

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

TAKEO PROVINCE

District	Site Name/ Visit Date	# of graves	Est. Victim	Witness	File #/ID Code	Latitude	Longitude
Koh Andet	Tuol Krasaing Em/ 11 August 1998	15-16 pits	75-80	Nop Euy ណុប អឿយ	R 081107A/ 210502	N 10°47'2363"	E 104°57'1324"
Koh Andet	Tuol Ta Khlok/ 11 August 1998	40-50 pits	275-280	Kao Chheng កៅ ឆេង	R 081105A/ 210501	N 10°48'4662"	E 104°56'4495"
Koh Andet	Prey Sokhon/ 11 August 1998	A field about 4-5 hectares	1,000-1,200	Un Horn អ៊ុន ហ៊ុន	R 081108A/ 210503	N 10°46'3833"	E 104°51'5658"
Kiri Vong	Wat Preah Theat Suo Sdei/ 12 August 1998	Prison Memorial 200-300 pits	5,000-6,000	Uk Yann អ៊ុក យ៉ាន់	R 081202A/ 210401	N 10°42'5873"	E 104°45'3676"

On August 11, 1998, the Documentation Center of Cambodia assigned a 3-staff member team led by Mr. Sin Khin to Takeo province to do research for evidential documents, and witnesses to the Khmer Rouge atrocities in Takeo province.

Takeo province

The mapping team arrived in Takeo provincial town at 9:00 a.m. to meet with the Second Deputy Governor, H.E. Chhit Sokhon. After we told him the purpose of our trip and our requests, he issued us a permission letter No. 137 NKK, which allowed us to go to 3 districts, Koh Andet district, Kiri Vong district, Angkor Borey district.

August 11, 1998

Koh Andet District

We arrived in Koh Andet district at 10:00 a.m.. We met with Chief of the district, Mr. Kin Men. We told him the purpose of our team. The district is 40 kilometers away from Takeo provincial town.

District Geographical Features

Documentation Center of Cambodia

Searching for the Truth

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The district is located southeast of the provincial town. In the Khmer Rouge regime, the district was District 108, Region 13, Southwest Zone. Koh Andet district is bounded to:

- the north by Treang district and Borey Chulsar district,
- the south by Kiri Vong district,
- the west by Treang district and Kiri Vong district,
- the east by Borey Chulsar district.

According to the district report, this district consists of 6 sub-districts and 66 villages. It has a population of over 40,000 which is equal to 3,000 families. People earn their livings by farming (dry season farming is a special activity of many Koh Andet people), and fishing as a supplementary income source. This district is often hit by flood.

Genocide sites are at:

1. Tuol Ta Khlok, an execution site, in Rominh Khang Cheung (north) village, Rominh sub-district. It is 200 meters away from the district office.
2. Prey Sokhon, execution site, (Prey Lopeak) is located in Sy Sla village, Thlea Prachum sub-district. It is 9 kilometers away from the district office. Besides the 2 killing sites, there are a number of execution sites, but only one or two people were killed in various sub-districts, there were no pits among them necessarily noticeable.
3. Tuol Krasaing Em, execution site, is located in Chambakk Em village, Rominh sub-district.

Tuol Ta Khlok 210501 B

At 12.15 p.m., we went down to Tuol Khlok, a killing site, in Rominh Khang Cheung village, Rominh sub-district, Koh Andet district to meet with Chief of the village, Mr. Kao Chheng. The village is 2 kilometers away from Koh Andet district office. The site is on a high hill with a pond. Around the pond is the execution site.

Information from Mr. Kao Chheng, Village Chief

Mr. Kao Chheng has lived in Rominh Village since before the Khmer Rouge regime. He is a farmer in the village. He told us that he had seen the Khmer Rouge cadres kill people in Tuol Ta Khlok. He saw the Khmer Rouge cadres take lines and lines of victims with their hands tied together to kill at the sites. Sometimes, 3 or 4 victims were killed at a time and he also witnessed the Khmer Rouge cadres cut human abdomens apart to get gall bladders.

Victims who were executed in 1976-77-78:

- New people who were evacuated from various towns,
- Base people,
- Khmer Rouge cadres (those who made mistakes),
- Wrong doers in various sub-districts.

Mass graves

We accompanied by the witnesses, inspected the mass graves. There are about 40 or 50 pits. They all include big square shape pits. Each of them has 2 meters side and about 1.50 meters to 2 meters deep. There were in total 200 to 300 corpses. We have found 2 witnesses for these mass graves. The witnesses are:

1. Kao Chheng
2. Sokh Chauch

Both of them live in Rominh Khang Cheung (north) village, Rominh sub-district, Koh Andet district. For supplementary documents, we took photographs of the graves and recorded interviews with witnesses in cassette tapes.

