

# មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

## Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) MAPPING THE KILLING FIELDS OF CAMBODIA, 1997: khet SIEM REAP [Q-17-siem reap/a-cb-sr]

Location	Site Name/ Date	# of graves	Est. of victim	witness	File #/ ID Code	Latitude	Longitude
srok Sonikum (Sotr Nikum)	wat Tayek/ 29 May 1997			Seun Vibol ស៊ីន វិបុល	R 052903A/ 171101	N 13°17'4656"	E 104°10'2222"
srok Sonikum (Sotr Nikum)	Trapang Beung/ 29 May 1997	3 pits	200	Mok Thy ម៉ុក ធី	R 052904A/ 171102	N 13°18'0348"	E 104°10'2960"
srok Sonikum (Sotr Nikum)	Salarean Chen Nam Kour/ 29 May 1997	1 pit	15	Sor Lao ស សាវ	R 052905A/ 171103	N 13°14'2455"	E 104°07'5328"
srok Sonikum (Sotr Nikum)	Prey Chba Pingpong/ 29 May 1997	15 pits	200	Kim Poy គីម ប៉ូយ	R 052907A/ 171104	N 13°15'1372"	E 104°08'1192"
srok Sonikum (Sotr Nikum)	Kuk Morn/ 29 May 1997	2 pits	30	Chea Lon ជា សុន	R 052908A/ 171105	N 13°14'2121"	E 104°07'0827"
srok Sonikum (Sotr Nikum)	Prey Chen Tong/ 29 May 1997	2 pits	15	Chhut Nop ឈុត សាប៉	R 052908B/ 171106	N 13°14'4484"	E 104°06'4407"
srok Prasat BaKorng	wat Ksach/ 29 May 1997	1 well	12	Kiv Chhay គីវ ជ័យ	R 052909A/ 170901/2/3	N 13°17'3393"	E 104°03'2145"
srok Prasat Ba Korng	Tuol Tatai/ 29 May 1997	30 fronts	2500	Seun Khy ស៊ីន ឃី	R 052911A/ 170904	N 13°21'2664"	E 103°58'0022"
srok Prasat Ba Korng	wat Lo-Ley/ 29 May 1997			Seun Khy ស៊ីន ឃី	R 052911B/	N 13°21'2854"	E 103°58'0625"

Documentation Center of Cambodia

Searching for the Truth

(ស្វែងរកការពិត ដើម្បីការបង្ហាញនិងយុត្តិធម៌)

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					170905		
<b>srok Puork</b>	Prey Ta Ek/ 30 May 1997	1 pit	51	Svay Hong ស្វាយ ហុង	R 053003 A/ 170701	N 13°27'5643"	E 103°44'3171'
<b>srok Puork</b>	Prey Koak Tanong/ 30 May 1997	1 pit	52	Keo Um កែវ ឌី	R 053003B/ 170702	N 13°27'4503"	E 104°44'3158"
<b>srok Puork</b>	Koak Ta Main/ 30 May 1997		2500	Chou Van ជួរ វ៉ាន	R 053004A/ 170703	N 13°26'1194"	E 103°45'4306"
<b>srok Puork</b>	Angdong Ta Man/ 30 May 1997	1 well	70	Hing Boung ហ៊ីង ប៊ុង	R 053005A/ 170704	N 13°25'3378"	E 103°44'3823"
<b>srok Puork</b>	Kok Thmei/ 30 May 1997	1	38	Sat Py សាត ពី	R 053006A/ 170705	N 13°26'4377"	E 104°43'2892"
<b>srok Puork</b>	Prey Koak Ta Mony/ 30 May 1997	200 pits	350	Hoeuk Chhy ហ្វឺក ឆី	R 053006B/ 170706	N 13°26'5693"	E 103°43'2157"

On 18 May 1997, DC.Cam assigned Mr. Sin Khin and Mr. Hak Sophal to go in search of historic documents related to the genocidal crime of Pol Pot's clique in several sroks of khet Siem Reap such as srok Siem Reap, srok Sotr Nikum, srok Prasat Bakang and srok Puok.

