

# ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា

## PREY VENG PROVINCE

District	Site Name/ Visit Date	Site Type	Est. Victim	Witness	File #/ID Code	Latitude	Longitude
Peam Chor	Tuol Po Borei/ 07 August 1998	50-70 pits and 4 wells	8,000- 10,000	Suon Phoan ស្នួន ផាន់	R 080705A/ 140601	N 11°04'0205"	E 105°16'4616"
Preah Sdech	Neak Ta Yong Youy/ 07 August 1998	100 small pits	200	Nuon Nai នួន នៃណា	R 080707B/ 140904	N 11°04'4434"	E 105°17'3213"
Preah Sdech	Trapeang Reang/ 07 August 1998	100 small pits	150-250	Seng Chantha សេង ចន្ទា	R 080704B/ 140905	N 11°07'1167"	E 105°19'3778"
Sithor Kandal	Wat Prey Sva/ 04 August 1998	100-150 small pits	800-1,500	Im Oar អ៊ឹម អ័រ	R 080407A/ 141201	N 11°49'0410"	E 105°20'2189"
Sithor Kandal	Prek Sandek H.S/ 04 August 1998	Prison 8 big pits and 7 wells	1,084- 2,500 <sup>1</sup>	Hakk Sroan ហាក់ ស្រង់	R 080409A/ 141202	N 11°50'4981"	E 105°22'1482"
Sithor Kandal	Wat Prey Daem Thnoeng/ 04 August 1998	5 big pits	564-680 <sup>2</sup>	Yan Yean យ៉ាន យ៉ាន	R 080410A/ 141203	N 11°46'2799"	E 105°23'0050"
Sithor Kandal	Wat Prey Chheang/ 05 August 1998	40 pits	1,200- 1,500	Chea Sen ជា សែន	R 080500A/ 141204	N 11°43'0442"	E 105°24'3406"
Kampong Trabek	Trapeang Mong/ 05 August 1998	1 big pit	60-70	Norng Savuth នង សាវុធ	R 080506A/ 140303	N 11°00'1492"	E 105°29'5757"
Kampong Trabek	Trapeang Mchou Thnoeng/ 05 August 1998	2 big pits	100-200	Norng Savuth នង សាវុធ	R 080506B/ 140304	N 11°00'2418"	E 105°29'5382"
Kampong Trabek	Trapeang Trav/ 05 August 1998	3 big pits	150-200	Uk Nat អ៊ុក ណាត	R 080507A/ 140305	N 11°00'2156"	E 105°29'3894"
Me Sang	Tuol Cheung Chap/ 05 August 1998	Prison	138-150	Houy Sun	R 080602A/ 140306	N 11°24'3654"	E 105°37'3427"

<sup>1</sup> PRK (1982-83) document suggests only 1,084 victims at Prek Sandek High School.

<sup>2</sup> PRK (1982-83) document suggests only 564 victims at Wat Prey Daem Thnoeng.

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	06 August 1998	2 big pits		ហ្លួង ស៊ីន	140501		
Me Sang	Trapeang Chambakk/ 06 August 1998	3 big and 1 small pits	350-500	Chum Cheh ជុំ ចេច	R 080604A/ 140502	N 11°24'1616"	E 105°37'3305"
Me Sang	Me Sang Market/ 06 August 1998	1 big pit	150-200	Bin Kheang ប៊ិន យ៉ាង	R 080605A/ 140503	N 11°19'4188"	E 105°35'5608"
Me Sang	Me Sang H.S/ 06 August 1998	8 pits	300-500	Bou Samon ប៊ូ សាមុន	R 080606A/ 140504	N 11°19'3947"	E 105°33'1177"
Preah Sdech	Tuol Neak Ta Snay/ 07 August 1998	Prison 3-5 pits	40-50	Sokh Sarom សុខ សារ៉ុំ	R 080703A/ 140901	N 11°07'2944"	E 105°19'4540"
Prey Veng	Tuol Tumpoung	1 mass graves	200	Sang Phan សាង ផាន	R120207A/ 141005	N 11° 33" 5442"	E 105° 24" 4983"

## August 4, 1998

The Documentation Center of Cambodia [DC-Cam] in cooperation with the Council of Minister's Archive Department sent its mapping team to continue the research on genocide sites in certain districts of Prey Veng province.

## Prey Veng Province

We drove via National Route # 1 and crossed the river by ferry until we reached Neak Loeung town. We took a left turning toward Prey Veng provincial town. At 11:00 a.m., we reached the provincial office, where we met H.E. Mr. Chey Sa Yoeun, Provincial Governor, Mr. Sbaong Saratt, Deputy Provincial Governor and Chief of the Provincial Cabinet. Mr. Sa Yoeun wrote an official letter allowing our mapping team to visit certain districts we had requested. It took us 4 hours to travel 90 kilometers from Phnom Penh City to the Prey Veng provincial hall. Then, we continued our trip from the provincial hall toward Sithor Kandal district.

## August 4, 1998

### Sithor Kandal District

We arrived at the district office at 1 p.m. The trip there posed very much difficulty to our team because the road was so slippery and muddy. Some parts of the road were flooded. We met with Mr. Sieng Buntha, District Chief and Mr. Chea Sen, Chief of the District

Culture Office. The district office is situated approximately 40 or 50 kilometers north of the provincial hall. In the Khmer Rouge regime, this district was in Region 22, Eastern Zone. Sithor Kandal district is bordered on:

- the north by Koh Sotin district, Kampong Cham province,
- the south by Kanh Chreach district, Prey Veng province,
- the west by Pea Reang district, Prey Veng province,
- the east by O Reang Ov district, Prey Veng province.

According to the district officials and report, the district comprises 11 sub-districts and 60 villages. There are 12,000 families totaling a population of 67,000. 95 per cent of the whole population are farmers. They also do subsidiary income generating activities such as palm sugar production, scarf weaving, Sarong made out of silk, and other silk products such as Haul (traditional Khmer costumes).

