

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

STUNG TRENG PROVINCE

District	Site Name/ Visit Date	Site Type	Est. Victim	Witness	File #/ID Code	Latitude	Longitude
Siempang	Phabaing/ 5 Nov 1998	Prison	unknown	Paok Phon ហ្វោក ផុន	R 110502A/ 190301	N 14°08'1975"	E 106°25'1139"
Siempang	Prey Ta Chem/ 6 Nov 1998	Burial site	unknown	Bloy Bann ហ្លូយ ប៉ាន់	R 110605A/ 190302	N 14°08'0254"	E 106°29'0411"
Siempang	Tuol Khmaoch/ 6 Nov 1998	Burial site	unknown	Bloy Cheu ហ្លូយ ជី	R 110606A/ 190301	N 14°07'4914"	E 106°28'4269"
Siempang	Chantu Tauch/ 5 Nov 1998	Prison	unknown	N/A	R 110508A/ 190304	N14°06'4840"	E 106°23'3141"

On November 2 1998, the Documentation Center of Cambodia [DC-Cam] sent a team of 2 staff members, Mr. Im Sothearith and Mr. Vanthan Peou Dara to Stung Treng Province in order to conduct a mapping research on killing sites of the Khmer Rouge regime in Siempang District. The same day at 1 o'clock the team started its journey from the DC-Cam towards the Cambodian International Airport, Pochentong. The plane was supposed to take off at 2 p.m. but it was delayed until 2.35 p.m.. It took exactly 40 minutes from Phnom Penh to Stung Treng airport. We arrived in the provincial town at about 4 p.m. and we stayed at Mr. Dara's sister's house where DC-Cam staff usually stayed during their trips to Stung Treng. We tried to test GPS machine to see whether it works properly in front of the house along the Sekong riverbank.

Stung Treng Province

Evergreen Stung Treng Province lies along the Mekong River and the Sekong River, in the northern part of the Kingdom of Cambodia. It is about 300 kilometers from Phnom Penh and about 30 kilometers from the Laotian border. It is bounded to the North by Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR), to the east by Ratanak Kiri Province, to the southeast by Mondul Kiri Province, to the south by Kratie Province, to the southwest by Kampong Thom Province and to the northwest by Preah Vihear Province. The population is made up of Khmer, Laotian, and many other hill tribe people. Fishing, trading and farming are the main lifeline of the people in the province. Four governors who belong to two different parties, Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and FUNCINPEC Party govern the province. The governors are:

- Mr. Ly Sou Governor
- Mr. Nuon Pen 1st Deputy Governor

Documentation Center of Cambodia

Searching for the Truth

ស្វែងរកការពិត ដើម្បីការបង្ហាញនិងយុត្តិធម៌

DC-Cam • 66 Preah Sihanouk Blvd. • P.O.Box 1110 • Phnom Penh • Cambodia
Tel: (855-23) 211-875 • Fax: (855-23) 210-358 • dccam@online.com.kh • www.dccam.org

- Ms. Heng Kim 2nd Deputy Governor
- Mr. Koy Sarim 3rd Deputy Governor

On November 3, 1998, we went to the residence of Mr. Koy Sarim, 3rd deputy governor of Stung Treng Province to hand over a mapping report¹ to him from the Documentation Center of Cambodia and ask him for information concerning security in Siempang District. Unfortunately, Mr. Koy Sarim was not in as he had left for Phnom Penh and would be back until November 9, 1998. We left the parcel with his guard and we then carried on our journey to meet Regional Military Mr. Heng Saman or Commander Mach. He assured us that the way to Siempang District is safe, but not the way to Kratie Province as about 20 of new Khmer Rouge defectors ran back into the jungle. So, he was afraid of robbery by the Khmer Rouge defectors. The discussion went on for one hour.

