

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

BATTAMBANG PROVINCE

District	Site Name/ Visit Date	Site Type	Est. Victim	Witness	File #/ID Code	Latitude	Longitude
Bavel	Chamkar Krauch/ 18 August 1998	30 pits	450	Phon Phat ផុន ផាត	R 081805A/ 020401	N 13°15'1062"	E 102°52'2476"
Battambang	Me Chbar/ 21 August 1998	Prison Burial site	300	Chou Chhuon ជូ ឈួន	R 082101A/ 020201	N 13°24'4745"	E 103°01'3101"
Battambang	Veal Batt Kang/ 21 August 1998	A rice field (1kilometer x 300meters)	500	Kang Seng កង សេង	R 082102A/ 020202	N 13°18'1389"	E 103°04'2754"
Battambang	Tuol Rong Chrey/ 21 August 1998	1 mass grave	400	Nhong Suon ញ៉ុង សួន	R 082104A/ 020203	N 13°14'1451"	E 103°05'3965"
Ratanak Mondul	Banteay O Ta Krey/ 03 December 1998	35 pits	4,000	Mann Sao ម៉ាន់ សៅ	R 120304A/ 020701	N 12° 50'5645"	E 102° 51'4893"
Ratanak Mondul	Phlaur Bambek Phum Cheav/ 03 December 1998	# pits unknown Memorial	150-200	Nuon Muon នួន មួន	R 120304B/ 020702	N 12°50'0396"	E102° 53' 4399"
Ratanak Mondul	Phlaur Meas/ 03 December 1998	30	200-250	Nuon Muon នួន មួន	R120304C/ 020703	N 12° 49'2621"	E102° 53' 2225"
Ratanak Mondul	Wat Village/ 03 December 1998	50	Around 150	Nuon Muon នួន មួន	R 120305A/ 020704	N 12° 48'3516"	E102° 53' 2848"
Ratanak Mondul	Banteay Treng/ 03 December 1998	200-300	800-1000	Nuon Muon នួន មួន	R 12 0306A/ 020705	N12° 49'4175"	E102° 54' 2932"
Sangke	Kach Roteh/ 02 December 1998	100-150	250-500	Toek Sim តឹក ស៊ីម	R 120203B/ 020802	N 12° 56'4794"	E103° 21' 0366"
Sangke	Wat Po Laingka/ 02 December 1998	Prison	N/A	Nop Det ណុប ដេត	R 12 0203A/ 020801	N 12° 57'0725"	E103° 20' 4253"

Sangke	Wat Samdech Muny/ 02 December 1998	Memorial 6 mass graves	5000-6000	Ken Khieb កេន ខៀប	R 12 0207A/ 020803	N 13 ⁰ 07' 3482"	E103 ⁰ 18' 5675"
Sangke	Chumnik Village/ 02 December 1998	Prison 5-6 pits	About 100	Chiv Khom ជីវ ខុម	R 120209A/ 02804	N13 ⁰ 04' 2309"	E103 ⁰ 14' 4470"
Sangke	Chumnik Village/ 02 December 1998	10-20	50-60	Chiv Khom ជីវ ខុម	R 120210A 020805	N 13 ⁰ 04' 1405"	E103 ⁰ 14' 3777"

On August 17, 1998, the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)'s team comprising Mr. Sin Khin, Mr. Sour Bun Sou, Mr. Pheng Pong Rasy and Mr. Ouch Sam Oeun set off to research on the Khmer Rouge prisons, execution sites and security offices in various districts of Battambang province. It took us 25 minutes to travel from DC-Cam to Pochentong International Airport. After checking in for a flight to Battambang, we had to wait 58 minutes. The aircraft flight number 440 took off at 1:20 p.m. and arrived at Battambang airport at 2:00 p.m. At 2:15 p.m., we reached Battambang provincial office where we had a meeting with His Excellency Mr. Second Deputy Governor Nam Tum. After having introduced our team, His Excellency signed a permit for us to use in our research in various districts of the province. Note that the distance between Phnom Penh and Battambang provincial office if travelling by National Road 5 is 292 kilometers.