### Information on genocide sites

There are 4 genocide sites. They are at:

1. Wat Prey Chheang (**141204 B**), execution site, where people were detained for a short period of time before killing. There are 40 mass graves and one well. The number of victims at the site is estimated at between 1,200 to 1,500.
2. Wat Prey Daem Thnoeng (**141203 B**), execution site, where people were detained for a short period of time before killing. There are 13 small graves, 5 mass graves and 1 well. The estimate number of victims is 560.
3. Wat Prey Sva (**141201 B**), execution site, where people were detained for a short period of time before killing. There were 42 pits (big and small). The estimate number of victims is 800.
4. Prek Sandek High School (**141202 B/P**) or Prek Sandek Market was the Khmer Rouge district headquarters and regional prison, and also an execution site. There are 8 big pits near the prison and 8 wells and 1 long big pit in its vicinity. Also, there are 2 pits in Wat Prek Sandek.

This information about these 4 sites is extracted from Mr. Sieng Buntha's report. This is the report, which the district made and has kept for documentary purpose. We could only take photos of them, and were not able to copy them because there was no a photocopier at the district.

### **Wat Prey Sva            141201            B**

Our team accompanied by Mr. Chey Sen, Chief of the District Culture Office, first went to Wat Prey Sva currently called Wat Prey Sovann. This Wat is 10 kilometers away from the district office. This site was a temporary gathering place before the victims were

killed. This site is in Prey Sva village, Chrey Khmum sub-district, Sithor Kandal district. Our team arrived there at 3 p.m. sharp. Our team met:

1. The Reverend Im Oar, monk, 32,
2. Mr. Khim Nhoep, 66, former chief of the KR “Kha” military unit,
3. Mr. Pin Chantha, 35,
4. Ms. Moeng Soy Oeun, 53,
5. Mr. Bou Lao,
6. Mr. Chea Sen, Chief of the District Culture Office.

They all live in Prey Sva village, Chrey Khmum sub-district, Sithor Kandal district. In the Khmer Rouge time, they lived in the same, village, sub-district, and district as mentioned above.

Mr. Im Oar and the 5 informants told us that they all lived near the site, close the Wat in Lvea village before, during and after the Khmer Rouge regime. They claimed that in the Khmer Rouge regime, they saw the Khmer Rouge security personnel gathering people from various locations, villages, sub-districts to detain at Wat Prey Sva. Those people included:

1. Evacuees from various towns and cities in 1975. The “new people” include government officials, civilians, teachers and students.
2. Khmer Rouge cadres as well as chiefs of villages, sub-districts, cooperatives, groups, and militia units. (The Southwest Khmer Rouge killed them).

Taking for example, out of 1,000 families, 500 families were smashed leaving the other 500 base people families, obviously residents of the district. Most people were killed within the year of 1978 from May 1978 up to late 1978, and early 1979 (!).

The witnesses told us that in late 1978 the Southwest Khmer Rouge cadres went there and arrested the Eastern Khmer Rouge cadres to be executed. Later, the Kampuchean National Salvation Solidarity Front forces supported by the Vietnamese Armed Forces drove the Khmer Rouge forces through the zone. The Khmer Rouge soldiers, especially the Khmer Rouge security personnel ran away. Mr. Im Oar went to Wat Prey Svay and saw pits full of swelling bodies. Some were buried shallow in the ground and some others with half of the body in the ground and half on the ground surface sending stinky smell all over the place.

Mr. Bou Lao and Ms. Soy Oeun living near the Wat during the Khmer Rouge time, told us that at the time of killing, the Khmer Rouge played music or turned on the car engine making very loud noise to prevent villagers living nearby from hearing the screams of

the victims. When the first wave of killing was finished, the second wave was carried on by bringing in people on ox-carts, or horse carts or by walking in lines. The Khmer Rouge cadres lied to people that they were being taken to their home villages. The people were very happy to think that they would be together with their families in their home village. The way of killing is by hitting with iron bars normally used to frame an ox-cart wheel surface, chopping with sachets or throwing babies against coconut trees or other trees. We recorded witnesses' interviews in cassette tapes. Many base people survived from the regime but some were also killed. The evacuees from various towns and cities were kept in cooperatives for one year (1976-77). Some others were sent on to Battambang province, an experiment zone, where many of the city dwellers were forced to work very hard until they died. We recorded interviews with witnesses in cassette tapes and took pictures of those witnesses for documentary purpose.

At the site, the witness and our team took pictures of pits, counted the number of pits, and estimated the number of victims to check against the previously obtained information. The result is as follows: There were 3 rows of pits in the area of land, 25 meters in width with and 50 meters in length. Each row contains 20 pits totaling 60 pits for 3 rows. There were big pits and small pits mixed together. The witness estimated that one small pit took between 15-20 victims and one big pit between 20-25 victims. Each pit is square shaped with 2 meters each side and 1.50 meters deep. Besides, pits located west of the Wat, there were also pits south and north of the Wat and some others located outside the Wat compound. About 50 meters, away from the Wat is the biggest pit.

Therefore, the figure of our estimation is a bit different from that in the district is report. The witness said that there are between 100 to 150 pits counting both small and big pits together. The number of victims is estimated at 800-1,500 or 2,500 the most. The last wave of killing is late 1978.

**Prek Sandek High School                      141202                      B/P**

At 4:15 p.m., our team went to take a look at the security office and execution sites at Prek Sandek Health Care Center, Wat Prek Sandek, Prek Sandek Market. This site is located in Prek Sandek village of Prek Sandek sub-district, about 12 kilometers from the district office of Sithor Kandal. This site was the security office and prison of Region 22 (Sithor Kandal district). It was the biggest one in this Region and the district. We met Mr. Hakk Sroan, Principal of Prek Sandek High School.