Mr. Sith Bunyan, deputy chief of Provincial Education, suggested us to meet with Mr. Luon Vandy, chief of Provincial Cabinet and who used to be chief of Siempang District to ask for information in regard to the security in Siempang District as well as an appropriate accommodation. He was also not at home. After visiting Mr. Sothearith' s cousin, Phalla, we were recommended to meet with Mr. Pang Tha, chief of District, at his residence. He was then sick and denied meeting us. He would be available for the next morning, but we would depart to Siempang District at 7 o'clock next morning. So we could not meet him.

Trip to Siempang District

On Wednesday, November 4, 1998 at 7.20 a.m., we set off our journey towards Siempang District in a medium size propeller boat upstream on the Sekong river. Along both sides of the river, there are tall green trees with a few clusters of houses. In the river there are a lot of rocks visible above water surface and some invisible under the water. These rocks cause a lot of trouble to the journey. A monk who stays in Kandal Pagoda in Stung Treng town and who was born in Siempang District asked us about many things and we asked him about Siempang. In the boat, people were talking to each other in Laotian language which I did not understand. Mr. Dara asked me if I need an interpreter. On the way the boat stopped at the logging sites along the East bank of the Sekong River to drop passengers off.

We arrived in Siempang town at 4.30 p.m. It took us almost 8 hours by boat from Stung Treng to Siempang. Mr. Dara asked for residence of Mr. Sith who is Mr. Luon Vandy' s son. He told us the house and he asked us whether we came to work with the District authority. We then asked him for Mr. Suth Sovann, deputy chief of the District. He said he himself was. We all laughed

¹ This report, produced by Mr. Youk Chhang in 1996, contains interviews with witnesses reported by Mr. Koy Sarim.

and we told him about our work and made an appointment with him at 7.30 a.m. next morning. That night we slept at Mr. Luon Vandy' s house.

At 8 a.m. on Thursday, November 5, 1998 we had a meeting with the District comMitee. The meeting was composed of:

- Mr. Suth Sovann, Deputy Chief of Siempang District.
- Mr. Thav Voly, inspector of Siempang District.
- Mr. Phouma Buthy, deputy military commander of Siempang District.

After we briefed the purpose of our trip, the deputy chief of the district, Mr. Suth Sovann, told us briefly about the district.

Siempang District

Siempang district was District 41 in the Khmer Rouge regime. It has an area of about 3,000 square kilometers. The district is 101 kilometers by waterway and 96 kilometers on land. It is located in the Northeast of Stung Treng. It is bounded to the east by Veun Sai District of Ratanakiri Province, to the west by Champar Sak Province of Lao People's Democratic Republic, to the north by Sdam Sai District, Attapeu Province of Lao People's Democratic Republic and to the south by Sesan District, Stung Treng Province.

The district consists of 5 sub-districts, 28 villages. The total population is 13,464 referring to the 1998 census. The population is made up of Khmer, Laotian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Cham, Lun ethnic minority, and Kavet ethnic minority who had been mist trusted by the Khmer Rouge regime. Villagers earn their living by farming. Fishing and vines collecting are their supplementary jobs. Villagers use Laotian language for everyday communication and Khmer is used for official communication. All levels of education are conducted in Khmer language, but there is only elementary education in Siempang District. Those who want to continue their study have to go to Stung Treng Provincial town. Most villagers can speak both Khmer and Laotian. Young kids who do not yet attend school can speak Laotian more than Khmer. A lady who lives in Siempang town said that it is difficult for her to identify whether she is Khmer or Lao because when she goes to Laos, people say she is Khmer, but when she is in Cambodia, people say she is Lao. "The security is no problem at all," according to Mr. Phouma Bunthy, "as all Khmer Rouge already defected, but we still have some kinds of robberies". Walki-talki radios are used for communication to Stung Treng Provincial town, but if we have important issue to be discussed we have to travel to Stung Treng town by boat.

