

Field Report Public Information Room (PIR) Road Trips Fourth Quarter 2006

Background

The purpose of these field trips to villages throughout Cambodia is to distribute materials related to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC, the Khmer Rouge Tribunal), show films on the regime, and hold discussions on sexual abuse that occurred during Democratic Kampuchea. Staff members also answer questions about the Tribunal during these meetings.

When visiting villages, the team members always give a short talk before showing the films. The topics cover: 1) an introduction to the Documentation Center of Cambodia, 2) the purpose of the PIR team's visit to the village, 3) a presentation on the background and developments of the ECCC, and 4) an introduction to the film(s) the villagers are about to see. After the films are screened, the team members ask if anyone had been sexually abused during Democratic Kampuchea, or if they knew anyone or had heard about anyone who had. People are also encouraged to make comments on the film(s), ask questions about the upcoming Khmer Rouge Tribunal, voice their opinion of the need to educate the younger generation on the history of Democratic Kampuchea, and other topics.

PIR staff also interview and film several villagers and take requests to find information on family members who disappeared during the regime.

Summary of Activities

During this quarter, the PIR team made three field ("road") trips, visiting Kratie, Kampong Thom, and Kampong Speu provinces. During the trips, about 345 people attended meetings held by DC-Cam. People who attended the meetings reported several cases of rape and extra-marital affairs during the regime.

PIR Activities in Quarter 4, 2006	
People attending meetings/film screenings	345
Information packages provided (UN-Government of Cambodia agreement, <i>Introduction to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal</i> , Khmer Rouge Law, DC-Cam magazine <i>Searching for the Truth</i>)	350
Reports of sexual abuse during Democratic Kampuchea	15
Requests for family tracing services	19

1. Kratie District, Kratie Province

October 9-12, 2006

The team visited two sub-districts during this trip, screening the DC-Cam film *The Khmer Rouge Rice Fields: The Story of Rape Survivor Tang Kim* and the independent documentary *Below Zero* to 250 people. Despite the fact that many villagers and local officials were busy registering people to vote for the upcoming elections, turnout was high in this district. Overall, while those attending were interested in the Tribunal, they expressed disappointment at the delays in its startup and that lower-level cadres would not be tried.

PIR Activities in Kratie District	
People attending meetings/film screenings	200
Information packages provided (UN-Government of Cambodia agreement, <i>Introduction to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal</i> , Khmer Rouge Law, DC-Cam magazine <i>Searching for the Truth</i>)	200
Reports of sexual abuse during Democratic Kampuchea	9
Requests for family tracing services	9

Film Screening and Discussions

Da sub-district, October 10-11 (100 participants). Many of those attending told the stories of their suffering during the regime, and some pointed to former perpetrators who were still living in their villages. A man named Saran said that he did not like the fact that the Tribunal would try only top leaders. Several lower-level cadres are now living in his village and they mock the villagers. After this, six other residents of Da village stood up to testify:

- **Mrs. Polin**, age 59, said that A Hao and Srun killed her father, who had been a soldier in King Sihanouk's army, in 1976. Six of her siblings were also killed and her mother died from an injection at the medical unit. Mrs. Polin herself escaped through the kindness of the village chief Chhlat, who sent her to work far from the village.
- **Veung Seut**, age 65, recalled that on September 8, 1978 the cooperative chief Cheat arrested her husband on the grounds that he was Vietnamese (he was a Kampuchea Kraom) and had him killed. Cheat is now living in Da village. She added that when she sees him, he smiles at her, making her more very angry, and that she cannot reconcile with the perpetrators.
- **Chin Uop**, age 49, stated that the Khmer Rouge killed his parents and seven siblings; he was spared because he was working at a rubber farm in Snuol district. Today, 48 year-old Thi Khon aka Cheat, the man who ordered the killings and raped and killed his sister (see the sexual abuse section below), derides him, saying things like "thank you for leaving me alive." Chin Uop added that during the 1980s, Cheat fled the village and lived in another province, but today, he is no longer afraid of retribution and now lives in Anh-Chanh village in Da sub-district.
- **Chum Suon**, age 72, was imprisoned at Ou Lung and Chreapp along with her husband; the two were accused of being Khmer Sar in 1974. Her husband was

handcuffed and both were forced to do hard labor like animals. The chief of Ou Lung prison, named Ou, came from Kratie provincial and was very cruel. Her niece Ke Han was arrested and killed after stealing a handful of rice.