This high school comprises 3 buildings: building 1, building 2, and building 3. Building 3, a one-story building with 8 rooms was used to keep prisoners and building 2, a one-story building with 4 rooms was used to keep the new people families mainly from Prek Sandek prison. Building 1, a big building, and in the previous regime the Health Care Center, was used for keeping prisoners. The execution sites are as follows:

1. Well, west of the building, next to Prek Sandek High School. The well is about 5 meters to 7 meters deep. The well was full of victims' bodies.
2. Well at Mr. On' s house,
3. Well at Mr. Hory Pheap's house,
4. Well at Mr. Ngann' s house,
5. Well<sup>3</sup> at Mr. Hong's house.
6. Pits near Prek Sandek High School with 1.5 meters wide and 8 meters long. It now looks like a small canal, not yet filled up.
7. 2 pits under the mango trees west of Wat Prek Sandek. The new people were killed. This site was also a temporary gathering place before prisoners were executed in 1978.

The villagers, looking on our team's work, told us that there were probably more pits at this site. We could not visit all the sites because we did not have enough time. By that time, it was getting dark, and we did not have enough time to look for witnesses, who were reportedly imprisoned there or former Khmer Rouge security personnel. We hope to revisit the sites in the futures.

### **Victims**

All victims were taken from everywhere in the region because this was the regional prison of Sithor Kandal district. According to Mr. Hakk Sroan, and Mr. Moeung Hok Seng, the victims are:

- New people evacuated from various cities and towns such as Lon Nol soldiers (first target),
- New people from all cooperatives in all sub-districts of Sithor Kandal district,
- People formerly, who had connection with or tendency toward officials and public servants of the former regimes from various towns and cities,
- Base people, who committed moral wrong doings,
- Khmer Rouge cadres themselves, who were in charge of logistics, economic sectors or in small and big Khmer Rouge military units from Koh Sotin district, Kampong Cham province and other districts.

The Khmer Rouge once imprisoned Mr. Moeung Hok Seng in Prek Sandek prison. He told us that between 1975-76, all the prisoners there were pilots, National Radio personnel, government officials, and military officers in the Sihanouk and Lon Nol regimes. Besides these people, the victims were mixed people because this prison was for both Region 22 and Sithor Kandal district. The witnesses estimated the number of victims at 1,000 to 2,500. But the district report suggested only 1,084 victims.

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<sup>3</sup> Note that nowadays, this well no longer exists because the landlords filled them up.

One of the security personnel there is still alive. He was Comrade Phaos, who now lives in Prek village, Rumlich sub-district, Sithor Kandal district. Because of time constraint, we could not meet with him. Again, we hope to interview him in the future. We took photos of the prison building, wells and pits. We recorded interviews with witnesses, Mr. Hakk Sroan and Mr. Moeung Hok Seng, in cassette tape for documentary purpose.

**Wat Prey Daem Thnoeng                      141203                      B**

At 6 a.m., our team arrived at Wat Prey Daem Thnoeng, where victims were temporarily detained to await execution. Wat Prey Daem Thnoeng is in Prey Daem Thnoeng village, Prey Daem Thnoeng sub-district, Prey Daem Thnoeng district. There, we met Mr. Yan Yean, 58, now lives in Prey Daem Thnoeng village, Sithor Kandal district.

He is the most important witness. After 1979, he lives in the same place up to today and he is Chief of the Wat ComMitee. He also lived at the same place in the Khmer Rouge regime. He was Chief of a palm sugar production team of 40 peoples. He produced palm sugar in the Wat compound. The Reverend Krouch Keav, monk in the Wat, 39, was a member of the palm production team of 40 people, too. He has been living at the same place from 1979 up to today. He also produced palm sugar in the Wat compound. During the Khmer Rouge time, the Reverend Krouch Keav was a member of the palm production team under Mr. Yean. He lives in the same place as Yean.

Our witness told us that a Bali school, a two-story-building, was used to temporarily detain the victims. The school was always full of prisoners. Nowadays, we can still see blood stain on the wall. A dining hall behind the big Wat building was where victims were kept. The witness told us that the people were kept there only in the daytime. In the evening at 6 p.m. every day, people were taken to execute. At the time of execution, the Khmer Rouge played loud music, turned on the car engine or played loud speaker to prevent screams of victims from being heard by villagers living nearby. He saw people were loaded on ox-carts or horse carts to keep at the Wat everyday in 1978. He asked those people and they answered that they were on their way to their home villages. He saw children playing around happily as usual. It is the same with their parents. They did not know that this was their death place. He told them that that was their death place and persuaded them to run away from it, but they told him that they did not know where to run. Young women or virgins were kept at a separate house where the Khmer Rouge cadres before the execution at the Wat often raped them.

Mr. Yean told our team that the reason why he could be in the Wat because he was Chief of the Palm Sugar Production Team, producing palm sugar within the Wat compound. He said he was allowed to do normal activities in the daytime and he was told to leave the Wat at 6 p.m. in the evening. He said he saw with his own eyes a well full of bodies up to the top. The way of killing was by hitting with wooden sticks. One woman was just left unconscious and she could escape the death. She ran home but she was again

arrested and killed by chopping with sachets. He saw 3 sachet wounds on her body with bloodstain around the body near the well top. The head was cut off from the body.

### **Mass graves and pits**

There is one 7 meters deep well, 4 big pits in the compound and one pit outside the Wat. The witness estimated the number of victims in the well at between 70 to 80 or 100-120 in each pit. So the number in the well and the 4 pits totals up to between 500 and 600 victims. The total number could be 700 victims, but the district report suggested only 564 victims.

### **Victims**

New people were gathered from various sub-districts, villages in cooperatives. The victims also included young women from the women mobile work brigades who were children of the base people. They were killed in between May and late 1978. The witness confirmed that the last wave of victims were purely new people who were evacuated from various cities. They all were executed in 1978, which was the last wave of killing.

