

Sihanouk Ville Genocide Report
Khmer Original Report by Hak Sophal and Charles Bowers
"15-17 December 1995"

Wednesday 15 November

On arrival at Sihanouk Ville Airport at 7.30am, we waited for 30 minutes, and when our car failed to arrive, we decided to ask the immigration police to drive us to the City Office (Sala Krong), 20 kilometers away from the airport. There we met the Governor, Thaom Bun Sron and we had a long discussion about the Genocide Program.

His Excellency, Thaom Bun Sron Showed us his satisfaction and great interest in this program. Taking this opportunity, we requested to have a meeting with the department officers that afternoon to discuss some issues concerning site visits, documents and security escort. The Governor agreed to our proposal and he handed us over to Mr. Am Srun, Chief of his Cabinet Office, to arrange this meeting. Then we agreed to have a meeting at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of 15 November 1995.

Sihanouk Ville and its population

Sihanouk Ville is situated along the coast on the Southern part of the country the city and Phnom Penh are connected by the National Route 4 through two provinces, Kandal and Kampong Speu.

The 1995 statistics of Sihanouk Ville shows that the population of the city is 120,185 constituting 61,761 females and the population makes up 21,546 families. The city comprises 82 villages (Phum), 22 Sub-districts (Khum) and 3 districts (Srok); these are : Srok Steung Hav, Srok Mittapheap and Srok Prey Nob.

According to the documents dated 15 July 1983 made by the People's Republic of Kampuchea, 59,441 people were killed by the Khmer Rouge during the DK regime. The victims include 25,944 peasants, 2,935 workers and public servants, 115 monks and 24,141 ethnic minority people.

These documents also show that 188 people have become disable.

Leaders of Sihanouk Ville

- 1- Thaom Bun Srun, Governor (FUNCINPEC) Tel: 53 416
- 2- Kim Bo, 1st Deputy Governor (CPP)
- 3- Hing Sarin, 2nd Deputy Governor (FUNCINPEC)
- 4- Sun Heng, 3rd Deputy Governor (CPP)

Provincial officers participating in the meeting are:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1- Mr. Am Son, Chief of Governor Cabinet | Chairman. |
| 2- Mr. Prach Men, Deputy Chief of Thoamkar Office | Member. |
| 3- Mr. Kong Saran, Chief of Information Office | Member. |
| 4- Mr. Yin Bunath, Deputy Chief Inspector of the Municipal Police | Member. |
| 5- Phot Sipha, Chief of Planning Office | Member. |
| 6- Mr. Koeum Kimhong, Deputy Chief of Cults Office | Member. |

7- Mr. Yard Samnang, Chief of the Information Office

Member.

The meeting started at 3 o'clock and finished at 4.30 that afternoon (15 November 1995) The research was scheduled for two days from 16 to 17 November 1995. The meeting appointed Mr. Prach Men, Deputy Chief of Thoamkar Office to guide our visits (photo attached).

Sites visited

I. Srok Prey Nob

- 1- Ta Ney Prison in Phum Ta Ney, Khum Cheung Ko, Srok Prey Nob.
- 2- Pits in the pepper plantation in Khum Cheung Ko, Srok Prey Nob.
- 3- Viel Sbov Phum Prek Pha-Av, Khum Tek La-Ak, Srok Prey Nob.
- 4- Pits in the rubber plantation in Phum Prey Nob 3, Khum Prey Nob Srok Prey Nob.
- 5- Prisons and pits in Phum Koh Kyang, Khum Au Chrov, Srok Prey Nob.
- 6- Au Kombot prison and pits in Phum Tasek, Khum Okgna Heng, Srok Prey Nob.

II. Srok Mittapheap:

- 1- Au Trav pits in Phum 1, Khum 4, Srok Mittapheap.

Driver:

Mr. Lay Heng, born in 1959 in Phum 3, Khum 3, Srok Mittapheap is now a soldier and also a driver for the City Office of Sihanouk Ville.

Security Escort:

- 1- Mr. Heng Bun Leang, 29, born in Phum Sam ROUNG, Srok Sam ROUNG, Takeo Province, came to live in Sihanouk Ville in 1986.
- 2- Neuv Touch, 28, born in Phum Krosang, Khum Meisang, Prey Veng Province, came to live in Sihanouk Ville in 1980.