- *Me Napp*, age 53, spoke of Tong Hour, the former chief of women in Da cooperative, who accused Me Napp of a morals violation after she refused to marry an old man, and also accused her of working for the Vietnamese. She was interrogated. In 1978 Tong Hour moved Me Napp to Snuol district to marry a man she did not know, and she had to consent. When she discovered that the man was 25 years older than her (she was 21 at the time), she refused him. Then man then went to Ra, the chief of the women's mobile unit, to resolve the problem. Ra helped her by transferring her to another place.
- *Chreng Tin*, age 65, affirmed the cruelty of Tong Hour. One time after she had a disagreement with Tong Hour, the chief sent her three-month old child to a children's center (her child died) and Chreng Tim for re-education in Da Koy village.

In addition, the team interviewed and filmed two people. The first was Kratie provincial office manager Yim Khim, who talked about his life during Democratic Kampuchea and sexual abuse during the regime. Mr. Yim stated that although Khmer Rouge policy opposed moral misconduct, many cadres committed acts of sexual abuse and killed the women they raped. He pointed out three such victims (see the sexual abuse section below). The second was Da village chief Kuon Sarun aka Srun, who informed the team about the former low-level cadres who are still living in his area. Him Kimhuon and Kuch Keang of Da village, Raom and A Vin (former security cadres at Ou Sampaoch) of Ou Resey sub-district, and Avin of Boeng village, Sambok sub-district, killed members of Mr. Kuon's family and others. The sexual abuse cases he reported are described below.

Kan Tuot sub-district, October 11 (100 participants). The people attending in Kan-Tuot village took care to listen to explanations about the process of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, but did not seem satisfied with its progress. One woman said that now, it was too late for her to look forward to the trials; she grows older each day and no longer cared.

Vorn Sreng, age 66, of Thma Reap village, told the story of her 1976-1979 imprisonment. She and her husband were arrested on the charge of aiding the Vietnamese and sent to Chreap re-education center. Its supervisor was comrade Le and one of its security personnel was Chey. She was interrogated three times a day and forced her to carry earth while she was pregnant. She and her child were about to be sent to be killed at a tobacco farm when the Vietnamese invaded Kratie and she was freed.

Chap Huon, age 58, of Kan-Tuot village, was sent to a remote re-education center. Because she was hungry, she caught a carp, and when two cadres named Dy and Chheng discovered this, they struck her 50 times. Chap Huon added that she did not care about the Tribunal; to her, it was coming too late because all the top leaders of the regime were dead or dying, and she already had experienced enough suffering under the Khmer Rouge.

Mass Grave Discovery

Chin Uop aka In, of Da village and sub-district, reported to the PIR Team that there was an undisturbed mass grave in his village.

Sexual Abuse Cases

In addition to the rape cases reported here, villagers told the PIR team of a rape victim who is now living in Kra Kor village and sub-district. However, the team was unable to locate her.

Ung Samon (victim). Kratie provincial office manager Yim Khim stated that this widow was accused of a morals violation. She was arrested and sent to be killed, but is now 64 years old and living in Krakor village, Krakorsub-district. She could not be interviewed because she was living in Phnom Penh when the team was in Kratie.

Two women, names not given (victims). Kratie provincial office manager Yim Khim said that the two younger sisters of Im Bunthoeun, the provincial chief of Kratie, were raped at the Svay Chrum construction site before being killed.

Hass Samit (victim). Kratie provincial office manager, Yim Khim stated that this former security cadre was accused of a moral misdeed and sent for re-education at Ou Long. He is now living in Krakor sub-district of Kratie district.

Chesda and Bopha (victims). Da village chief Kuon Sarun aka Srun, said that Him Kimhuon and Kuch Keang of Da village, Raom and A Vin (former security cadres at Ou Sampaoch) of Ou Resey sub-district, and Avin of Boeng village, Sambok sub-district, raped two sisters named Chesda and Bopha, and killed their 8 year-old brother by hitting him on the head with a rock. Mr. Kuon said he saw this with his own eyes.

Chin Phoeun (victim) and Thi Khon aka Cheat (alleged perpetrator), Da village, sub-district and district. Chin Uop (see above) stated that Cheat raped and killed his sister Chin Phoeun and then killed her and their six siblings with a hoe.

Sa Set, Mobile Unit Member, Srey Daung Village, Thma An-Tuot sub-district (victim). Um Sakem, age 55, of Kan-Tuot village and sub-district, recalled that in 1978 Sa Met was accused of moral wrongdoing with a widow. The Khmer Rouge punished him by forcing him to dig up a tree trunk at a construction site.