### **Wat Prey Chheang                      141204                      B**

At 7 a.m., on August 8, 1998, we arrived at Wat Prey Chheang in Russei Sanh sub-district, Sithor Kandal district. Our research team accompanied by Mr. Chea Sen, traveled 6 kilometers backward from the district office. At Wat Prey Chheang site, we met Mr. Ngann Ngaok, Chief of Russei Sanh sub-district and Mr. Tum Hum.

Mr. Ngann Ngaok and Mr. Tum Hum are both witnesses to this site. Mr. Hum was imprisoned at the site and was about to be killed by the Khmer Rouge, but he could escape death. He told us that, to him, Wat Prey Chheang was neither a prison nor a security office because it was just a temporary site before execution. One wave of execution finished; another wave began in sequence. Those temporary sites are at:

1. Rice barn about 10 meters wide by 20 meters long building in Russei Sanh sub-district.
2. Bali school a big building about 20 meters wide by 24 meters long in Russei Sanh sub-district.

The victims were kept here one night and the executions started at 7 p.m. and stopped at dusk the following day. So the victims were then in the daytime awaiting death to come at night. When all the people in the first wave were killed, new victims were brought in for another wave of execution.



## Mass graves and pits

At the time, the Wat was destroyed and razed to the ground by the Khmer Rouge. The Wat floor was the killing place. There was one well behind the Wat. There are a total of 40 pits--big and small. The number of victims is estimated at 1,200 to 1,500 according to the report. Each pit is 4 meters square and 2 meters deep. The Khmer Rouge dug pits in row.

## Victims

The victims were killed there in 1978. According to Mr. Tum Hum, the Khmer Rouge gathered all kinds of people from various sub-districts and cooperatives. Those included the new people (the whole family). The victims were:

1. Base people,
2. Youth of both sexes from mobile work brigades,
3. Soldiers abandoning their front lines in the Eastern Zone,
4. Khmer Rouge cadres, cells, groups in various villages and sub-districts. Some were security personnel or militiamen. The perpetrators were identified as 8 Northwest Khmer Rouge cadres. Pretty and young women were raped before execution. Mr. Tum Hum was arrested and kept in a rice barn awaiting execution. But he realized the situation and decided to escape. He was chased and fired at but luckily he succeeded in his escape. We took photos of him and recorded our interview with him in cassette tape.

**August 5, 1998**

## Kampong Trabek district

Our team departed from Sithor Kandal district toward Kampong Trabek district. At Neak Loeung town, we turned left into National Route # 1. We arrived at Koh Andaek at 11:30 a.m.. It is 94 kilometers from Sithor Kandal to Koh Andaek, Kampong Trabek. We did not meet the district governor because our team had met him before when we visited this district in 1997. We are already known locations of genocide sites, which we, could not visit in 1997 because the Global Positioning System unit did not work. So we walked straight to the sites.

**The genocide sites in Roka Thom village, Cheang Dek sub-district are:**

1. Tuol Ta An
2. Trapeang Mong

3. Trapeang Mchou
4. Thnoeng
5. Trapeang Trav
6. Trapeang Daem Po

At 12 noon, we arrived at Cham (Muslim) sub-district where we met Mr. Srey Sam An, Deputy Chief of the sub-district, Mr. Pech Samoeun, Village Chief, Uk Nat, of Roka Thom village, and Mr. Uk Nat, Village Chief of Peach Road village. We were there just in time to meet all the sub-district officials because they were there for the 2 p.m. meeting at the sub-district office. So we would obtain very detailed information from them about the above mentioned genocide sites. Deputy Chief assigned Mr. Uk Nat, village chief of Pech Road to accompany us to the sites because Mr. Uk Nat's house is at the border between Cham sub-district and Cheang Dek sub-district. Before we went to the site, we have recorded some information from Mr. Uk Nat, First Deputy Chief. He told us that all sites mentioned above are between two sub-districts, Cheang Dek and Peam Muntea sub-districts, Kampong Trabek district. It is 3 kilometers further Mloun village, Cheang Dek sub-district, there were no people living there.

#### Victims

- **Lon Nol soldiers, government officials, public servants, teachers and students were killed in 1975-76.**
- Base people who were related to or had connection with or tendency toward military officials and government officials of Sihanouk and the Lon Nol regimes.

For those soldiers, the Khmer Rouge kept them for a while to work and they killed those soldiers one by one. Soldiers who were still capable of working were kept alive longer. Soldiers who were no longer able to work were killed instantly. At 2:00 p.m., our team accompanied by village chief, Mr. Uk Nat, we arrived at the site after travelling over 12 kilometers and walked 1.5 kilometers because our car could not access the site. There, we met a Cheang Dek sub-district clerk named Mr. Norng Savuth because the sub-district chief was too sick to accompany us.

#### Trapeang Mong 140303 B

Trapeang Mong is located in Mloun village, Cheang Dek sub-district, Kampong Trabek district. It is 3 kilometers from the village. Because of the distance between the site and the village, it was hard for us to find witnesses. Therefore, we found only two witnesses, Mr. Norng Savuth and Mr. Uk Nat as they have lived there since the Khmer Rouge time. The number of victims is estimated at 60-70.

Trapeang Mong contained one big square shaped pit with 4 meters square side and 1.5 to 2 meters in depth. The witness said the victims were mostly Lon Nol soldiers.

**Trapeang Mchou Thnoeng                      140304                      B**

At 12:20 p.m., we went to the second site, Trapeang Mchou Thnoeng, about 150 meters away from Trapeang Mong in the same village, sub-district and district. There were 2 pits. The number of victims is estimated at between 100-120. This was the execution site. Rather than temporary detainment place, victims were sent to death right away at this site. The execution took place in 1975-76.