#### Statistics of death toll of victims in khet Siem Reap:

- Peasants	:	3,360 people
- Civil servants	:	1,324 people
- Monks	:	20 people
- Ethnic minorities	:	-----
- Disabled	:	2,007 people

Total death toll : 5,507 people

The families of 3,962 victims filed petitions. This figure is not completely accurate since the statistic survey was not properly conducted when the Khmer Rouge were vigorously active in the province. A proper survey should be done again to come up with the more accurate statistics.

### **srok Sotr Nikum (Sonikum)**

Srok Sotr Nikum is located east of munti khet Siem Reap. It shares borders with srok Svay Leu on the north, Tonle Sap lake on the south, srok Prasat Bakang on the west and srok Chikreng on the east.

It is composed of 10 khum which are divided into 113 phum with 772 krom (groups) and 15,563 families. There is a population of 87,759 people, of whom 45,772 are women. The total area is 720 square kilometers, of which planting area is 20,700 hectares and farming area is 500 hectares. There are 130 monks and 215 Buddhist novices.

Upon arrival on April 29, 1997 at 9:30 a.m. at srok Sotr Nikum, 30 kilometers from munti khet Siem Reap, we met with: Mr. Un Seng, first deputy provincial governor; Mr. Bai Hap, officer; Mr. En In, district administrative officer and Mr. Uon Un, district cultural officer. During the talk with them, we asked whether criminal centers existed in the district, and what the locations of pits, killing sites and prisons throughout srok were. They had 2 srok officers accompany us to the criminal centers.

### **Wat Tayek criminal center**

Wat Tayek criminal center consists of a prison, Tayek and a killing site, Trapeang Bung. The religious Buddhist building in wat Tayek was turned into the Tayek prison. This criminal center is located in phum Tayek, khum Tayek, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap. It is 16 kilometers from munti srok Sotr Nikum.

At 10:00 a.m. we reached wat Tayek where we met with Eum Phan, age 78, chief of monks, from whom we quoted some information. We also met with a witness named Mok Thy, age 56, now living in phum Tayek, khum Tayek, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap, and another witness named Seun Vibol, age 33. In Pol Pot's time, these two witnesses both lived in phum Tayek, khum Tayek, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap.

The third witness Seun Vibol told us the following: At that time, the religious Buddhist building in wat Tayek was used as the prison and place for interrogation. Some blood stains can still be seen on the wall of the Buddhist building, because the temple committee preserved such factual evidence. The killing site is at the edge of a lake, 300 m from the prison.

At the site, there were a large pit and many other small ones. There was also a 6-meter-deep ancient well with a 3-meter mouth. The total death toll at the killing site was 200. The victims killed here were 17-April people and the base people who committed wrongful acts or who were politically involved with people in the city. We interviewed the witness on cassette, and took pictures of the witness and the pits for keeping as documents. We were also given an existing document showing more detailed information.

### **Criminal center**

The prison in this criminal center, which is located in phum Dom Dek, khum Dom Dek, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap, was formerly a Nam Kuor Chinese school. The school prison was 500 m from munti srok of srok Sotr Nikum. There was a pit, 100 m from the prison, which contained 15 bodies.

We had a witness named Sar Loa, male, age 52, and another witness named Nguon Van. They both live in phum Dom Dek, khum Dom Dek, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap.

These witnesses testified that mostly rich families, such as the owners of grinding mills, traders or well-to-do farmers, were taken to be killed. Only Pol Pot's cadre could stay at this Chinese school. The site of killing was behind the witnesses' houses. The witnesses concluded that there were 15 at this killing site because they excavated the remains looking for their dead relatives after 1979.