She also recalled a young woman who was living in the Kan-Tuot cooperative who was accused of a moral transgression and consorting with the Vietnamese. Before she was taken to be killed, two Khmer Rouge security guards raped her.

Huong (victim). Nim Chheng Hey, age 56, of Kan-Tuot village and sub-district, recalled the case of a 14 year-old woman named Huong, who was the chief of a mobile unit during the regime. One day, while she was taking sugar to the cooperative kitchen, she came upon Kong, the chief of Kan-Tuot cooperative, who was in bed with a member of his cooperative. Huong became frightened and returned to her mobile unit. Later Kong accused Huong of a morals violation. She was hung upside down by her feet and forced to swallow water; then Kong killed her in the village.

Ret (alleged perpetrator). Chap Huon, age 58, of Kan-Tuot village and sub-district, reported that while she was a Khmer Rouge cadre, a construction site chief named Ret attempted to rape her in Kan-Tuot sub-district. He was unsuccessful because she shouted for people help her. However, she alleged that Ret had raped many women in the fields, some of whom became pregnant.

Name unknown (alleged perpetrator). San Sem, age 57, of Kan-Tuot village and sub-district, stated that she was an eyewitness to the rape and killing of a woman by the chief of her mobile unit. After killing the woman, the chief tried to catch Sam Sem, but people helped her and moved her to another village to avoid contact with him.

Family Tracing

Nine people requested information on their relatives who disappeared during Democratic Kampuchea. Information was found on one of them in DC-Cam's archives.

Keut Vin, age 72, of Machou Krauch village, Kan-Tuot sub-district, asked for information on her son Keut Savan aka Vy and Vorn. He was 15 years old when the Khmer Rouge recruited him in 1973 or 1974, and she has had no word on him since that time.

Dan Maut, age 50, of Kan-Tuot village and sub-district, asked the team to find information on his two siblings who the Khmer Rouge brought to Phnom Penh to work in a garment factory in 1977; they were 11 and 12 years old at the time. Some of the other children the Khmer Rouge brought to Phnom Penh along with his children returned after the regime fell, but his two siblings did not.

Chreng Orn, age 36, of Kan-Tuon village and sub-district, asked for information on his brothers Chreng Oeun aka Ol and Cheng Mao, who were Khmer Rouge soldiers in Kratie provincial town; they disappeared in 1979 during the Vietnamese invasion.

When the PIR Team returned to Phnom Penh, they found the biography of Chreng Oeun. It stated that he was arrested on April 13, 1978 and sent to Tuol Sleng Prison's House 43, Big Room 3.

Chap Huon, age 58, of Kan-Tuot village and sub-district, asked for information on her niece San Vanna aka Mao. She disappeared in 1973 after the Khmer Rouge arrested her father, who was a soldier in King Sahanouk's army.

Vorn Sreng, age 66, of Thma Reap village, Kan-Tuot sub-district, Kratie district, asked for information on her brother Vong Chay Ieng. He disappeared in 1977 after the Khmer Rouge sent him to the fields to work.

Chhean Chhun, age 49, the chief of Kan-Tuot village, asked for information on his older brother Mauv Chhan who disappeared in 1975.

Mil Yaut, age 63, of Chang-Va village, Kan-Tuot sub-district, asked for information about his nephew Snguon Say. He was a Khmer Rouge soldier and disappeared in 1979 when Vietnamese troops entered Kratie province.

Chuon Nhan, age 45, of Kan-Tuot village and sub-district, wanted information about his older brother Chuon Phan. He was a Khmer Rouge soldier who disappeared in 1975.

Praup Ham, age 56, of Kan-Tuot village, asked for information on his older sister who disappeared in 1979 when Vietnamese troops were fighting in Katrie province.

2. Prasat Sambo District, Kampong Thom Province November 14-16, 2006

In addition to the village meetings on this trip, the PIR and Film teams interviewed and filmed two men who told their stories during the regime. The first was Hou Tong Hor, chief of the election committee in Kampong Thom. The Khmer Rouge beat his wife to death, and his son also died. Cadres arrested Mr. Hou because he had stolen a handful of rice. They tied his hands (he still has scars today) and brought him to the security office. The cadres freed him, but warned him that if he did this again, he would be killed. The second was a villager in Stung Sen district. He had witnessed a man raping a woman; during the rape, she cut his penis. A Khmer Rouge cadre then arrested the rapist and took him off to be killed.

