

Pursat Genocide Report

The research team composed :

- Mr. Sin Khin, Leader;
- Mr. Pho Tip, Member;
- Mr. Hak Sophal, Member;

On the arrival in Pursat province on November 26, 1995 at 2.30pm, we met with his excellency, Governor of the province to ask for permission and cooperation in the research process which was expected to visit many places through out the province.

On November 27, 1995 at 8 o'clock in the morning, the Governor of the province organized a meeting with himself as Chairperson.

The participants at the meeting were :

- His Excellency, Deputy Governor.
- Head of all the districts in the province and provincial official from all the provincial Departments and Offices.

To start with, Chief of the Provincial Cabinet brought up the objective of our research mission which was to search for documents relevant to the genocide acts and he also addressed to the entire meeting that to fulfill this mission, the research team needed cooperation from the provincial authorities.

Later at the meeting, Mr. Sin Khin, on behalf of the genocide research team pointed out that the purposes of the meeting were :

- To search for the genocide related documents.
- To visit genocide sites such as prisons, pits etc. in Phum, Khum, Srok through out the province.
- To find out and interview any witnesses who saw or know clearly about genocide acts committed during the DK regime through the target site visits.
- To ask for cooperation of the provincial officials from :
 - Chief of the Provincial Office.
 - The Provincial Office of Religious Affairs.
 - The Provincial Office of Information Culture and Arts.
 - The Provincial Police HQ.
 - The Provincial Statistics Office.
 - Heads of all the districts in the province.
 - Chiefs of Phum and Khum in the province.

At the end of the meeting, His Excellency, Governor of the province handed us over to Mr. Bun Cheon, his assistant and appointed him to accompany us to the target sites and two other policemen to escort us :

The two policemen were Major Chay Chaut and Captain Pen Sophinrom. Immediately after the meeting, we went to Srok Kandeang.

Srok Kandeang

The district is located 30 kilometers from the provincial town in Phum Kbal Puk, Khum Syar, there was a prison called "S" Prison 8, in which about 800 prisoners were killed by the KR and the corpses were buried in mass graves-each of the 10m x 10m size and the depth of between 2,50m and 3m.

We found two witnesses :

- 1- Granny Mok Ni, 53, born in the village.
- 2- Grandpa Nhek Taing, 50, born in this village as well.

The two witnesses reported that the cruel killers of "S" Prison 8 were :

- 1- Chieng, who is now living in Phum Tlou Ampil, Khum Anlong Vill, Srok Kandeang.
- 2- Pao (dead), the most cruel killer.
- 3- Mi, who was put in prison and later released by the local authority but he has never been heard of ever since.

After that, we went on to another prison called "S Prison 7" located on Ta Peiv Knoll (Tuol Ta Peiv) and it is known as Ta Peiv Prison. This prison is in Phum Pau Thivong Khum Svay Luong, Srok Kandeang.

There, we met our first witness, Mr. Hem Chea, 46, former Chief of the Plowing Unit of the Pol Pot regime. He is now living in the above mentioned village. He reported that approximately 300 up to 500 prisoners were killed in this prison. Later we came across the second witness, who was Mr. Men Cheek, 46 a peasant in the Pol Pot regime and at present is Chief of Khum, Svay Luong reported that the Security Chiefs who were the killing perpetrators were :

- Hauy, dead in the fighting.
- Bel, disappeared
- Ngorn, whose one of his arms was cut off, now lives in Phum Sdaov, Khum Sreah Sdok, Srok Kandeang (failed to meet with him).

The research process in this district was ended at 2pm on November 26, 1995.

Srok Sampov Meas

This district is located 4 kilometers from the provincial town, in Phum Sdok Chum, Khum Koh Dom, there was a prison called Koh Dom Prison in Wat Koh Dom compound. This prison was used for 6 Sub-districts of Srok 22, Damban 727.

During our visit in this district, we met two witnesses who vividly remember what had truly happened in this district during the genocide regime. The two were:

- Mr. Tlang Phem, 43, born in Phum Sdok Chum, Khum Koh Chum is now living in this district. He agreed to be interviewed and let us record his statement into a tape.
- Granny Buoy Bophal, 57, born in this village reported that the chiefs of the prison were :
 - Thorn, disappeared.
 - Hi, now living in Phum Sang Preah.
 - Naing, now living in Phum Ptah Preok, Khum Koh Chum.
 - Seik, dead.
 - Lay, now living in Khum Russei Kranh, Srok Maung.

The district official accompanying us was Mr. Sat Kosal, Chief of Srok Sampov Meas.

The research process in this district was ended at 5.30pm on November 27, 1995.

