security cadres often ran away from where they worked

in the Khmer Rouge regime to escape possible revenge. However, the sites are very far from the village and flooded. The remains of the victims have never been exhumed. The mass graves were no longer visible. Therefore, the first visit to Sambo district has little result. We are sorry that the district chief does not assist us to meet the Khmer Rouge security chiefs on an excuse that they refused to meet and answer to our team.

We think that in the dry season, we can ride ox-carts or bicycle or motor or walk to the not-yet visited sites. We should visit the province again and we want to make sure that we meet and talk to those Khmer Rouge security cadres, who we could not meet this time. In the case of Kuk Sang in Bati district, with the pressure of the local authority and the people, the Khmer Rouge cadres always cooperated with us to provide information to us. But the Khmer Rouge objections in Sambo district to meet us has prevented us from revealing more detailed aspects of what was exactly going on at the prison, work sites and security offices in this district in the Khmer Rouge regime.

Prek Prasab District December 12, 1998

On December 12, 1998, our team went on to conduct our research in Prek Prasab district. At 7 a.m., we took a boat which runs routinely a daily round trip—leaving Kratie provincial town in the morning and returning from Prek Prasab back to Kratie provincial town in the afternoon up and down the Mekong river stream. It took us a few hours to get to Prek Prasab dock, where we got off the boat and took a motor-taxi toward the Prek Prasab district office. We arrived at the district office at 8.15 a.m. and we met:

1. Mr. An Narom, Deputy Chief of the District Police,
2. Mr. Pay Vanthan, Deputy Chief of Prek Prasab district.

Information

The district office is located along the Mekong river, 8 kilometers southwest of the Kratie provincial town. According to the district officials, this location was in Region 203, Central Zone. They told us that the Central Zone along with Kampong Thom province administratively controlled the districts west of the Mekong river.

The district office of Prek Prasab district at present was the Khmer Rouge district office. According to the two above district officials, Prek Prasab district is bordered on:

- the north by Sambo district,
- the south by Stung Treng district, Kampong Cham province,
- the west by the long dense forest connected to Kampong Thom province,

- the east by the Mekong river (closed to Chhlong district).

This district has a population of 54,791 equal to 1,437 families. The people do farming, cut trees, and get tree vines, and fishing. This district is rich in forest and surrounded by a long river. Regarding genocide sites, the district officials reported to us the following:

1. Wat Chroy Ampil, security office, prison and execution sites. The prisoners were killed and dropped into the well, and buried in mass graves near the well. Wat Chroy Ampil is in Chambakk sub-district about 32 kilometers from the district office.
2. Prey Maisakk in front of the district office just 100 meters away from the district office, execution sites. Victims were killed and let the bodies float in the Mekong River.
3. Anlong Phnov, Rolum Phnov Dam in Saom sub-district about 32 kilometers away from the district office.
4. Tuol Krasaing, execution sites, is located in Thma Reap village, Prasab sub-district. There is no road to the site as it is in the middle of the dense forest. Victims were Lon Nol soldiers caught in the Chenla Military Operation in Kampong Thom province. This site was the Revolutionary National Liberation Movement zone of the Khmer Rouge.
5. Tuol Khlong, Prek Baing village, Prek Prasab sub-district. The Khmer Rouge sent the 17 April people (New People) to this area because this was the malaria area. There was no need for killing; they died because of malaria. There is no road to this area because of the dense forest.

Prek Prasab District Office (also called Prey Mai Sakk) 100301 B/P

This site was in front of the present district office and at the edge of the Mekong River. There are many Maisakk trees on the site and that is why this site is also called Prey Maisakk. According to the number of victims is not known because the bodies of the victims drifted away by the Mekong water current every “Big Water” season.

After we obtained detailed report from the district official, and we realize that certain sites can not be reached at this time, we decided to go to Wat Chroy Ampil. We also know that this site is very far, and we were worried about the time, and whether or not there is a boat to take us back to the provincial town. We bargained the price with only motorboat but the owner charged us extravagantly, as they knew that we could not find another boat. We decided to take a regular boat to Chhlong and there we can get a cheaper motorboat, for there are many motorboats at the Chhlong dock. The boat that took us to Chhlong stopped to drop and collect customers almost every three minutes. It took us two hours, leaving Prek Prasab at 10 a.m. and arriving at Chhlong dock at 12 a.m..