The team visited one sub-district during this trip, screening the DC-Cam film *The Khmer Rouge Rice Fields: The Story of Rape Survivor Tang Kim*. The people in the commune were interested in the Tribunal and wanted to visit Tuol Sleng, Choeng Ek and the ECCC.

PIR Activities in Kampong Thom District	
People attending meetings/film screenings	50
Information packages provided (UN-Government of Cambodia agreement, <i>Introduction to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal</i> , Khmer Rouge Law, DC-Cam magazine <i>Searching for the Truth</i>)	50
Reports of sexual abuse during Democratic Kampuchea	5
Requests for family tracing services	5

Film Screening and Discussions

Sambo sub-district, November 15 (50 participants). In this sub-district, many people did not know about the tribunal, but others knew of it through the radio, television, or hearsay. Some of them were not satisfied that only senior leaders would be tried. They also wanted the trials to begin soon. Many of those who spoke out stated that the Khmer Rouge had caused the deaths of their sons or daughters; as a result, they had no one to support them in their old age and were now living in poverty. Some of the stories related were:

Thung Chhorn, age 53, of Cheay Sampeou village, said that she and her five siblings were evacuated from their village on the pretense that the Angkar wanted to build a bridge and educate them in politics. But she knew that the Khmer Rouge killed her two brothers because three days after they were taken away, she saw their bicycle back in the village.

Chuop Iev, age 73, of Cheay Sampeou village, had six children. The Khmer Rouge arrested her aunt and her husband, who had been a village chief during the Lon Nol regime, and took them to be killed. Now, Chuop Iev lives alone and in poverty. She also experiences trauma when she thinks about the Khmer Rouge killing her relatives.

Hiep Keit, age 60, of Chass Crum village, told of a man named Neang who was a Khmer Rouge village chief. He was a cruel man and arrested many people in the village. He also arrested 33 women who were the widows of Lon Nol soldiers and sent them to be killed. After 1979, Neang died of unknown causes. Hiep Keit also related her own life. Twenty days after giving birth, she was forced to work in the fields and weave at least two scarves per day. In 1978 the Khmer Rouge forced her to dig her own grave, but she fought back and escaped. After that, she hid from the cadres.

Mr Phem Phan, age 61, stated that he wanted trials to begin soon because he wanted to know about the Khmer Rouge policy that led them to kill Khmer people.

Khut Ai, age 58, of Cheay Sampoeu village, said that five days after she had given birth, the Khmer Rouge forced her to dig up tree trunks and did not give her enough food. She also reported a case of sexual abuse (see below).

Sexual Abuse Cases

Four cases of sexual abuse were reported. In addition, Khiev Kong, age 46, of Cheay Sampoeu village, said that the Khmer Rouge cadres told people not to commit moral misdeeds, but they themselves made the same mistakes as ordinary people. Some cadres even killed themselves because they were afraid that their leaders would learn about what they had done.

Dom (alleged perpetrator). Khut Ai, age 58, of Cheay Sampoeu village, said that her cousin was a cooperative chief in Beong; she was arrested and beaten, but did not die immediately. Then a cadre named Dom took hot water and poured it into her mouth and nose until she died. She also alleged that Dom raped many women in his cooperative, including one named Haon, and if anyone learned what he was doing, he had them arrested and taken off to be killed. Dom died four or five years ago.

Lann (victim). Hiep Keit, age 60, of Chass Crum village said that a woman named Lann who is living in Kampong Thom province was a widow with three children during the regime. A man named Matt fell in love with her. Then the Khmer Rouge accused them of immoral deeds, arrested them, and sent them to a reeducation site. The Khmer Rouge then killed Matt, but released Lann and sent her to work in the fields.

San Ney (victim) and Hoeun (alleged perpetrator). Fifty-seven year old Say Ney of Cheay Sampoeu village said that she had been a new person who was evacuated from Phnom Penh. Two months after she had given birth, a cadre named Hoeun, who was a cooperative chief, attempted to rape her and her sister in At Suong village. He was unsuccessful because other people helped her.

Rin (victim) and Ta Heng (alleged perpetrator). San Ney also told about a beautiful woman named Rin who had been evacuated from Phnom Penh to Sampoeu village. She was arrested, but before being killed, was raped by a man named Ta Heng and some other security guards. Rin suffered greatly before she died and Ta Heng passed away after the regime ended.