We asked the meeting to point out whoever was able to provide us information concerning execution sites, and prisons. Mr. Suth Sovann told us that Mr. Pring Koemsan, chief of Kiri Basleu Village, Santepheap Sub-District, Siempang District, used to be chief

of cooperative in charge of military affairs and he was a perpetrator in Khmer Rouge regime. We actually wanted to meet him but we were not able to get access to his village. If we want to meet him, we have to make an appointment with him. The appointment takes one week! Mr. Thav Voly told us that near Phabaing prison he saw Khmer Rouge cadres take care of prisoners the way people take care of animals. The prisoners were chained to a pole and forced to pave grass in a circle. When they finished one circle, they had to move to another place. He one day saw prisoners with shackles and chains ran across the paddy fields. Mr. Phouma Buthy also told us that during the Khmer Rouge regime the new people were all killed in a cooperative in Nheun Village, District 40. Now the Village is Shanouk Development Region in Siempang District.

At last Mr. Suth Sovann indicated 3 possible witnesses who were Khmer Rouge high-ranking officers in the Khmer Rouge regime.

The possible witnesses are:

1. Mr. Seng Chai, soldier of Division 801.
2. Mr. Bour Phann, chief of Siempang District.
3. Mr. Sao Mon, chief of Region 4.

Mr. Suth Sovann made an appointment with these witnesses at 2 p.m. and he invited us to come to the District headquarters at 2.30 p.m. At the end of the meeting Mr. Suth Sovann assigned Mr. Thav Voly, inspector of the District to shepherd us to Phabaing security center to meet with Mr. Paok Phon, who was in the village and the person who probably knows much about the events in the Khmer Rouge regime. The meeting finished at 8.30 and we hired 2 motor bikes to Phabaing.

Phabaing Prison 190301 P

We started our journey at 8:45 a.m. and arrived at the witness's house at 9:05 a.m.. It is about 4 kilometers from Siempang town. The way to Phabaing is rather difficult as we had to take motor-bike through the bush and across 2 wooden poor condition bridges and we had to park our motor bikes in the bush at the South bank of the Phabaing river. We then walked across the river and walk further through the bush to the witness's house. We were accompanied by Mr. Thav Voly and his bodyguards.

Witnesses

Mr. Paok Phon, 65, was born in the year of dog in Stung Village, Trapeang Kong Sub-District, Samrong Torng District, Kampong Speu Province. He came to Siempang District in 1968 as a policeman to defend Kalong Regional people. He used to be a chief of Front of Siempang District, but he has now retired. He lives in Khandoeur Village, Thma Keo Sub-District, Siempang District,

Stung Treng Province. Khandoeur Village was just renamed recently from Phabaing because it was part of Phabaing Village before.

In the Khmer Rouge regime, he was a group chief in Phabaing Village. He did not see the killing committed by the Khmer Rouge cadres because all villagers here were forced to work, and travel to other places was banned. He was not able to go closer to the prison. He, however, knows there was a prison that was used to keep victims. They kept 2 or 3 victims every day and sent the victims to somewhere he did not know. He added that next day he saw new victims come to replace the old ones.

He told us that O Ronong is the biggest execution site in the region as the Khmer Rouge cadres gathered all victims or prisoners from everywhere and kept in O Ronong to be sentenced and killed afterwards. O Ronong was also used to conduct meeting between Khmer Rouge high-ranking officers. He was almost killed as well because he was a policeman and accused of having tendency with C.I.A. He assumed that the prisoners here were probably sent to O Ronong.

The witness's nephew in law, Mr. Prakk Takk, was brought and killed by 3 Khmer Rouge soldiers because he was accused of not eating common soup. Among the soldiers, the witness's wife, Mrs. Neang Touch, knows Comrade Sar and Comrade Mom. The villagers killed these perpetrators after the Khmer Rouge regime collapsed. Mrs. Neang Touch added that her older sister, Sav, at the age of 45 died after having seen her 3 grandchildren be thrust together with a long sharp bamboo stick from the bottom through their head. She complained that the Khmer Rouge banned her from speaking Lao and going anywhere, and forced her to work hard even though she was seriously sick.