### **Preah Trapeang criminal center**

Prey Chbar Ping Peang killing site is located in phum Preah Trapeang, khum Dom Dek, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap. It is 2 kilometers from munti srok Sotr Nikum.

We found an important witness named Kim Poy, age 57, male. In Pol Pot's time, he was a chief of a small unit. As then, he currently lives in phum Dom Dek, khum Dom Dek, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap. Not long after the executions were committed, he came to the killing site.

He also knew that the victims killed here were all rich Chinese people and traders who were accused of being exploiters, suppressers and deceivers. The total death toll at the killing site was 200 victims, buried in a total of 15 pits. The execution was conducted twice in 1973 before the liberation day and in 1977. We interviewed the witness on cassette, and took pictures of him, the locations of the killing sites and the pits for keeping as documents.

### **Trapeang Kap Bat criminal center**

Trapeang Kap Bat killing site is located in phum Koak Morn, khum Dom Dek, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap. It is 1 kilometer from munti srok of srok Sotr Nikum. The execution was carried out in 1978. Most of the victims were Chinese. There were only one old man and one old lady. There are two pits, each of which is 3 m wide, 3 m long, 1.5 m deep, containing a total of 30 victims.

We got all this information from 2 witnesses: Chea Lon, age 29, female, and Kuon Luk, age 50, male. They both live in phum Koak Morn, khum Dom Dek, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap (interviewing on cassette, pictures of the witnesses and of locations of the pits and killing sites included).

### **Criminal center**

Prey Chin Tong killing site is located in phum Daun Hong, khum Dom Dek,, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap. It is 50 m from munti Sotr Nikum. Four Chinese families including a trader (such as the owner of grinding mill) were taken to be killed here and placed into a well. The total death toll was 16. The victims killed here were all Chinese people. Many of them were accused of having enough to eat or of being exploiters.

This information was provided by a witness named Chhout Nob, age 55, female. In Pol Pot's time, she was a base villager whose job was to cook rice in the communal cooking hall in phum Daun Hong, khum Dom Dek, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap. Four of her children were killed under Pol Pot's regime. She will always bear a lasting hatred. She said that if Pol Pot is ever brought to justice, she will be very happy. Both in Pol Pot's time and at present, she lives in phum Daun Hong, khum Dom Dek, srok Sotr Nikum, khet Siem Reap (interviewing on cassette and pictures included).

### **srok Prasat Bakang**

Srok Prasat Bakang shares a border with srok Sotr Nikum. It was the last srok established in 1986. On 29 May 1997, we went to meet with the district chief of srok Bakang at 10 a.m. As we did not have much time to ask many questions, we went to visit the criminal center at once.

### **Criminal center Wat Sovann Bopha Ream (called Wat Khsach)**

This criminal center is located in phum Roka Kambot, khum Trapeang Tom, srok Prasat Bakang, khet Siem Reap. It is 10 kilometers from the district office of srok Prasat Bakang. A school building in srok Prasat Bakang was used as a temporary prison. The prisoners destroyed part of the prison during an escape attempt. Some actually did escape, while others were caught during the attempt. Twelve of the prisoners were killed and placed in a well.

This information was told by a monk named Kiv Chhay, age 56. He said that in 1979 the remains were excavated out of the well and were provided a ritual blessing them with peace and harmony in their next lives. Now, the remains have all been buried.

He also testified that more than 12 remains had not yet been excavated. Kiv Chhay was the first person to become a monk in 1979. In Pol Pot's time, despite the fact that he lived far from the prison, he knew from his neighbors that the temporary prison building was not well protected. The windows of the prison could be broken open by the prisoners. Victims were imprisoned here in 1976.

### **Tuol Ta Ke criminal center**

Wat Lorley prison and Tuol Ta Ke killing site is located in phum Lorley, khum Bakang, srok Prasat Bakang, khet Siem Reap. Houses for monks in Wat Lorley were used as temporary prisons to detain prisoners who were not long after the detention taken to be killed.