**Trapeang Trav                                      140305                                      B**

It is located far from Mloun village, Cheang Dek sub-district. It is between Peam Muntrea and Cheng Dek villages, about 200 meters or 250 meters away from the second site. There were three big pits at the site. Each pit is 4 square meter each site and 1.5 to 2 meters deep. The number of victims is estimated at between 150-200.

**Victims**

The witness said that the victims were Lon Nol soldiers. After April 1975, he saw the Khmer Rouge cadres walk lines and lines of Lon Nol soldiers to the site. He told us that boys shepherding cows saw blood and swelling bodies at the mouths of pits there.

**Tuol Ta An**

*(For technical reason, no GPS reading was not taken because it is too close to Trapeang Trav)*

We went to Tuol Ta An's security office and prison. Victims at this site were believed to be Lon Nol soldiers. The Khmer Rouge forced them to work very hard and all of them got killed. The ways of killing were by exposing those soldiers to overwork, starvation and no medicine. Some died from illness. Many were killed after they were worked and were at near-death stage. Now appearance of pits is no longer visible.

**Trapeang Daem Po**

*(For technical reason, no GPS reading was not taken because it is too close to Trapeang Trav)*

We went to Trapeang Daem Po, 60 meters from Trapeang Trav. There was one pit near a pond, which is 4 meters square side and 2 meters deep. The number of victims is estimated at between 50-80. Trapeang Trav and Tuol Ta An were mobile security offices of the Khmer Rouge and Trapeang Daem Po was the execution site. The total number of victims at the 4 sites is estimated at between 300-400 people.

## Conclusion

The 4 sites were 3 kilometers away from the village. Therefore, in the Khmer Rouge regime, no one dared to go near the site because they would be killed if the Khmer Rouge noticed their presence. We made this first conclusion without having a report from the sub-district or district office. We did this based on information from witnesses. We took photos of pits and witnesses. We recorded interviews with witnesses. These sites were easily identified as there are a cluster of palm trees right there.

**August 6, 1998**

### **Me Sang District**

Our team departed from Neak Loeung town at 6 a.m. toward Koh Andaek via National Route # 1. On the way to Koh Andaek, there is a lane on the left-hand side. We traveled via that lane toward Me Sang district. We arrived at Me Sang district hall to Koh Andaek at 8:15 a.m.. The distance between Me Sang district office to Koh Andaek is 12 kilometers. So the district office is 45 kilometers from Neak Loeung town. At the district office, we met a district administration official, Mr. Nop Chem and his staff, and Mr. Yan Raman official of Me Sang District Information Office. Mr. Nop Chem told us that the district office is located in the southeast of Prey Veng province, 55 kilometers away from the provincial hall. The district has 8 sub-districts and 118 villages. Me Sang district is bordered on:

- the north with Kampong Trabek district, Prey Veng,
- the south with Kampong Trabek district, Prey Veng,
- the west with Ba Phnom district, Prey Veng,
- the east with Romeas Hek, Svay Rieng province.

In the Khmer Rouge time, the district was in Region 20, Eastern Zone. According to the district report, the population in the district is 2,104 families equal to 100,872 out of which 53,324 are females. People make their livings by rice farming, palm sugar producing, weaving mats out of Rum Chek (textile plants) material and other subsidiary crops. In addition, they also raise animal husbandry and poultry.

## Genocide sites

1. Security offices and prisons and execution sites are at:

- Tuol Choeung Chap, execution sites.
- Dambauk Roka, execution sites.
- Trapeang Chambakk, execution sites.

- Wat Kuk Reang, execution sites.

The sites are located in Sampor village, Prey Totung sub-district; Me Sang district about 22 kilometers from the district office.

2. Security offices and prisons and execution sites at Chy Phoch High School, Tuol Chy Phoch located in Me Sang district,
3. Execution site, Tuol Me Sang located near Bayan tree.
4. Tuol Neak Ta Reang, killing site, in Reang village, Chy Phoch sub-district, Me Sang district,
5. Veal Ta Ev or Nou village, Chy Phoch sub-district, the execution sites far away from people's house.

After grasping some information, our team accompanied by Mr. Yan Raman, official of the District Information Office went to the site to examine and look for evidence and witnesses. We arrived there at 9:50 a.m..

Tuol Cheung Chap                      140501              B/P

- Wat Kuk Reang (prison),
- 2 wells near the prison,
- Trapeang Chambakk, execution sites.

These sites were called Tuol Cheung Chap and are located in Sampor village, Prey Totung sub-district, Me Sang district, 22 kilometers from the district office of Me Sang. The way to the site was slippery, narrow and muddy. The lane just fits the size of the car. When we arrived there, we met the following villagers:

1. Granny Houy Sun, 62
2. Mr. Moeng Suon and Sok Khea, 32
3. Mr. Khuon Chhon, 42,
4. Mr. Yem Sim, 44, landlord of the house built on top of the anthill, Choeung Chap. In the Khmer Rouge time, his family was evicted and the Khmer Rouge cadres killed his father.

We asked the above villagers one by one. In the Khmer Rouge time, they lived in Sampor village, Prey Totung sub-district, Me Sang district. Therefore, our team decided to take them as our witnesses to give us information about the site. They told us that Tuol Cheung Chap is a real security office and prison and the Khmer Rouge perpetrators took the victims to execute there. The man identified as Comrade Cheam is Comrade Cheung Chap's deputy. Comrade In, Chief of the prison controlled all activities there and tile-roofed

houses around the prison were for security personnel 1.50 meters south of the prison, there was a house at a Bayan tree, where victims were interrogated. The prison comprises compartments in row. The security office and prison were built with thatched roof, bamboo trees and clay for the wall. Each cell kept only one prisoner. The cell was just about the size of a human body. The length of each cell is 2 meters just to fit the height of a human being. The prisoners slept on the ground, some on palm leaves. Each row consisted of 60 prisoners; so 180 for the three compartments. The legs of the prisoners were shackled to a chain. In the daytime, they were walked with their legs chained together with another prisoner to the work site. At night, they were sent to their respective cells and there, each prisoner was chained to the cell floor. Therefore, when the victims ate or went to the toilet, they had to go in pair. The victims were daily interrogated, and they were also taken away every day. When the Khmer Rouge interrogated prisoners, they played loud speakers or turned on the car engine to prevent the screams of victims from being heard by the villagers living nearby when they were beating prisoners to confess. The witness added that a loud speaker was permanently hanged on a tree. Mr. Moeung Suon saw lines of prisoners being taken out and he believes that they were killed at night. About 20-30 people were taken out to kill each time and the same number of “new victims” was brought in the time.