During the interview, we asked him if there was a foreigner coming to interview him. He said, "There was a tall skinny lady with curly long brown hair coming to interview me and she then went to O Ronong." We assumed that she is Ms. Sara Colm. After the interview, we read the information that we received from the witnesses to confirm. They agreed with all the points. We asked him to take us to see the detention center so that we can use our GPS unit. After taking photos of the site and successfully using GPS unit we came back to the witnesses' house and took photos of the witnesses. We then came back to Siempang town.

Meeting with witnesses

At 2.15 the same day in the District headquarters, we met with the 3 witnesses:

- Mr. Seng Chai, Khmer Rouge soldier of Regiment 822, Division 801 based in Siempang.
- Mr. Sao Mon, former Khmer Rouge chief of Region 4, Northeast Zone.
- Mr. Bour Phann, former Khmer Rouge chief of Siempang District.

We then had another witness, Mr. Paok Sopheap, who used to work at the O Ronong site in the Khmer Rouge regime.

Interview with Mr. Paok Sopheap

Mr. Paok Sopheap, male, 47 years old, was born in Stung Village, Trapeang Kong Sub-District, Samrong Tong District, Kampong Speu Province. He was an ordinary person who dug up soil in the paddy fields in O Ronong Village in the Khmer Rouge regime. He then was the person who worked in the transporting team responsible for carrying things from and to O Ronong village. One day when he came to transport potato vines from Phabaing village to plant in O Ronong village, he saw a prison in Phabaing village.

The prison was built with small wooden poles and thatch roof. He also witnessed a prisoner, being tied with belts around the waist and 20 kilogram chain around his neck, was paving grass near the prison. When the prisoner saw him the prisoner asked him for tobacco. He was then ready to give the prisoner tobacco, but suddenly a guard shouted at him and warned him not to give the prisoner tobacco. He was very frightened. So he gave up his intention. He added that he knows the killing committed by the Khmer Rouge in O Ronong dam because he overheard people who worked in district mobile work brigade talking to each other about the killing. However, he did not know exactly where the Khmer Rouge cadres killed people. The farming highly yielded but the Khmer Rouge allowed people to eat insufficient food. They provided only one small bowl of watery porridge for each person. When people were hungry, they would eat everything for instance they ate banana without peeling and corns and their cores. He knows a few victims who were killed by the Khmer Rouge. They are Mr. Chea Chann, Mr. Ben Khom, Mr. Sokh Chhuon. They were in the same cooperative as he was and they were summarily executed. He knew these people were killed because these villagers were supposed to have dinner with him, but they did not show up. Later on he realized that they were taken by the Khmer Rouge cadres and killed.

Interview with Mr. Seng Chai

Mr. Seng Chai, 43, was born in Chroy Dang village, Samrong Thom Sub-District, Kien Svay District, Kandal Province. He lives in Siempang town, Sekong Sub-District, Siempang District, Stung Treng Province. He was a soldier in Khmer Rouge Regiment 822, Division 801 based in Siempang District. His regiment based in the east bank of the Sekong River opposite Siempang town. He saw a 5 meters x 5 meters prison with thatched roof and bamboo wall in Chantu Tauch village, Sekong Sub-District, Siempang District, Stung Treng Province.

All prisoners here were soldiers from Regiment 822, Division 801. These prisoners were accused of having tendency with Vietnamese. The Khmer Rouge sent these victims here to be reeducated. During reeducation, the victims were shackled. The

shackles were made of wood. He assured that there was no killing in the detention center. There were about 30 or 40 prisoners and some of them died of sickness. Some people caught malaria and died in the center. Some survivors were later released and went to their home villages. No one lives here now. So, it is impossible to find the person who used to be in this detention center. We also asked him to take us to the Center and agreed to our proposal.

Interview with Mr. Bour Phann.