Tuol Krasaing Em 210502 B Sub-district Security Office

The site is in Chambakk Em village, Rominh sub-district, and Koh Andet district. It is 1 kilometer away. We met Mr. Nop Euy, 46, who have lived there since the Khmer Rouge regime. He shepherded us to inspect the killing site, Tuol Krasaing Em. The hill is 500 meters x 500 meters. On the right hand side near the hill, there was a security office of the sub-district in the Khmer Rouge regime.

Victims

The people who were killed by the Khmer Rouge cadres are the following:

- New people
- Base people who made mistakes, or even small faults. They were from the farm sites, dam constructing sites.
- Those who were officials or civil servants in the previous regimes such as the Lon Nol regime.

Mass graves

The graves have become normal land as plants have grown and covered them. The witnesses, who saw the graves in 1979, believed that 2 or 3 or 5 people per family were killed; and in some cases, the Khmer Rouge killed the whole family. There are 15 or 16 big

and small pits and the number of victims is estimated at about 70 or 80 corpses. There were not many people killed here because most of the victims were sent to the district security office and prison of Kraing Chheh. It is now in Treang district.

Prey Sokhon 210503 B

At 1:15 p.m., we visited the site. It is in Sy Sla village, Thlea Prachum sub-district, Koh Andet district. It is 9 kilometers away from the district office. We have 3 witnesses for the sites to clarify the events, and activities of the Khmer Rouge at the sites. The witnesses are:

1. Mr. Sum Chum, 38
2. Ta Un Horn. Both of them live in Sy Sla village, Thlea Prachum sub-district, Koh Andet district. Mr. Vong Hieng, 52, lives in Sam Phy village, Prey Khla sub-district, Koh Andet district. We requested the 3 informants to be our witnesses because they were people who lived here in the Khmer Rouge time and they knew and witnessed the Khmer Rouge kill the victims at Prey Sokhon.

The site is about 5 hectares x 5 hectares size. Before Lopeak plants and either plants covered the site. There were a great many victims killed there in 1975. The first victims are people evacuated from cities, and especially lower Kampuchean people (Kampuchea Kraom). The second type is new people, who were not lower Kampuchean people.

Witness

We have found Mr. Vong Hieng as our witness. He witnessed lower Kampuchean people and cadres' families were taken to temporarily stay at Wat Ang Srei Muny in his village. The Khmer Rouge cadres took at a time about 10 families or 20 families or even up to 50 families to kill at Prey Sokhon. The perpetrators pointed the guns at the victims, and tied the victims' hands. The Khmer Rouge soldiers heavily guarded the prisoners so that the victims had no chance to escape. They lied to victims that they would allow the victims to go back to their respective birthplaces. The witness added that the Khmer Rouge perpetrators dug pits enough for 10 or 20 families, and afterwards they took 10 or 20 families to kill according to the number of the pits. When the witnesses went out to fetch water for buffalo, he incidentally witnessed the killing of people and meanwhile, they arrested him and they attempted to kill him, too, but he implored them to spare his life. He succeeded in *receiving mercy* so because one of them knew him.

Number of pits

There were four huge pits. The witness (Mr. Vong Hieng) told us that each pit is four 10 meters x 10 meters in size. Each of the pits was 2 meters deep. All of the pits were full of corpses, but the pits have now been covered by soil. The witness said bones might

still be found in those pits. There were no bones kept. The witnesses assumed that there were about 10,000 to 12,000 corpses¹. We interviewed the 3 witnesses and took photographs of the witnesses, and the killing sites.

August 12, 1998

Kiri Vong district

We traveled along National Road #3 from Takeo provincial town to Kiri Vong district. At 8:00 a.m., we arrived at Kiri Vong district, where, we met with:

1. Mr. Tin Sokhai, District Chief
2. Mr. Liv Sam Oeun, Chief of the District Culture Office.

Geographical features of the district

The district is in the south of Takeo provincial town and it shares the border with South Vietnam. It is 40 kilometers away from Takeo provincial town. It was in Region 13, Southwest Zone in the Khmer Rouge regime. The district is bounded to:

- the north by Treang district,
- the south by Vietnam,
- the west by Kampot province,
- the west by Koh Andet district.

According to the district report, there are 12 sub-districts and 114 villages. There are 17,967 families equal to 91,646 people. People do farming, produce brick and break rock producing, and grow pepper trees.

Genocide sites

There is only one main site in Kiri Vong district. The main site is in Wat Preah Theat. Besides the main site above, there are a number of small sites in various sub-districts. The Khmer Rouge did not allow people to live near the Vietnam border because they were afraid that people would escape to Vietnam, so they ordered them to live in areas far from the border. The District Culture Office gave us a document.

Visit to Genocide Site

¹ Note that this was not a prison, but it was a big execution site. In 1975, they killed “new people”. They were especially soldiers and their families and lower Kampuchea people who intended to go back to their birthplaces. They were all killed there.