## Victims

- The new people who were evacuated from various towns and cities,
- Soldiers, military police and police officers, government officials and civil servants, students, teachers, professors,
- “Base people” who committed offences, and those who have tendency toward and connection with the Lon Nol regime or with the above mentioned categories of people,
- Base people were accused of being Khmer with “White Head”, “KGB” or “CIA” agents hiding among rebellions at the locations. Those who rebelled against Angkar were killed after the arrest. The perpetrators were not the Southwest Khmer Rouge cadres but the Eastern, and the Eastern Security cadres who killed those victims between 1976-77.

Later we went to see two wells, in the south of and behind Mrs. Yem Sim’s house. These two wells held between 100 to 150 victims’ bodies. Nowadays, the wells were filled up and appearance of the well is no longer visible. The only marks to identify these two wells are Treng Krabey Dek plants, which Mrs. Yem Sim pointed to us. We took photos of these plants for future identification of these two wells. The wells have not been dug for remains.

At 11:20 a.m., our team took photographs of Bayan trees, which were reported by Mr. Yan Raman, district culture official, as interrogation sites. After that, we went to visit a well at Dambauk (anthill) Daem Roka. The well is 5 meters deep and the top diameter is 3 meters. There we met Mr. Chum Cheh, who reported that this well could be identified with three palm trees. He pointed to the three palm trees for future recollection. He estimated the number of victims there at between 80 to 120.

### Trapeang Chambakk 140502 B

This site is identified with 4 Krasaing<sup>4</sup> trees at the edge of the pond. The sites are also known as Trapeang Ta Lon. This site is about 300-400 meters south of the prison. Mr. Chum Cheh accompanied us and showed us all the details of the site. There are 3 big pits and 1 small pit. Each big pit is square shaped with 4 meters each side and 2 meters in depth. The small pit is square shaped with 2 meters each side. The witness estimated the number of victims at 400-500. The two sites are at:

- Dambauk (anthill) Daem Roka well,
- Trapeang Chambakk, in Andaung Sren village, Chreh sub-district, Me Sang district. It is not in Prey Totung sub-district, but very close to the sub-district boundary shared by these two sub-districts.

### Wat Kuk Reang known as Wat Chan Reangsei

We could not reach the site because it was about to rain making the clay path so slippery that we could not come back before dark. The site was not safe for our team to stay at night. We hope to visit this place in the future.

### Tuol Me Sang (Me Sang Market) 140503 B

At 12:05 p.m., our team arrived at the site. The execution site is behind Mr. Vuthy's house, Me Sang village, Prey Romdeng sub-district; Me Sang district. There we met the following villagers:

- Mrs. Bin Khieng, 54,
- Mr. Muon Soan, 44.

We asked the two villagers to accompany us to the site. There is one pit, 8 meters long, 2 meters wide and 1.5 meters deep. The two witnesses estimated the number of victims at between 150 to 250.

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<sup>4</sup> Fruits with sour seeds used as ingredients in Khmer stew or sources.

## Victims

- The Khmer Rouge Eastern Zone cadres led by Comrade So Phim, Secretary of Eastern Zone. Some of those cadres were arrested when they ran from the military base and some others were arrested when they were on their way home.
- Female Khmer Rouge cadres, women from mobile work brigades, female teenagers from various sewing units, from factory or rubber plantation.
- The witnesses added that those women and teenagers were walking happily because the Khmer Rouge perpetrators told them that they were allowed to go back to their former units. The witnesses also told us that those cadres were brought by truck to keep in a concrete building. They all got killed near a house behind the market in between 1977-78.

Mr. Bin Khieng and Mrs. Muon Soan, lives at this place (Me Sang village) before, and after the Khmer Rouge regime. We took photos of the witnesses and recorded our interviews with them in cassette tape. The remains of the victims have not yet been exhumed.

## Me Sang High School 140504 B

At 1 p.m., we arrived at the execution site. The security guards lived in a Wat nearby. The execution is located in a high school. There, we met Mr. Bou Samon, 52, the principal of the high school. He now lives in Chy Phoch village, Chy Phoch sub-district, Me Sang district. In the Khmer Rouge regime, he lived in the same address.

## Information

We have received information from Mr. Bou Samon that Tuol Chy Phoch was the Khmer Rouge prison and execution site. The security guards lived in Wat Chy Phoch and the prisoners were kept in the school compound. The prisoners were killed behind the school in a big pit, 2 meters wide, 32 meters long and 1.50 meters deep. He said in 1990 when a tractor tilted and leveled the ground to build extra school building, they saw bones and 58 skulls and 8 baskets of limb bones. He allowed villagers to bury the remains behind the school (not held in a memorial). We have recorded interviews with Mr. Bou Samon.

## Conclusion

The victims were in 8 pits, both small and big. The number of victims is estimated at between 300-500. The villagers informed us that there are two other people who could be our witnesses, Mr. Sang Sinuon and Ta Kim in Me Sang village. We could not visit two sites, Tuol Neak Ta Reang in Reang village, Chy Phoch sub-district and Veal Ta Ev or Nou village. Our GPS unit stopped working for unknown reasons. We hope to visit these sites in the future. Our witness, Mr. Chhaom Thy saw the killing at Veal Ta Ev amidst the village with his own eyes.