Family Tracing

Five requests were made. Two of them were:

San Ney, age 57, of Cheay Sampoeu village, asked for information on her aunt and two brothers. Her brother Neak Sat was a soldier in King Sihanouk's army, while Neak San was a student from Phnom Penh. All of them were from Tnaot Chum village, Tain Krasao sub-district.

Khut Ai, age 58, of Cheay Sampoeu village, asked for information about her two brothers-in-law, Lung Leap and Lung Len, who disappeared in 1974. They worked in a mobile unit, and asked for permission to visit home for three days. But after only one day and a half, the chief of their mobile unit arrested them. He tortured by tying them to a pillar for a day. After that, she lost information on them.

3. Samrong Tong and Chbar Man Districts, Kampong Speu Province December 25-28, 2006

The team visited two sub-districts during this trip, screening the DC-Cam film *The Khmer Rouge Rice Fields: The Story of Rape Survivor Tang Kim* to 95 people.

PIR Activities in Samrong Tong and Chbar Man Districts	
People attending meetings/film screenings	95
Information packages provided (UN-Government of Cambodia agreement, <i>Introduction to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal</i> , Khmer Rouge Law, DC-Cam magazine <i>Searching for the Truth</i>)	100
Reports of sexual abuse during Democratic Kampuchea	1
Requests for family tracing services	5

Film Screening and Discussions

Sokh sub-district Samrong Tong district, December 26 (30 participants). At this meeting, the commune chief told villagers about his DC-Cam-sponsored trip to the ECCC. Most of those in attendance were village chiefs, members of commune councils and village group chiefs. They expressed disapproval of the ECCC trying only senior Khmer Rouge leaders, stating that they wanted the lower-level Khmer Rouge tried as well. Three people requested information on their relatives who disappeared during the regime. No one came forward with cases of sexual abuse.

Chbar Man district and sub-district, December 27 (65 participants). This meeting was held at a pagoda. The people attending included monks, nuns, and children, who expressed their support for the Tribunal.

Sexual Abuse Cases

Two cases of rape were reported. raping abuses, we got the information from the villager who joined with us One of the victims was killed; the other is still alive, but the PIR Team was unable to locate her for an interview.

Kol and Sloek (victims). Men Chhan, age 53, of Peanichkam, Raka Tom sub-district, said that although official Khmer Rouge policy prohibited immoral acts, some cadres committed such acts because they had more power. She gave an example of a base person named Kol, who was the chief of a women's mobile unit in Srok Pa Voeng cooperative, Mong Russey district, Battambang province. She fell in love with a new person named Sloek. When Angkar discovered this, they tied them together and walked them along the road before killing them in Tuol Tom village, Prah Ang-Daung sub-district, Mong Russey district.

Map (victim). Pang Yun, age 63, of Chbar Man village and sub-district, told those assembled about a woman named Map who attempted suicide by cutting her throat at Pang Yun's house. She had been accused of an immoral act with a man, but in fact, she had not committed such an act. She attempted suicide because she was frightened about what the Angkar would do to her. However, she is still alive and now living in Chbar Man district.

Family Tracing

Five people requested information on their relatives who disappeared during Democratic Kampuchea.

Tep Man, age 58, of Skoh sub-district, asked for information on his older brother Meas Meun, who worked for the Lon Nol regime and disappeared in 1975.

Chin Mao, age 56, of Tam-Lapp village, Skoh sub-district, requested information his uncle who disappeared in 1975. His uncle Chin Kun was a bodyguard at a Lon Nol camp in Phnom Penh.

Moa Saran, age 39, of Skoh sub-district, asked for information on his aunt who disappeared in 1975. Her husband Phal was a guard at Thach Suong in Phnom Penh.

Iep Chann, age 74, of Chbar Man sub-district, asked for information on her husband Sok Chan. He was a soldier of Chan Reangsey, and disappeared in 1975 when he was transporting a wounded soldier to a hospital in Phnom Penh.

Men Chan, age 53, of Peanichkam village, Raka Tom sub-district, Chbar Man district, asked for information her older brother Men Phal. He was a Lon Nol pilot in Kampong Som province. In 1975 he was evacuated to Takeo province and tried to hide his identity, but a neighbor reported him a few days later. The Khmer Rouge then arrested him and sent him to San Lung prison; three months later he was sent to Phnom Penh; Men Chan suspected that her brother was sent to Tuol Sleng.