August 18, 1998

Bavel District

On August 18, 1998, our team departed from Battambang provincial town to Bavel district. It took almost 3 hours to travel 54 kilometers. We found it very difficult to travel on a path with deep holes and puddles. Sometimes our car got stuck on the way. We arrived at Bavel sub-district office at 9:50 a.m. After we have introduced our team to him, Mr. Tap Tao, Chief of the sub-district was very interested in our research and the type of work we are doing. He also showed us two places where we wanted to do the research. He mentioned that in the Khmer Rouge regime, the sub-district office was used as prison of Region 3. Victims including former Lon Nol soldiers and ordinary people were brought here from various places. Under the Khmer Rouge administrative structure, the prison was in Bavel I village, Bavel sub-district, District 70. Now it remains the same except that District 70 is changed to Bavel district. Mr. Tap added that the execution sites were located behind the house of the lady named Thai Latt, about 400 meters from Bavel sub-district office. He estimated the killing pits at about 10 to 30 in which 450 victims were believed to have been buried. He continued that Bavel High School was used as hospital during the Khmer Rouge time, and those who died were burned behind the school building. He witnessed with his own eyes that in early January 1979, about 200 to 400 Khmer Rouge disabled members were killed by burning and putting into fire.

After that, we continued our visit to Bavel district office, 2 kilometers from the sub-district office. But we had to walk for 1 kilometers because the path was not accessible. At 10:45 a.m., we met Mr. Mai Sok, Governor of Bavel district. In the Khmer Rouge time, the district was in Region 3 and used for secret meetings of Khmer Rouge regional chiefs, the Governor confirmed.

District boundaries

Bavel district is bordered on:

- the east by Battambang district,
- the north by Mongkol Borei district,
- the south by Rattanak Mondul district,
- the west by Sampeou Loun, Phnom Proek and Kam Rieng districts.

According to the district office report, Bavel district consists of 6 sub-districts: 1) Khnay Romeas, 2) Bavel, 3) Kdol Ta Hen, 4) Ampil Pram Daem, 5) Lvea, and 6) Prey Khpuos. There are 14,873 families with 75,645 people in which 34,635 are male. About 85 to 95 percent of the district population are farmers. The Governor added that there were 2 main execution sites in the district. One was behind Thai Latt's house and the other in the surrounding area of Stung Dach located in Kdol Ta Hen sub-district. The district Governor showed us a wooden tile-roofed house that was used as the Khmer Rouge political training school that remains there now. After having a meeting with the district Governor, we continued to Kdol Ta Hen sub-district office, accompanied by his two bodyguards. At 12:00 noon, our team left Bavel district office. After traveling 1 kilometer on a sticky path; we turned right at an intersection and went on another 3 kilometers. At that time, we visited Mr. Oeun Khyang, Chief of Kdol Ta Hen sub-district. He said that he used to be prisoner in Mong district during the Khmer Rouge regime. But later he was released. In 1979, he lived in Kdol Ta Hen sub-district but said he knew nothing about the execution in this sub-district. Then, we asked him if he could find anyone who was imprisoned here, he invited a villager named Buy Ruom, male, who used to live here during the Khmer Rouge regime. Buy Ruom said a large number of people were killed at Stung Dach of Kdol Ta Hen. When asked how many people and what types of people were killed, he replied that he did not know how many because his house was very far from Stung Dach. But he noted that the victims' corpses scattered in the field because there were no burial sites. He added that about a few days after the killing, wild animals such as wild boards and wolves ate the corpses. So far the killing field has been covered with rice paddies, which leaves no trace or mark of killing as such. Finally, Buy Ruom was willing to be a witness to this case for what he had known and seen with his eyes. We could not visit the execution sites because the sub-district Chief told us that the road leading to those sites was very bad to get access to, and sometimes there were bad people [extremist Khmer Rouge soldiers or armed rubbers] showing up and conducting their activities along the road. Then, we had to move back to Bavel I village, Bavel sub-district, Bavel district, 3 kilometers from Kdol Ta Hen. At 12:55 p.m., we visited an execution site behind Thai Latt's house in Chamkar Krauch. Thai Latt said that her orange field [Chamkar Krauch] covered about one hectare of land and there were about 30

killing pits beneath it. Each pit contains 10 to 15 victims. Her son, Mr. Phon Phat, also showed us some killing pits, which still have been visible. She and her son were willing testify this case because they saw villagers digging the remains for gold in 1979. According to all witnesses, we could say that there are two main execution sites and one prison in Bavel district.