Information:

We arrived in Prey Nob District at 9.05 am next day (16 November 1995) and we met the District Chief, Kong Sameun and Deputy Chief of the district, Nib Sophal. Mr. Kong Sameun, a former teacher in the Lon Nol regime and who is now District Chief reported that in 1975 when the city was liberated, in Phum Sei Maon, Khum Prey Nob, a Cambodian-Korean half blooded man was killed by the Khmer Rouge on the night when it was showering.

Mr. Kong Sameun added that in the same year, Khmer Rouge cadres gathered and evacuated some 300 families of former teachers to Phum Sei Maon, Khum Prey Nob, Srok Prey Nob. Mr. Kong Sameun was also among these people. He further said that the Khmer Rouge cadres sent lots of people to Ta Ney prison in Phum Ta Ney, Khum Cheung Ko, Srok Prey Nob. At a time, they sent 13 prisoners and took some other people to kill in the durian and rambutan plantations in Phum Sei Maon, Khum Prey Nob, Srok Prey Nob. A teacher who was sleeping besides him was taken to be killed during the night on pretext of sending him to pull out cane to make cane mats. He further reported that in 1979 after the liberation day, he tried to gather all the former

teachers who were still alive, but he found only 60 of the total number of 300 before the DK regime.

According to his estimate, 60% of the victims were killed by KR and the rest died from starvation and forced labor.

Genocide Sites.

1- Ta Ney prison in Phum Ta Ney, Khum Cheung Ko, Srok Prey Nob.

It is located on the National Route 4, 48 kilometers away from the city center and 13 kilometers from the center of Prey Nob District. Suos Nhorn, who is now living in Phum Ta Ney, Khum Cheung Ko, reported that Ta Ney prison was the biggest one in the district. The prison was made up of 3 or 4 attached buildings surrounded by some small security houses. Ordinary people were absolutely forbidden to enter the prison campus during the DK regimes.

Mr. Nguon Nien, now, Chief of Khum Cheung Ko, Srok Prey Nob, reported that in 1994, 3 Australians were arrested and killed by the KR at a place just about 1 kilometer away from the prison.

2- Pits in the pepper plantation

In Phum Trapaeng Ko, Khum Cheung Ko, Srok Prey Nob, Mr. Meng Chan, 41, reported that just 150 meters behind his house, there were about 200 pits and each pit contained between 5 and 7 corpses. He added that some villagers excavated these pits for gold and jewelry. Just recently, when he was scraping the forest behind his house to grow potatoes, he came across some bones scattering around. (Photo attached)

3- Pits

Svay Thom pit was in Phum Prek Pha-Av, Khum Tek La-Ak, Srok Prey Nob. According to Hak San, Deputy Chief of Khum Tek La-Ak, there were some pits in Phum Kbal Prek, Khum Tek La-Ak, Srok Prey Nob in the pepper plantation, but at present, this place is not secure to be visited, because KR soldiers often move through this place. Moreover, there are a lot of mines still lying about in this area.

4- A memorial in Wat Tuol Keo, Phum Tuol, Khum Tek La-Ak, Srok Prey Nob.

Deputy Chief of Khum Tek La-Ak reported that in the years of 1979 and 1980, the villagers excavated all the pits and brought some of the remains to be held in this memorial in order to celebrate the Anger Day. So far, there remain only a few bones left because all the remains were not taken good care of. (photo attached)

5- Veal Sbov prison in Phum Prek Pha-Av, Khum Tek La-Ak, Srok Prey Nob.

Our first witness was Mr. Sam Chan, 54, born in Phum Chro Laung, Khum Tek La-Ak, Srok Prey Nob:

- in 1977, a common citizen.
- from 1977-78, Group Chief in the DK regime.
- from 1978-79, a prisoner in Veal Sbov prison.

He reported that the reason why he was put in prison was that the KR accused him of moral wrong-doings. Soon after he was in prison, he found out that many of the prisoners had already been sent to be killed. He said that at night he was shackled and in the day time, his legs were chained and sent to work. He added that a Vietnamese

who was arrested and sent to the prison by the Khmer Rouge soldiers was forced to do hard-labor and that every day the KR took 5 prisoners to kill.

Meas Kiel, 59, born in Phum Prek Pha-Av, Khum Tek La-Ak, Srok Prey Nob was our second witness :

- From 1973-75, Village Chief (in the liberated region).
- From 1975-79, a prisoner in Veal Sbov prison.