When we asked Mr. Bour Phann, former Khmer Rouge chief of Siempang district. He said he did not know what had happened in Siempang District because he was sent to Bakeo rubber plantation in 1974. He lived there as a worker in the rubber plantation. So, we did not ask him any more.

Interview with Mr. Sao Mon

Mr. Sao Mon, 65, Khmer Khe, was born in Khe Village, Khe Sub-District, Siempang District, Stung Treng Province. He now lives in Ban Muong Village, Sekong Sub-District, Siempang District, Stung Treng Province. He was a chief of Khmer Rouge Regiment 4, Northeast Zone from 1972 to 1974. He was later sent to Ratanak Kiri to be in charge of transportation of the Northeast Zone. Ta Chann took over his post as chief of Region 4. No body knows where Ta Chann lives now. He was directly ordered by Ta Vang, Chief of Northeast zone to be responsible for road and bridge construction in the zone. Ta Vang is from Kampot province, Southwest Zone. Mr. Sao Mon added that he had to complete all work assigned. He would be killed if transporting soldiers from one place to others was interrupted or failed because of the roads and bridges. He said that he knows nothing about what happening in Siempang District during the Khmer Rouge regime. He felt pity on people here. When he was here people lived peacefully and happily. He did not want to leave, but he was ordered to do so.

After the meeting, we went to Chantu Tauch Detention Center with Mr. Seng Chai.

Chantu Tauch Detention Center 190304 P

At 3 p.m. we hired a propeller boat across the Sekong River to Chantu Tauch where the Detention Center located in. Mr. Seng Chai guided us to the site. The site is about 150 meters from the east of the Sekong River bank. It is covered with grass and dense forest that made us difficult to use our GPS unit. We got back to Siempang town at 4 p.m.

On the way back to Siempang town, Mr. Seng Chai asked us if Mr. Suth Sovann, deputy chief of the District told us any thing about the killing comMited by Khmer Rouge regime. He told us he did not know anything as he is from the lower Mekong. Mr. Seng Chai smiled and said, "Mr. Suth Sovann is good at pretending not to know anything in the Khmer Rouge regime. He was

actually a militiaman during the Khmer Rouge regime. I almost died because of him. He reported to my commander in O Ronong cooperative that he saw a new soldier come to eat food in the cooperative. The new soldier was in fact me. My commander sent my comrades to catch the new soldier, but when my comrades saw me, they asked me about the new soldier. I said he had gone." He assured us that he knows the reporter was Mr. Suth Sovann because only Mr. Suth Sovann saw him eating food in the cooperative.

O Ronong Execution Site (part of Prey Ta Chem sub-heading)

On Friday, November 6, 1998 at 7.15 a.m., we went to Mr. Thav Voly's residence to ask him for some advice and for a guide to O Ronong execution sites. He offered us his guard, Mr. Loch Chamren and suggested us to meet Mr. Bloy Cheu, chief of Tiek Team Village, Santepheap Sub-District, Siempang District, to ask him to guide us because he is Kavet (ethnic minority) and knows villagers there. We set off on our journey at 8.15 a.m. in a small propeller boat upstream of the Sekong River towards Tiek Team village, where Mr. Bloy Cheu lives so that he could accompany our journey together to the O Ronong execution sites. The boat took 25 minutes from Siempang town to the Village. We got up to the east bank of the Sekong River. On the bank, we saw a man sleeping in a hammock. He was in fact a wild animal smuggler. He waited for Kavet hill tribe people taking wild animals, cobras, snakes, and pangolin to sell. Our bodyguard asked for Mr. Bloy Cheu. He was not at home so we asked his kids to call him from his plantation. We waited for him about 20 minutes. When he showed up, the guard asked him why it took so long to walk here. He said, 'I supposed it was not you, but the people who came here yesterday and asked me to guide them to find "STONE EAT STEEL"²' The guard added these delegations were from Phnom Penh and Big Boss Voly ordered you to guide them to O Ronong village. After discussion for a while, we decided to walk towards O Ronong Village through the dense jungle. It takes about 3 hours to get to the village. At 10.10 a.m., we stopped for a while at a former village of the Kavet hill tribe. Taking this opportunity, we interviewed the guard and the guide.