1. Execution site [near Stung Dach in Kdol, Ta Hen sub-district] (not yet mapped)

- Mass killing.
- Victims' corpses scattered because there was no killing pit.
- Now there is no evidence as the corpses were all eaten by wild animals.
- There is a main witness, Mr. Buy Ruom, who lived in Kdol Ta Hen in the Khmer Rouge time.

2. Execution site [in Thai Latt's (orange field)] 020401 B

- In the orange field there were about 15 to 30 killing pits.
- The estimate number of victims is about 450.
- There are 2 main witnesses, Thai Latt and her son Phon Phat.

3. Security Office/Prison (not yet mapped)

It is located in the area of Bavel sub-district office.

August 21, 1998

Battambang District

At 3 p.m. on August 21, we went on to Battambang sub-district office where we met Mr. Nhik Pich, District Governor, Mr. Phlong Saret, Chief of the District Cultural Department, and some other civil servants who are heads of different departments in the district. They all were arranging for a meeting at the time we arrived there. So, we found it very important for us because we could ask for much more information than we normally do on killing pits and security offices in the Khmer Rouge time. After we introduced our team to them, the district Governor allowed us to ask for information from any of his officials who were present at that time. Battambang district is bordered on:

- the west by Svay Pao district,
- the north by Mongkol Borei district,
- the south by Banan district,
- the east by Boeng Tonle Sap.

The district office is located by National Road 5, about 27 kilometers from Battambang provincial office. Battambang district consists of 10 sub-districts and 70 villages. There are 21,654 families with 116,819 people including 60,004 women and 55,417 who reach the eligible age to vote.

85 percent of the whole population are farmers. The district covers 68,101 hectares including 59,857 hectares of rainy and dry season rice, according to the district office's report. After the district Governor had mentioned, Mr. Phlong Saret, Chief of the District Cultural Department informed us that in Battambang district, there were three main execution sites: 1) Veal Batt Kang, 2) Tuol Rong Chrey, and 3) Me Chbar and one security office/prison.

1. Veal Batt Kang 020202 B

Veal Batt Kang is located in Ta Sei village, Ta Meun sub-district, Battambang district, about 3 kilometers north of Battambang district office. Most of victims killed are Lon Nol military officers (from the rank of First Lieutenant and up) who had been invited by Angkar to greet King Sihanouk. After they were gathered up, the Khmer Rouge cadres asked them to board trucks. Instead of bringing them to greet the king, the Khmer Rouge sent them to be killed in Veal Batt Kang.

1. Tuol Chrey or Tuol Rong Chrey 020203 B

The second main execution site is Tuol Chrey or Tuol Rong Chrey, which is located in Ken Keh village, Kok Khmum sub-district, Battambang district. Mr. Phlong Saret as well as 16 department officials stated that a large number of military officers had been killed in Tuol Chrey execution site, though not so many as in Veal Batt Kang.

3. Me Chbar (Tuol Samrong Farm Site) 020201 P/B

Me Chbar is located in O Nhor village, Boeng Pring sub-district, Battambang district. Similar number of victims had been killed at this site. But there were many types of people including military officers, soldiers, and ordinary people.