At 10 a.m., we arrived at the security office, prison and execution site in Wat Preah Theat Suosdei. It is 20 kilometers away from the district office. We reached Pich Sar village about 8 kilometers from the district office and we turned left. We then continued our journey another 12 kilometers. The site is in Kbal Damrei village, Kok Pring sub-district, Kiri Vong district.

Wat Preah Theat Suosdei 210401 B/P/M
Security office and prison

The execution site is near there. It is the main execution site in Kiri Vong district. The Khmer Rouge built it from 1975 up to 1979. A 12 meters x 15 meters concrete ceremony hall of Wat Preah Theat Suosdei was used as prison. There were handcuffs left as physical evidence. Some human bones were also stored there. There were a lot of human bones after the pits were exhumed in 1984, but because of negligence, cows ate part of them. The security guards stayed in 2 Wat buildings. The execution site is in front of the Wat, along the fence of the Wat. We have found 3 witnesses; one of them used to be in this prison. The 3 witnesses are:

1. Mr. Ly Chun, 55. He was in this prison for one year.
2. Mr. Dak San, 74.
3. Mr. Uk Yann, 65.

They all live in Kbal Damrei village, Kok Prich sub-district, Kiri Vong district. In the Khmer Rouge regime, this village was also in the same sub-district, district and province. The witnesses worked in the cooperative and as palm juice producers for the perpetrators, who were security guards in Wat Preah Theat Suosdei. The witnesses assured us that they witnessed that the Khmer Rouge tortured and interrogated prisoners. The prisoners shouted like animals. After the Khmer Rouge cadres killed 50 victims, they brought in another 50 victims in sequence. While the Khmer Rouge cadres transported more victims by using horse carts, and trucks.

The prisoners at the prison were from various villages, sub-districts and cooperatives. First they singled out “new people” who were evacuated from cities, then base people and also Khmer Rouge cadres themselves. Witness, Mr. Ly Chun, saw a Jeep A2 vehicle, which took the Khmer Rouge cadres and bodyguards to the prison. When the Jeep A2 vehicle arrived at the prison, the prison guards pointed guns at them and seized pistols from them, and then sent them to prison. The victims were handcuffed and killed at the same night. He added that the Khmer Rouge cadres killed the whole family and those associated with the prisoners to purge the root. The victims were mixed people--children, adults, and women. The killing occurred between 1975-79 throughout the entire regime. The prisoners there were not allowed to go outside the Wat compound. When they were taken to kill, they were almost not able to walk, as they were all too skinny.

Witness's description of the inside prison

There were 3 rows of handcuffs for prisoners. Prisoners' feet were shackled to the central metal bar like a ring folder. One hand of the prisoners' was handcuffed to another's leaving only one hand free. Between 60 to 80 prisoners were attached to central metal bar. The witness added that in 1984, pits were excavated and 380 skulls were found, but they believed that some more bones remain in the pits. The witnesses also helped to excavate the pits.

Number of pits and victims

There are two 2 meters x 2 meters pits. They are 1.50 meters or 2 meters deep. Some pits are 5 meters x 5 meters. The pits had to be suitable for the number of corpses. For example, if the Khmer Rouge cadres killed 10 people, they had to bury the corpses in the 10 people pits. For the bigger pits, if the corpses could not fill the pits, they had to kill more. Before killing, the Khmer Rouge interrogated the victims. According to the witnesses, when the pits were counted right after 1979, there were about 200 or 300 pits. So there were about 10 thousands of people killed there. Mr. Ly Chun estimated that there could be 5,000- 6,000 corpses. The Khmer Rouge did not allow victims to live near the border, but ordered them to live far from the border. Especially they sent the victims to various sub-districts in Prey Kabbass district.

Conclusion

We have visited 3 districts along Cambodia-Vietnam border. The victims were ordered to live in areas far from the border. They did not allow the villagers to live near the border. So, there was not much killing. Indeed, Koh Andet district has 1 killing site. There was much more massacre in Prey Sokhon because lower Kampuchea people (Kampuchea Krom) have been reportedly killed by the Khmer Rouge. Most of the victims were Lon Nol soldiers. We assess that every witness reported to us the truth. The report is applicable because the witnesses lived with the Khmer Rouge threat in those days and some even used to be in prison. Even though we had a short time to conduct this research, we were able to visit the genocide sites, witness interviewed evidences such as bones, iron handcuffs left in Wat Preah Theat Suosdei. The process of the field research went smoothly and we did not worry about Khmer Rouge because there are not Khmer Rouge activities in Takeo Province and near the Vietnam border. The difficulties are slippery roads, and possibly robbery. We were scared at night, but we were ready to take effective measures to deal with any unexpected happenings.