Interview with the guard

Mr. Loch Chamren, Kavet ethnic minority, was born in 1969 in Siempang town, Sekong Sub-District, Siempang District, Stung Treng. In the Khmer Rouge regime he was a child who looked after buffaloes in Stung Treng provincial town. He had sufficient food to eat and no body in his family died in the Khmer Rouge regime. He is now a policeman in Siempang District, Stung Treng Province. He has also been to Cambodian Thai border to fight the Khmer Rouge. He has been here for about 2 years now. He said he knows this place as his palm because he comes to work here quite often.

Interview with the guide

² This is an extremely scarce and expensive types of metal which are believed to protect possessors or holders from being hit by bullets.

Mr. Bloy Cheu, 56, was born in Chek Yuk jungle in Tiek Team village, Santepheap Sub-District, Siempang District, Stung Treng Province. He is Kavet (ethnic minority) and chief of Tiek Team village, Santepheap Sub-District, Siempang District, Stung Treng Province. He was a blacksmith and pottery-producing worker in 1976 in Tiek Team village. In 1977, he was sent to Stung Treng town to be a worker in a sawmill and in 1979, he was sent to Kampong Thom Province. So, he knows very little about what happening here.

After the interview, we carried on our journey to O Ronong village. The way was very difficult, as we had to go through the quiet dense forest along a narrow path. We sometimes stumbled because of vines and sometimes our heads hit branches of trees along the path. The small Kavet man, Mr. Bloy Cheu, walked very fast in front of us even though he carried 6 bottles of pure drinking water in the Kapha (basket) on his back. We arrived in O Ronong village at 12.15 p.m..

O Ronong Village is located in the middle of the jungle about 15 kilometers northeast of Siempang town. The population is made up of mostly Kavet, Laos, and few Khmer. People earn their living by farming and shifting cultivation. Hunting is their supplementary jobs. There is no school and means of transportation. It is actually almost impossible to get access to market to sell their produces.

We could not find any witnesses who lived in the O Ronong village during the Khmer Rouge regime, and who knew well what had happened in the village as they all went to their plantations in the jungle far from the village in those day. Only our guide's younger brother, Mr. Bloy Bann, was available to be our witness even though he does not know much about the killing here.

Interview with the witness

Mr. Bloy Bann, Kavet, 52, was born in O Ronong Village, Santepheap Sub-District, Siempang District, Stung Treng Province. He was in O Ronong in the Khmer Rouge regime, but when he came back after the Khmer Rouge regime collapsed he heard villagers talking about the killing of the people here. He also knows where the Detention Center, killing sites, and burial sites are. He assured us that he could take us to the sites. Taking this opportunity, we asked him about the accessibility to Trapeang Chheu Khloem (Hatu Long Klim in Kavet) and information about the killing there. He said that it is about 2 kilometers from the head of O Ronong dam. We have to walk across the jungle. Trapeang Chheu Khloem is in Chantu Village (not in O Ronong Village), Santepheap Sub-District, Siempang District, Stung Treng Province.

According to Ms. Sara Colm' s research, Trapeang Chheu Khloem was a killing site where many people were killed. However, the witness and his relatives in O Ronong village explained differently that there was no killing in Trapeang Chheu Khloem. There were about 150 Khmer Rouge soldiers dying of sickness. They died not only of sickness but because they chased and shot a mortar

snake for food. The villagers there believe that the mortar snake has powerful spirit of Neak Ta Kalaing who has been considered the landlord of Siempang District. He added that the villagers believe that Neak Ta Kalaing was very angry with the soldiers. So that night one of the soldiers dreamt that Neak Ta Kalaing would take 150 lives to compensate what they did with him. Next morning the villagers started dying. The villagers died everywhere, in the fields, in the jungle, and in bed. Everybody in Siempang District strongly believes in Neak Ta Kalaing. They always consult Neak Ta Kalaing before they do something important or prayed for a solution to complicated matters.