4. Security office in Sorapa/Prison (not yet mapped)

Sorapa is located in Ken Keh village, Kok Khmum sub-district, Battambang district. It is not an execution site, but the biggest security office in Battambang district. Some of the department officers informed us that after arresting ordinary people in villages of Battambang district, the Khmer Rouge sent them to Sorapa Prison. Moreover, Mr. Ieng Sarom, Accountant Chief of the district added that most of the victims were highly educated people including teachers and intellectuals. Although with just one hour of meeting in the Battambang district office, we seemed to be so proud because we were warmly welcome and every body agreed to cooperate with our team in this work. The meeting really seemed to discuss and recall the period between 1975-1979 of the Khmer Rouge regime. At the same time, Mr. Ieng Sarom agreed to be a witness to the execution sites, Tuol Batt Kang, Tuol Chrey, and security office/prison at Sorapa, because he still remembers all the acts of killing committed within his eyes. Moreover, Mr. Phlong Saret was also willing to be a witness to the events of which he was fully aware. After the meeting with district-level officials, at 4:12 p.m., we went on to Kok Khmum sub-district office. The sub-district Chief, Mr. Chum Hum, informed us that he was more aware of Sorapa prison than others because during that time he lived near that area. He said Sorapa was just a place for detaining and torturing prisoners, not for killing. But none of them could have survived. All victims were kept for only 3 days at most, then sent to the

execution sites, Tuol Batt Kang and Tuol Chrey. In the end of our interview, the sub-district Chief agreed to be a witness to the events because he had seen them obviously. As we had a short time, our visits could not cover all those sites. We hope to visit all of them in the future. However, we did collect information from officials in provincial, district and sub-district levels. In addition, we had spent a day collecting information from two districts, Bavel and Battambang; and we had also visited some locations in Bavel district.

On 21 August 1998, we visited Tuol Sam Raong Farm site known as Me Chbar **(020201)**, located about 200 meters from the right hand of National Road 5 (from Banteay Meanchey). There, we met Mr. Roeun Chet and Mr. Chou Chhuon, who lived in Snuol Kaong village Boeng Pring sub-district and worked in the farm site. A few minutes later, some people came and listened to our discussion. Chet and Chhuon informed us that in the Khmer Rouge time, Tuol Samrong farm site known as Me Chbar was used as an execution site located on a flat in front of the Rice Seed Lab built in Sihanouk regime. They continued that the method the Khmer Rouge used to kill prisoners was that they had the prisoners' feet tied up and made them stand in row against a wall. Then they fired and threw hand grenades at them so heinously that no way anyone could possibly survive at all. The victims' corpses were transported by big trucks and threw in the rice fields around the farm site. Most of the victims were military officers who had been brought in by being deceived into greeting King Sihanouk. Some others were ordinary people. These witnesses estimated the death toll at this site at about a few hundreds. More obviously, few people sitting around us stated that about 300 people were killed because they saw piles of bones in a rice field. Both Chet and Chhuon, along with some other informants, said there was no killing pit for those victims. However they agreed to be witnesses to the killing events. The farm site, Me Chbar, is 41 kilometers from Battambang provincial town and 16 kilometers from Battambang district office.

At 9:15 a.m., we left Tuol Samrong on National Road 5 for another main execution site known as Veal Batt Kang where we had already obtained some information on August 18, 1998. But now we have a chance to visit this execution site to get more information and interview witnesses. According to Mr. Kang Seng, 50, who lives in Ta Sei village, Ta Meun sub-district, a large number of military officers who had been brought in be being deluded into greeting King Sihanouk were shot dead. He also indicated that Veal Batt Kang covered an area of 1 kilometer long and 300 meters wide. The estimate number of victims was about 350 to 500. Another villager, Mr. Penh, 36, gave the same idea as Kang Seng did. But he added that in Veal Batt Kang there was no killing pit for those victims. All bodies were left scattered and putrefied. At the same time, Ms. Khieu Kim Huoy informed us of the history of her relative named Tit Chea, First Lieutenant, who was also killed at this field. In the end of our interview, the three villagers, Mr. Kang Sen, Mr. Neoun Penh and Mrs. Khieu Kim Huoy, agreed to be witnesses to the execution in Veal Batt Kang.