**August 7, 1998**

**Preah Sdech district**

On August 7, 1998, our tem departed from Neak Loeung town via National Road #1 and arrived at Hun Sen High School in Chy Poch village, Chy Poch sub-district and turned left via a lane toward the district of Preah Sdech. We arrived at the office of Preah Sdech district at 8:00 a.m.. There we met:

1. Mr. Kea Latt, Deputy Governor,
2. Mr. Chea Vuthy, Chief of the District Office,
3. Mr. In Sokun, Chief of the District Culture Office.

The district office is in Angkor Reach sub-district. The district is situated in the south of the province, 40 or 42 kilometers from the provincial town. It is about 12 kilometers from Neak Loeung town to Hun Sen High School, Chy Poch village, Chy Poch sub-district and another 12 kilometers from the school to the district town. So it is 24 kilometers from Neak Loeung town to the district town. Preah Sdech district is bordered on:

- the north by Ba Phnom district, Prey Veng province,
- the south by Vietnam,
- the west by Peam Chor district, Prey Veng province,
- the east by Kampong Trabek, Prey Veng province.

According to the district report, the district consists of 11 sub-districts and 145 villages. The district population is 20,977 families, equal to 107,191 people, out of which 56,265 are women. 95 per cent of the population are farmers. They also do subsidiary crops and domestic products such as baskets.

**The genocide sites are at:**

1. Tuol Po Borei, security office and prison and execution site,
2. Tuol Neak Ta Snay, security office and prison and execution site,
3. Pornng Tik, security office and prison and execution site. [This site is in Peam Chor district.]

**Tuol Neak Ta Snay 140901 B**

*(duplicate with 1995/96)*

At 9:00 a.m., our team accompanied by Mr. Sokh Sarom, the district administration officer, went to do research at the above mentioned sites. At 10 a.m., we arrived at Tuol Neak Ta Snay site. The site is in Ta Mao village, Rea Thor sub-district, Preah Sdech district. There we met the following villagers:

1. Mr. Seng Chantha, 28, Ta Mao village, Rea Thor sub-district.
2. Mr. Sun Vai, 42, in the same village, sub-district.
3. Mr. Som Chhorn, 31, in the same village, sub-district.
4. Mr. Sat Top, 32, in the same village, sub-district.

The 4 villagers lived in this place before, during and after the Khmer Rouge regime. They all knew, and saw the Khmer Rouge criminal activities during the period. We went to the site with the 4 villagers. They told us that there is a prison on Tuol Neak Ta Snay. The execution took place west of this site and along the bank of the pond, 1 kilometer from the site, Tuol Neak Ta Snay. And the biggest execution site where most of the victims were killed is Trapeang Veng. The killing took place at the edge of the pond (Chhoung Po pond). There is a big pond in the middle of Tuol Neak Ta Snay site, about 70 meters each side and 15 meters deep. The prisoners dug the pond. The site is 120 meters wide and 200 meters long. This site is so high that it never subjects to flood. This pond serves as water supply to villagers living around there and it never dries up. A tile roofed spirit house known as Neak Ta Snay spirit house can be easily identified. That house is where the site is.

We took photos of this spirit house. We took photos of the sites and examined the pits. The witnesses told us that they saw the killing with their own eyes in 1979.

**Tuol Po Borei            140601            B/P**

At 10:40 a.m., we went to examine the pit located west of the site. The pit is not visible because villagers do farming on this pit and it has become part of their rice field. So did Trapeang Reang site. Mr. Sat Top said that while he was plowing, he saw bones and he then dug up the pits to look for gold. He discovered about 100 bras lying at the upper part of the torso and 100 women underwear at the lower part of the bodies. He assumed those victims female. There were other big pits in which young people were killed. He said there were 7 big pits at Trapeang Reang site. The size of each pit is 4 meters each side and 2 meters deep. And there are many small and big pits along the bank of Chhoung Po stream about one kilometer from the site. These all were execution sites. The witness confirmed to us that all the remains are much more than 8 ox-carts.

The victims at Tuol Neak Ta Snay were all Khmer Rouge soldiers and war prisoners of the Lon Nol regime. They all were forced to do farming, growing crops, and digging ponds before execution. Some of them could live longer if they would be able to endure the work. Some died from starvation, illness or battery. Some were executed. The Khmer Rouge cadres allowed their dogs to eat the bodies of the victims and they buried the remaining bodies in the ground. They had about 200 dogs. No one dared to go near the site.

The witness said that their dogs were very wicked. There were two waves of killing. First, Lon Nol soldiers were killed in 1976. Second, the new people military officials' families including children, parents and civil servants.

### **Types of Lon Nol Soldiers**

Soldiers were taken from Wat Basrey in between 1975-76, and from various schools that they used as temporary prisons in between 1975-76. They also brought soldiers from Tuol Samret, Tuol Po Borei. They brought soldiers Lon Nol evacuated from various cities to Preah Sdech district. The number of soldiers is estimated at between 6,000 and 7,000. The number of civilian victims plus soldiers at 8,000 to 10,000. The witness added that there was even a square shaped pit with 10 meters each side. This site was the district security office, prison of Preah Sdech district in the Khmer Rouge regime. We interviewed witnesses, recorded witnesses' accounts in cassette tape and took photographs of witnesses and sites. The witness agreed to give testimony, if needed, in a court in the future.

At 1 p.m., we arrived at the security office and prison and the execution site at Tuol Po Borei in Kraing Ta Yov village, Kraing Ta Yov sub-district, Peam Chor district. Note that before it was in Preah Sdech district, very close to Peam Chor border but this site is now in Peam Chor district. There, we met Mr. Suon Phoan, 62. He lived in Kraing Ta Yov, who lived in Kraing Ta Yov village, Kraing Ta Yov sub-district, Peam Chor district. When we arrived, he was working in the field on Tuol Po Borei, which can be identified by 3 big Bayan trees.