Srok Kravanh

This district is 29 kilometers from the provincial town. Traveling down Road #56 through the district, there are many genocide sites along the way. However, we were unable to reach those places because of the unfavorable conditions of the areas-inaccessible by car. As a result, we visited only two sites :

- There is a pagoda called Wat Kandal in Phum Kol Toteung, Khum Santrea. This pagoda was used as a prison and a security office in the genocide regime. In this pagoda, the KR used one of the monk residences which is a wooden and brick roofed building as their security office and it is now still in good condition. While the building for worship of the pagoda which is a concrete building was used as a prison and it is now still in good shape.
- Mr. Sok San, 48, former military policeman in the Lon Nol regime, is now Captain in Division 8 positioning in Zone 5 (Phumipheak 5) painted the detailed picture of what had happened in this district as you will hear from the tape.
- Granpa Cheom Lun, 66, who was evacuated from Srok Kien Svay, Kiet Kandal in 1975 by the KR, is now living this district. He reported that the killers in this district were :
 - Lork, dead.
 - Mein, dead.
 - Chan, now lives in Phum Prek, Khum Sam Raong, Srok Kravanh
 - Chum, dead.
 - Port, dead.

He added that 261 people were killed there.

- The second site we visited, was Phum Tanol Prison (Kuk Phum Tanol). At this site, there were 3 large mass graves in which 900 corpses were put and thousands of bodies of the victims were thrown away into small pits. There we met witness, Mr. Gnuon Seou, 55, who is now living in Phum Pen, Khum Rouch, Srok Kravanh and he agreed to be interviewed and we recorded his entire statement.

The second witness was Mr. Suo Reit, who is now Chief of Rouch Sub-district reported that during the genocide regime he was a palm juice producer and that the prison Chief was :

- Ta Lainh, now disappeared.
- * The whole interview was recorded into a tape.

The District Officials accompanying us were :

- Mr. Mei Norn, Head of Srok Kravanh
- Mr. Sao Nareit, Deputy Head of Srok Kravanh
- Mr. Sou Reit, Chief of Khum Rouch.

- * The research process was ended at midday on November 18, 1995.

Srok Bakan

This district is located 5 and a half kilometers from the provincial town. The site we visited, is one and a half kilometers from the National Route 5. It was a prison called Svay Chrum Prison of Phum Thkol, Khum Khma in the genocide regime, but now it is known as Phum Thkol, Khum Trapeang, Srok Bakan, Khet Pursat.

The KR took the people who were suspected of being involved in revolution movements including secret agents, policemen, soldiers, public servants, and government officials as well as ordinary people to be tortured and killed in the forest with the size of 2.5 kilometers in square. According to Chan Peng, our witness, between 9,000 and 15,000 people were killed here.

- Mr. Chan Peng, 56, has been living in this village all his life through several regimes.
- Mr. Nov San, who has been living here all his life in this district and used to be one of the KR mobile team member in 1975 and later was promoted to be Chief of Phum Daung, reported that the Security Chief was :
 - Ta Khin, now disappeared.

- * The interview was also recorded into a tape.

The second security office called Viel Daun Arm Security Office was in Phum Daun Arm, Khum Baneom, Srok Bakan, which has now been changed to Phum Trapeang, Srok Bakan. This place was used as a communal rice threshing yard and a meeting place during the Pol Pot regime. During each meeting, people who were accused of wrong doing had their wrists tied up and their heads pointed at with bayonets and then they were walked in rows to the extermination sites. At each meeting, some Khmer Rouge soldiers were deployed around waiting for orders from their high ranking cadres to take people to kill. The corpses were thrown into a well with the depth of 10meters. This well was called Daung Arm Well (Andaung Daun Arm). Between 70 and 100 bodies of victims were put into this well. Not far from the well, there was a

pond of 10m x 10m size and the depth of 2m, in which about 950 bodies were put. Now it is called Daun Arm Pond. (Srah Daun Arm).

The above information was given by our witness :

- Mr. Sor Laun, 48, has been in the above-mentioned place, is now Chief of Srok Bakan.
- Mrs. Uoch Heang, 52, has been living in this place all his life.

The officials accompanying us were :

- Mr. Bun Theil, District Chief of Bakan.
- Mr. Sor Laun, Deputy Chief of Bakan
- Mr. Kim Hem, Chief of the District Office of Information.
- Mr. Chan Peng, Chief of the District Office.

* The research mission was ended at 5.40pm on November, 1995.

Conclusion

Concerning the research process as a whole, we have been provided with good and warm cooperation and high spirits of responsibilities by the provincial officials concerned in the matter. The information obtained from each Phum, Khum, Srok is based on the factual witnesses we met; added to that, we have visited many genocide sites, but evidence such as documents and remains of the victims were in some way lost or disappeared due to lack of proper care and supervisions.

Phom Penh, November 10, 1995
The report made by Sin Khin and Pho Tip.