At 10:55 a.m., we left Veal Batt Kang to see another killing site known as Tuol Rong Chrey, which is located in Ken Keh village, Kok Khmum sub-district, Battambang district. We have already gained some information on this location as we did in the above-mentioned execution sites. This time we only need more information as well as witnesses. After parking the car on the pavement of National Road 5, we entered an ice-selling shop nearby where we met and interviewed Mr. Vuth Pun Lork, Police Chief of Samrong village, Ta Pong sub-district. He stated that a

huge number of people including Captain Chao Sam Oeun, former secretary of Region 3 (now Mong district) in the Khmer Rouge regime were killed. He confirmed he had witnessed the execution sites and knew that there have remained 3 survivors from the evil treatment by the Khmer Rouge. But he had no idea of where they are living now. Most of the victims killed were military officers brought in by being deluded into greeting Samdech Ov (King Sihanouk). He continued that there was no killing pit; so the bodies scattered around until the Vietnamese invasion (January 7, 1979). Now the field has been cleared for rice farming. We find it easy to visit the location next time because it has a palm tree as a mark. After the interview with Mr. Vuth Pun Lork, we moved on and found a railway after walking 500 meters via a path (on the right hand side of the national road from Banteay Meanchey to Battambang province). After that we turned right, taking another 200-meter walk down the path parallel to the railway, then we could see a palm tree lying ahead in the middle of the paddy field, a mark indicating that Tuol Chrey is just there. Note that it is about 300 meters from the railway and to Tuol Chrey to which we could not get access on foot because the paddy field is covered with rice seedlings and the water very deep. Mr. Vuth Pun Lork agreed to be a witness because he had seen the event, and Mr. Nhong Suon was also willing to testify that he had seen the Khmer Rouge perpetrators walk military officers to be killed. He estimated the number of victims at about a few thousands. According to our information, witnesses, and our direct visit, we have reached a conclusion that there are 3 main execution sites and 1 security office/prison in Battambang district. The three execution sites are:

1- Veal Batt Kang (execution site) 020202 B

- Mass killing.
- The victims' bodies scattered because there was no killing pit.
- Most of the victims were military officers.
- The estimate number is about 350 to 500.
- The field covers 1 kilometer in length and 300 meters in width.
- The method of murder was by shooting to death.

Witnesses

1. Ieng Sarom, Accountant Chief of Battambang district.
2. Kang Seng, 50, villager, Ta Sei village, Ta Meun sub-district.
3. Neou Penh, 36, villager, Ta Sei village, Ta Meun sub-district.
4. Khieu Kim Huoy, villager, Ta Sei village, Ta Meun sub-district.

2- Tuol Chrey or Tuol Rong Chrey (execution site) 020203 B

- Mass killing.
- Victim bodies scattered because there was no killing pit.
- Most of victims were military officers.

- The estimate number of victims is about thousands.
- There is a palm tree as a remark.
- The way of killing was shooting dead.
- So far it has been cleared for rice farming.

Witnesses:

1. Ieng Sarom, Accountant Chief of Battambang district.
2. Vuth Pun Lork, police chief of Samrong village, Ta Poug sub-district.
3. Nhong Suon, villager in Ken Keh village, Kok Khmum sub-district.

3- Me Chbar/Tuol Samrong Farm site (execution site)

- Mass killing.
- Victims' bodies were piled, and there was no killing pit.
- Mixed victims.
- The estimate number is about 300.
- The way of killing was by shooting to death and throwing grenade.

Witnesses:

1. Mr. Roeum Chet, staff of Tuol Samrong Farm Site,
2. Mr. Chou Chhuon, staff of Tuol Samrong Farm site,

4- Sorapa security office/prison

- Used as a place for keeping prisoners taken from various places of Battambang district.
- Could be considered as a torture place.

Witnesses:

1. Ieng Sarom, Accountant Chief of Battambang district,
2. Chum Hum, Chief of Kok Khmum sub-district.

Conclusion

According to our research in Battambang and Bavel districts and interviews with many witnesses, we had a much better understanding of three main locations including: 1) Veal Batt Kang or Tuol Batt Kang, 2) Tuol Chrey or Tuol Rong Chrey, and 3) Me Chbar known as Tuol Samrong

Farm Site. Even though we had only 5 days to work, we got a satisfactory result. We were not impeded by any insecurity that might happen in the places where we had to complete our mission.