Various other killing sites were at Tuol Ta Ke (a lot more deaths), Koak Ta Mom, Koak Khang Cheung, and the site west of Wat Lorley. These killing sites were formerly in the forest located 500 m from Wat Lorley prison. The killing sites cover 1 square kilometer, filled with pits dug like long canals. Each of the canal pits is 1 m deep, 1.5 m wide and about 12 to 20 m long. The pits have not yet been covered by soil.

In 1975, a wide range of victims, such as soldiers, civil servants and people evacuated from Siem Reap and other provincial towns, were brought here by trucks. They had been told that they were going to be educated by the top Angkar, and were promised that after the completion of the education, everyone would enjoy the same rank or position that he or she had before.

The total death toll in Tuol Prey Ta Ke was approximately 2,500 to 3,000.

This information was obtained from Sin Khy, age 51. In Pol Pot's time, he was a base villager and worked in a mobile work brigade. Both in Pol Pot's time and at present, he lives in phum Lorley, khum Prasat Bakang, srok Prasat Bakang, khet Siem Reap. He mentioned that in Lon Nol's time, no one lived in this village because it was a strategic village of Pol Pot's clique. During 1976-79, people who committed wrongful acts or who were political activists were also brought to be killed here.

We could only visit one of the 4 said killing sites because our time was short. The killing site we visited was Prey Tuol Ta Ke. It was already 7 p.m. when everything was done in the killing site.

#### **srok Puork (30 May 1997)**

Srok Puork is situated along the national road ... leading to Svay Sisophon and khet Battambang. It is ..... from munti khet Siem Reap. Srok Puork shares borders with Thailand on the north, Tonle Sap lake on the south, khet Banteay Meanchey on the west, and khet Kampong Thom on the east. It is composed of 108 khum and 914 phum with a population of 656,074 people. It covers 15,270 square kilometers, of which planting area is 181,289 hectares, vacant area is 179,804 hectares, dwelling area is 192,446 hectares and forest area is 1,248,960 hectares.

We were welcomed by Mr. Chheun Sok, first provincial governor; Mr. Mak Krapum, second provincial governor; Mr. Hing Pov, chief of provincial cultural office; Mr. Pin Deung, district officer; and Mr. Som Veun, srok officer. They provided us information about killing sites throughout srok Puok and we were also given a set of documents concerning locations of criminal centers, killing sites and pits. Unfortunately, the documents did not clarify the accuracy of death toll in each location. So, we decided to go for visits at important places.

#### **Prey Koak Ta Ek criminal center**

Prey Koak Ta Ek killing site is located in phum Rahal, khum Daun Keo, srok Puok, khet Siem Reap. It is about 2.5 to 3 Km from munti srok Puok. At the site, we saw a pit holding 51 bodies. The pit is 3 m wide, 3 m long, 2 m deep. There was no prison here. People were transported by trucks to be killed at the site during late 1975 until early 1976. We did not know the victims' origins.

This information was obtained from a witness named Svay Hong, age 57. In Pol Pot's time, he lived in Lon Nol-controlled area during 1971-72. He came to live in phum La Beuk, khum Daun Keo, srok Puok, khet Siem Reap during 1976-77.

#### **Prey Koak Ta Nung criminal center**

The Prey Koak Ta Nung killing site is located in phum Rahal, khum Dan Keo, srok Puok, khet Siem Reap. Driving down the street Samdech Hun Sen, the site is 2.5 kilometers from munti srok Puok. At the site, there was a pit holding 52 bodies. The pit is 2 cubic meters. The victims killed here were transported by trucks from collectives, work sites and far places. We obtain this information from a witness named Keo Um, age 53. In Pol Pot's time, he lived in the same place as Svay Hong. Now, he lives in phum Ta Sne, khum Daun Keo, srok Puok, khet Siem Reap.