After the interview, Mr. Bloy Bann took us to Prey Ta Chem Detention Center (**190302 B**) and burial site. The site is about one kilometer north of the O Ronong dam. The site was covered with a cluster of thick forest and there is nothing to be noticeable except for a 1.5 meters well. The well is now about one meter deep and situated near the forest. The witness said that when he first came here he saw a 2 meters x 5 meters pit full of human bones near the well. He actually does not know whether the water well consists of human bones. He added that this was Detention Center and the Khmer Rouge killed (Kapp Chaol) those who were wrong doers. Most victims were people who worked at the dam work site.

Tuol Khmaoch 190303 B

After taking photos and GPS reading, the witness took us to Tuol Khmaoch (Ghost Hill), the site located about 200 meters from the head of the O Ronong dam. The witness indicated where the burial site was and he said goodbye as he was in a hurry to go to his house. Mr. Bloy Cheu took over the witness's job as a guide. He shepherded us to the burial site on a hill in a cluster of dense forest. The hill was used as the burial site in the Khmer Rouge regime. There were many corpses buried on the hill. Mr. Bloy Cheu knew one victim, Mr. Nan, who was buried here as well. The hill is now also used as the burial site for ordinary corpses. The site is about 3 kilometers from Prey Ta Chem. We could not access the site. We, however, used our GPS and took photos from about 100-meter distance. We then came back and arrived in Tiek Team dock at 4 p.m. In Tiek Team village, we saw a Cambodian American woman, Theary, who works as a health worker. She can speak Lao, Khmer and a little Kavet. We had a small talk with her and Kavet people and then set off our journey back in the small propeller boat to Siempang town at 4:15 p.m. and arrived in the town at 4:45 p.m. We went to the residence of Mr. Suth Sovann, deputy chief of Siempang District to report about our journey and said goodbye to him. He wishes us a good trip.

Next morning, we started our journey back to Stung Treng provincial town. On the way our boat broke down as its propeller shattered into pieces. The replacement took about 20 minutes. On the way we saw a lot of logging sites and boats carrying timbers. When the boat stopped on the way we got up to the bank to see the logging site and took photos. The excellent wood costs only US\$70 per cube meter. We arrived in Stung Treng Provincial at 3 p.m. and spent 2 nights there before we set off our journey to Phnom Penh on November 09, 1998.

Conclusion

Even though the way was extremely difficult as we had to take a propeller boat across the crooked Sekong River imposing many of obstacles such as strong current and invisible rocks under the water, we still reach our destination and did our work successfully and fruitfully. What we have to consider is that when we went to the site we have some information different from what Ms. Sara Colm wrote. Two places that we were not able to reach. The places are Ta Le and Trapeang Chheu Khloem. People in Siempang town told us that we have to spend whole day to do the work in Ta Le village and they only know that the Khmer Rouge cadres killed people in the village, but they do not know exact place where the victims were killed and buried. Another place, Trapeang Chheu Khloem, Ms. Sara Colm wrote that there was killing committed here during the Khmer Rouge regime, but according to people in O Ronong, *Trapeang Chheu Khloem or Hatu Long Klim* in Kavet language is not the killing site. The people there believe that soldiers died here because they tried to shoot mortar snake from a mountain near Lao border. The snake belonged to Neak Ta Kalaing and Neak Ta Kalaing was angry with the soldiers so he took their lives.

It will be difficult to find witnesses in the future because now there are not many people, who used to live and know well about the killing in the Khmer Rouge regime, still live in Siempang District. If we want to go to work there again, we have to spend many days if not weeks, so that we can have chance to meet important witnesses who know the events well. We were not able to meet with people who know clearly about the killing because all of them had gone to do the farming far from their village.