December 2, 1998

Sangke District

We departed from Battambang along National Road # 5 to Sangke district. We arrived at the district office at 9:00 a.m. There we met four district officials:

1. Mr. Tes Roeun, Chief of District Administration,
2. Mr. Cheang Sin, Deputy Chief of District Administration,
3. Mr. Loch Po, Chief of District Department of Information,
4. Mr. Sokh Yan, Chief of District Department of Culture.

Sangke district is located along National Road #5, about 7 kilometers from Battambang Provincial Office (on the right hand side and South of National Road #5).

District Boundaries

The district is bordered on:

- the north by Ek Phnom district,
- the south by Mong Russei district,
- the west by Banan and Svay Pao district,
- the east by Tonle Sap river.

According to the district's report, the district is divided into 10 sub-districts and 63 villages. There are 19,776 families with 106,341 people, including 51,242 males. 95 percent of the total population are farmers and 5 percent are venders.

Information concerning genocide sites

According to the four district officials, we found out that there are certain genocide sites as follows:

- 1- Prison, security office, and execution site located in Kach Roteh village, Kampong Pring sub-district, and Sangke district.
- 2- Security office Ta Rai, two executions sites, located in Chumnik village, Anlongvil sub-district.

3- Prison, security office and execution site located in Wat Samdech, Samdech village, and Ta Pon sub-district.

After extracting indirect information, we asked Mr. Sokh Yan, Chief of District Department of Culture, to accompany our team to examine the above mentioned locations, evidence, and witnesses.

Wat Po Laingka 020801 P

At 10:00 a.m., we reached the office of Kampong Prieng sub-district, where we met Mr. Nop Det, 42, who is Second Deputy Chief of Kampong Prieng. Mr. Nop Det said in Wat Po Laingka called Wat Kach Roteh, there was a prison located in the Wat. He added that executioners took victims from the prison to kill in the following locations:

1. Kach Roteh village,
2. Yeay Torng village, about 500 meters from Veng village,
3. Aus Touk village known as Veng village,
4. Torture Camp located in Tuol Kbal Krabei, Kampong Prieng 1 kilometer from the National Road #5.

After that, we decided to go and visit the locations. Before we went on, we took photos of Wat Po Laingka, 1.5 kilometers from the sub-district office. The Khmer Rouge burned down the memorial in the Wat (several years ago). There, we did not meet any witnesses to proof how many and what types of victims were kept in that prison. So, we were trying to search for witnesses in the main execution sites in Kach Roteh village.

Kach Roteh village 020802 B **Main execution site**

There, we first met, Mrs. Dam Yoeu, 40, and her husband Mr. Kang Veun, 42. Their house was once used as a Khmer Rouge hospital. The eastern side of their house was used as security office, and the western side was used as Hospital Region #1 known as Military Hospital. This location is situated in Kach Roteh village, Kampong Prieng sub-district. It is 40 kilometers east of Sangke district office, and north of National Road #5. The execution site is situated in Kach Roteh village, sitting on a plot of land with 500 x 10 meters in size.

Witnesses

- 1- Mr. Toek Sim, 39, lives in Kach Roteh village, Kampong Prieng sub-district.
- 2- Mr. Long Hin, First Lieutenant of Sub-regional Military based in Sangke district. He is one of those who was imprisoned in Wat Balang prison.

Information from the two witnesses

1. Mr. Toek Sim: He was a mobile soldier in the Khmer Rouge regime. He was once hospitalized in Military Region #1 Hospital located in Kach Roteh village and also visited and took a rest in the house of his relatives in Kach Roteh. He obviously saw and heard screams of victims while they were dying or being killed, because the distance between his house and the hospital is about 50 meters. He continued that the house's recent owner is Ms. Hoch. This house was used as a military hospital in the Khmer Rouge regime.