Wat Chroy Ampil Genocide Site 100302 B/P
Security Office, and Prison

The execution site is in a well in the Wat and in mass graves near the well. Wat Chroy Ampil was located at the foot of the mountain of Sapoar Kaley Mountain. There is a folk tale about Sapoar Kaley Mountain. Sapoar Kaley is the name of a female crocodile, who fights day and night with another crocodile named Ao Rai. Sapoar Kaley is defeated and floats to die on the sand beach near the riverbank called Anlong Kaley. Years later, a mountain grew up at the place and the people called it “Sopoar Kaley” mountain (name of a crocodile in Khmer legend) and this is because of the fact that the mountain shapes like a crocodile.

At Wat Chroy Ampil just at the foot at this historic mountain, we met:

1. Reverence Chief of Monk, Iv Savuth, 32, entered monkhood in 1989. In the Khmer Rouge regime, he was in a mobile work brigade in Russei Keo village.
2. Ta Kiem Khean, 73, now lives in Chroy Ampil village, Chambakk sub-district, Prek Prasab district. In the Khmer Rouge regime, he also lived near this security office and prison of Wat Chroy Ampil.

We have obtained important information from these two witnesses. Ta Kiem Khean told us that Wat Chroy Ampil was a security office and prison in the Khmer Rouge regime. In the Khmer Rouge regime, Wat Chroy Ampil was also a detention, and execution site (well) north of the Wat. The concrete building was also used to keep prisoners, and a few buildings were used as logistics warehouses. In the Wat, there was also a hospital. In between 1977-78, hospital personnel were sent to another place, and then killing took place. The Khmer Rouge played loud music putting the hospital in high resonance. At the same time, they blocked the road to the Wat preventing people from entering the Wat. The witness added that the patients were buried around the well. Some were buried at the foot of the mountain. He also told us that the Khmer Rouge dug up a mass grave with the depth of human height. Their final plan was to kill all but the National Solidarity Salvation Front liberated the near-death victims just in time.

There are no pits visible at present. The victims' bodies were dropped into the 10-meter deep well. Now the remains are still in the well. The survivors built a stupa with a tiled roof over the well, on the eve of the stupa wrote Khmer Rouge Crimes and Genocide Well. The witness told us that the number of victims is between 100 to 150 counting both the bodies in the well and outside the well.

Victims

According to our two witnesses above, most of the people imprisoned at the Wat were New People; very few were Base People. These New People were singled out from various sub-districts including Stung Treng district from which the people were sent by boat. The evacuees and the people who were sent here were not killed immediately. The Khmer Rouge screened their biographies and then singled out enemies of Angkar for execution. Some who were clever enough to hide their biographies could survive. The security office and prison were built in between 1970-78.

The security chiefs were the Khmer Rouge cadres from the Southwest Zone. The people maliciously killed all these Khmer Rouge cadres after the liberation in 1978. (None of them were heard to survive.)

Conclusion

In Prek Prasap district, we could visit only one site. Because Wat Chroy Ampil is very far from the district office, and we had to travel by a slow boat to Chhlong, only where we could rent a speed-boat to go to the site. When we were on the way there, the rains started, our team were not just shivering but also facing danger of boat overturn due to the strong wind and waves, too. Finally we reached the target safely and we received satisfactory result. The witness gave us detailed information, and physical evidence remains there. We should go to the remaining sites in the future, but our team should be allowed more time for any future visits.

Chhlong District (not yet mapped)

December 9, 1998

At 12 a.m., we snatched the time to make a short visit to Chhlong district office, where we met District Governor Mr. My Pheng. This district lies along the Mekong River on the eastern bank of the river. It is about 36 kilometers southeast of the provincial town.

The district is bordered on:

- the west by Krauch Chmar district,
- the east by Kratie district,
- the south by Dambe district, Kampong Cham province,
- the north by Prek Prasap district,

According to the District Governor, the population is 90,000 equal to 5,000 families. The district has 8 sub-districts and 40 villages.

Genocide sites (*not yet mapped*)

1. Prison, security office in Kanhcho sub-district.

This site is about 7-8 kilometers away from the district office. The Khmer Rouge district chief is still there in the sub-district. The victims were people alleged of committing offences in various sub-districts.

2. Lngok Work Site in Damrei Phong sub-district, 30 kilometers from Chhlong district is the probation work site of the district, where alleged offenders were sent.
3. Preah Mountain 7 kilometers from the district office. The victims were killed and dropped into the well, and some were thrown into the canal leaving the bodies floating everywhere. In 1978, the Khmer Rouge singled out for execution those who had Vietnamese wives or husbands. If found connected this way, the whole family was wiped out.