We asked him to tell us about the history and activities of the Khmer Rouge, especially about the security office and prison, execution sites at Tuol Po Borei itself. So, he said that he has lived there before, during and after the Khmer Rouge regime up to now. He was one of the base people in the village. Therefore, he had the rights to come and work on his farms near the site. He saw, heard and knew what was going on at the site. He accompanied our team to the pits at the edge of the anthill. The appearances of big pits remain visible, not yet flatten out. He pointed to those big pits, and said there were 4 big square shaped pits, each of which are 4 meters side and 1.5 meters deep. There were also a number of other small pits, each of which contained 1 or 2 bodies of Lon Nol soldiers, who were overworked and died every day. The rest of the prisoners were all finished in 1978. There were numerous small pits at the edge of the anthill.

### **Victims: The prisoners imprisoned at Tuol Po Borei prison including:**

- Lon Nol soldiers,
- New people evacuated from various cities and towns,
- Base people with tendency toward the new people,
- People, who protested, opposed the Khmer Rouge or used wrong words against the Khmer Rouge.

Mr. Suon Phoan further said that the strongest killing wave was in 1978. That year, there was flooding called “big water” up to those pits and the swollen bodies floated all over around the edge of Tuol Po Borei. The Khmer Rouge cadres put up a fence made out of sheets of bamboo strips around Tuol Po Borei to prevent the bodies from floating away (these are their secrets). He even knows very clearly three prison chiefs. They are 1) Comrade Longhen, 2) Comrade Longvek, and 3) Comrade Chokk, all arrested in the purge event of Comrade Sao Phim line in the Eastern Zone. The number of victims was estimated at between 8,000 to 10,000. We can also take Mr. Seang Sam who was with Mr. Suon Phoan as our second witness. He said that the prison chief, Comrade Ka and Comrade Longhen is, for whatever reason, still alive in Tnaot village, Angkoreach sub-district, Preah Sdech district.

**Tuol Neak Ta Yong Youy 140904 P**  
*(duplicate with 1995/96)*

At 2:00 p.m., we arrived at the security office and prison at Tuol Neak Ta Yong Youy in Roka Kaun Satt village, Boeng Daol sub-district, Preah Sdech district. There we met Mr. Nuon Nai. He gave us the following information.

In the Khmer Rouge regime, he lived in Tuol Neak Ta Yong Youy in Roka Kaun Satt village, Boeng Daol sub-district, Preah Sdech district. He often worked in his rice field near the security office and prison. One of his brothers, a Lon Nol soldier, was imprisoned there. He has been living at the same place since 1979. We asked if he agreed to be our witness and he did. He told us that Tuol Neak Ta Yong Youy was the security office and prison of the Khmer Rouge in Preah Sdech district. They were mostly Lon Nol soldiers and war prisoners of the Lon Nol regime, estimated at 500. The Khmer Rouge cadres gathered, in this site, Lon Nol soldiers from various locations late 1975 and early 1976. Those prisoners were used to dig a big pond (photos available). The prisoners were walked to the work site every day, to dig a canal, ponds and to do rainy and dry season rice crops. They were given only watery porridge. Those who could work lived longer and others who could no longer work, were killed and buried there.

The perpetrators singled out all Lon Nol military officers to kill, leaving only low rank soldiers, who later ended up in mass execution. Mr. Nuon saw lines and lines of victims being waked away to a place he did not know. He said some were killed at Trapeang Reang site and buried near the rice paddy embankments around the pond. (Only 2 or 3 in each pit). But the pond and embankments around the pond were full of bodies. He excavated the remains of his brother whom he knew to be buried at the embankments. He said this was his true story.

**Trapeang Reang 140905 B**

At Trapeang Reang about 100 meters or 150 meters away from the prison, there were about 100 pits. The number of victims was estimated at between 100-150. He did not know how many prisoners were taken to kill in other sites. We took photographs of witnesses—Mr. Nuon Nai, and Mr. Saing San.

## **Conclusion**

We believe that our visit to the 4 districts in Prey Veng province was fruitful, which came from hard work on the part of our mapping team. We made it to visit certain sites far away from the district office and even to certain sites in remote areas close to the borders of other provinces and Viet Nam. These sites could not be reached before. The villagers and authorities remained strongly cooperative and helpful to our research. We have also found important witnesses who knew clearly about those sites. However, the remains and other evidences were not tangible because they were not properly kept or maintained. Some remains are still in those pits yet exhumed. We have found only the statistics document about various sites, which was provided by the district chief of Sithor Kandal. The time for this research was a bit short—one day for one district or two districts. But our team still gained success.

We wish we had more time to make our research very complete in every aspect. Then the result would be even much better than this. However, in these circumstances, we could not stay very long in those districts. The Khmer Rouge is not a problem any more in this area, but robbery can not be careless of. This is our concern because many villagers are having their crops affected by drought, insects, pests and bad crops. They are strongly affected by food shortage.

## **Problems and other obstacles**

The road to each district is very difficult and very far. It took us along time to get to each district. There were big muddy potholes and flooded stretches of the road caused by heavy rain, forcing us to drive across paddy fields. The road was very slippery, when it rains. To get to certain sites, we had to walk almost 100 meters or 200 meters or even 2 kilometers. The road to Sithor Kandal was so slippery that we almost collapsed. These difficulties have caused our team health problems and errors of the GPS unit. Our team would like to request two GPS units to use interchangeably when one is not working. Therefore, the research visit requires adjusting to the real situation in the field. We must do the work step by step and we cannot rush it too much. Our conclusion is that our team has completed the work as planned, and the result is appropriate under these circumstances. This success would not have been possible without our good driver and durable car that took us to all the sites unimpeded.