He reported that the KR had sent lots of prisoners to repair Kbal Prek dam and while they were working, the KR took away 4 or 5 prisoners to kill in the pepper plantation in Kbal Prek area in Phum Prek Ph-Av, Khum Tek La-Ak, Srok Prey Nob.

6- Pits in the pepper plantation in Phum Prey Nob 3, Khum Prey Nob, Srok Prey Nob.

Mr. Leang Samein, Deputy Chief of Khum Prey Nob, reported that there were some pits behind the school which was used as a prison in the KR regime. He added that some villagers excavated these pits for gold and jewelry and that villagers often came across parts of the clothes of the victims and bones scattering about in the forest while they were clearing their land to grow water melons.

Koh Kyang Genocide Sites

7- Prison in Phum Koh Kyang, Khum Au Chrov, Srok Prey Nob. Mr. Ri Chun, 62, in Phum Koh Kyang reported that he saw this prison in 1979 and it was in good condition and in the prison, he saw several sets of long wooden shackles. However, now we can see only the ground, no longer a prison. 15 kilometers away from the prison, there were two pits. Mr. Sa Meon, 35, born in Phum Koh Kyang, who is now a policeman of the City Office reported that he saw some bones still attached by ropes, when people emptied the two pits to catch fish.

About 200 meters East of Koh Kyang, there was a well in which bodies were put after killed.

Ms. Born Chan Thou, 24, a citizen in Phum Koh Kyang, Khum Au Chrove, Srok Prey Nob reported that he saw Khmer Rouge cadres killed people and put into the well about 5 or 6 times and each time, between 10 and 15 victims were put into this well. The witness added that the victims included males and females and children; adults were stabbed into the back with the rifle bayonet, while children were thrown high upwards and down into the deep well. The witness asserted that he came across this event as he was riding on the back of one of his buffaloes looking after them. He also said that the victims were taken from Koh Kyang (photo attached).

Genocide Sites

8- Au Kombot prison in Phum Ta Sek, Khum Ok Nha, Srok Prey Nob. Mr. Nguo Min Thau, 48, who is now living in Phum Ta Sek, Khum Ok Nha Heng, Srok Prey Nob reported that after the liberation day 1979, he saw a big building comprising three apartments only on the ground floor surrounded by small houses. According to him, the big building was used as a prison and these small houses were security houses. He

added that 100 kilometers behind the prison, There were two big and tall trees from which prisoners were hanged and he said prisoners were probably tied with their hands stretched and their livers were taken out. Immediately after the liberation day 1979, He went to see the two trees and he saw blood stain still on the trunks, some pieces of ropes, and a piece of plank fixed onto the two trees. He added that 200 meters from the prison, there were also some pits as well. This prison is located just a stone throw from the National Route 4, which connects Phnom Penh and Sihanouk Ville. (photo attached)

- ◆ Commune (Sakak Kor) and Security Base Phum Au Kombot, Khum Ok Nha, Srok Prey Nob.

It is located about 100 kilometers from Au Kobot on the other side of the National Route 4. There remains some ruins of a big building which was destroyed in the DK. According to Mr. Mi Tho and some people who grow melons near there, the building was built in the Lon Nol regime and it was used as a prison in the Pol Pot regime and they said that in 1979, they saw poultry cages, pig pens and a hall for communal eating. He added that in 1979 this building was still in shape but it was pulled down to get steel wire for sales by villagers. (Photo attached)

Genocide Sites: in the pepper plantation in Khum 4, Srok Mittapheap.

9- Pits

Mr. Ok Sun, 39, who is now living in Phum1, Khum 4, Srok Mittapheap, is now a militiaman in this village. He reported that in 1988 some people excavated the pits in the durian plantation for gold bearing with the victims. He added that in the plantation, many pits lied almost at every base of the durian tree.

Conclusion

Sihanouk Ville is a city which provides lost of favorable conditions for revolutionary or rebel groups to hide themselves and to launch hid-and-run attacks easily, especially in some areas with dense forest and ranges of mountains along the National Route 4.

Most of the people in this city are new people (Pracheachon Thmei). Most genocide acts were committed by people from other regions such as in Kompot and Takeo provinces known as the Southwest Zone (Phumipheak Nieredey). The indigenous people were evacuated to the Regions 35 and 37 in Prey Nob District. Therefore, most genocide acts appeared to be committed in this district.