### **Koak Ta Mem criminal center**

Koak Ta Mem killing site is located in phum Boeung Khnar, khum Khnat, srok Puok, Khet Siem Reap. It is 1.5 km from munti srok Puok. It is west of Baray Tek Thla. There was no prison here. People were evacuated from Siem Reap and other provinces to be killed here in 1975. Most of the victims were soldiers and police. Fewer of the victims were civil servants. The victims brought here were killed immediately, without being interrogated or being forced to do manual labor. The transportation and the execution of people were conducted gradually after 17 April 1975.

At the Prey Koak Ta Men killing site, victims were killed and placed into the front line trenches of Pol Pot's soldiers. The trenches were shaped like a long canal 1 m wide and 1 m deep. Belts, clothes and remains were seen all over the site. The total death toll here was around 2,500 to 3,000. We obtained this information from the following **witnesses**:

1. Mr. Chou Vann is 47 years old. Both in Pol Pot's time and now, he lives in phum Boeung Khna, khum Khnat, srok Puok, khet Siem Reap.
2. Mr. Moeun Chhoeut is 40 years old. He is the third commune chief of khum Khnat, srok Puok, khet Siem Reap.
3. Mr. Deub Suon is 40 years old. In Pol Pot's time, he lived in phum Prey Khmeng, srok Puok. Now, he lives in phum Boeung Khna, khum Khnat, srok Puok, khet Siem Reap.

The second and the third witnesses both mentioned to us that one day in 1975, they went out to catch fish in a pond. While they were coming out of the pond, they saw Pol Pot's men tying victims' hands and walking them out of the truck. At the time, Pol Pot's men asked to borrow a rope from them [the witnesses]. They were very frightened despite the fact that Pol Pot's men did not cause them any trouble, since it was only the first year of Pol Pot's rule and they were only base people.

These two witnesses went on to tell us that the killers wielded clubs with thorns and bamboo sticks the size of a person's forearm, about 7 centimeters long. Three days after the event, they went there again. They saw victims lying dead in the pits. The victims



were killed in a number of ways, such as clubbing and shooting with short gun. None of the victims' remains have been excavated. The remains have so far been buried only by sand flowing along with water stream. They assumed that if an excavation were conducted, some of the remains would not yet have fully decomposed.

### **Criminal center**

Andaung Tek Ta Mann killing site is located in phumTek Thla, khum Boeung Khnat, srok Puok, khet Siem Reap. It is 2 kilometers from munti srok Puork.

Pol Pot's men used the house of an old lady named Sak Pi as the prison. About 50 m from the prison, there was a pit 3 m wide, 4 m long and 1.5 m deep. Fortunately, half of the victims imprisoned here survived. For the victims killed, they were chopped into small pieces and burned with petrol to make fertilizers. Young children had their head hit against the coconut tree.

A witness named Chheun Chhom, age 55, said that because he arrived here soon after 1979, he saw some blood freshly stained on the stump of the coconut tree. The excavation of the pit in 1979 discovered 38 skulls.

### **Criminal center**

Prey Koak Ta Mony killing site is located in phum Koak Thmei, khum Puork, srok Puork, khet Siem Reap. It is 1 kilometer from the commune office of khum Puork and 2 kilometers from munti srok Puork. There was no prison here.

People were gathered from collectives, small units and main units throughout srok Puok to be killed here right away. The victims were accused of breaching Pol Pot's moral code, stealing potatoes to eat, having free movement, pretending to be ill and lazily being unable to fulfill their manual labor.

A total of 200 pits were scattered in a low bush called Prey Ta Mony, which covers 1 hectare. Each of the pits could only hold 2 to 4 bodies. The victims were taken to be killed during 1976-78. The total death toll here was about 250 to 300 based on the testimony given by people who came to unearth the pits looking for gold in 1979.

This information was provided by Mr. Hoeuk Chhy, age 41. He is a teacher. Both in Pol Pot's time and at present, he lives in phum Koak Thmei, khumPuok, srok Puok, khet Siem Reap.