Mr. Toek Sim served as a soldier for 6 years (1972-1978). He broke away with the Khmer Rouge because he suffered malaria. After having resigned from the Khmer Rouge's military position, he became ordinary person and lives in his birthplace, Kach Roteh village. Moreover, he told us that victims, both young and old, were transported in 1 up to 4 truckloads from the east (no exact place of departure) on National Road #5 to kill here everyday. None of them could survive.

Types of victims

- Khmer Rouge military,
- New and Base people (the ones who have any tendencies),
- Khmer Rouge cadres, who allegedly committed offences,
- Male and female mobile units.

These people were kept in Wat Po Laingka prison in Kach Roteh village. But most of those who were transported by trucks were ordinary people, both young and old. These Khmer Rouge prison, security office and hospital were built in late 1976 and early 1977. The killing activities increased sharply from 1977-1979.

2. Mr. Long Hin: He is a very important witness because he was once imprisoned in Wat Po Laingka prison. He had been accused of being Captain in the Lon Nol regime. But he was released because, after being searched, he was proved not to be a Lon Nol soldier. According to him, two foreigners (American and Italian) were also killed there. The two foreigners were tall and thin, and got pointed nose. They were maybe 30 to 40 years old. They were wearing jeans but had no shirts. The foreigners were kept in the cell next to him. But he said he was not sure where they were killed. He also guessed that the two might have been journalists. He told us that Comrade Sim, Khmer Rouge security guard is still alive in Kach Roteh village. It was a regret that we could not move back to that village because the time was very limited. Information from other people is very similar to the one we have obtained from the witness, Mr. Toek Sim.

Mass Graves in Kach Roteh

The site has many mass graves but we were not informed of how many graves there were. Each grave contains a total of about 100 to 150 pits. Each pit is about 4 or 5 square meters with the depth of 2 meters. The estimate number of victims is about 30 to 50 in each mass grave. The

witness dug up the bodies from those graves in 1980 and 1981. He said that in some mass graves the number of victims could be up to 100. On some days, when many victims were brought there, they were killed and thrown into those mass graves. In case that the bodies could not fill up the pit, they would wait until the new victims came. So, he said, killing pits could hold bodies in 3 up to 6 layers. The number of victims may be between 5,000 to 7,500.

The executioners in Kach Roteh village are:

1-Comrade Pheng (dead) used to live in this village.

2-Comrade Mao now lives in Sre O village, Kakoh sub-district, and Mong district of Battambang.

Chumnik Village 020804 B/P
020805 B

(This site name is commonly called by villagers)

This site and the execution site are located south of the house of Mr. Uk Simontha, who is currently a teacher. The other one is behind Ta Ke Kry' s house. These locations are next to National Road #5 in Chumnik village, Anlongvil sub-district, and Sangke district, about 10 or 15 kilometers from the district office.

1. Ta Rai' Office 020804 B/P

Ta Rai was Khmer Rouge District Chief, who used Ms. Uk Simontha's house as prison. The eastern part of the house was used as the Khmer Rouge district military office, and the western part as a logistics office. According to Mr. Chhiv Khom, 54, Chief of Anlongvil sub-district, and Granny Srei Saman, there are two execution sites:

1. One is in the south of Ms. Uk Simontha's house. In that area, there are 6 main killing pits with about 100 victims.
2. The other one is in the north of the road behind Ta Ke Kry's house.

At that time, Ta Rai was a district chief. He lived in the office (Which is Ms. Simontha's house). There was a post in front of the house. If there were any travelers without a permit travelling across his house, Ta Rai's guard stopped and sent them to Ta Rai's office for interrogation. If the travelers held "legal" permits, they were released. Otherwise, they were sent to their deaths right there. Some other types of victims were those who were accused of moral offences, wrong doings of this and that, or having been involved in any trends. So the victims here were not so many as in other sites.

Behind Ta Kry's house 020805 B

There are about 8 to 10 killing pits with 50 or 60 victims. The witnesses told us that this location was not a prison, but only a place for questioning and killing. But a few victims were released.

Wat Samdech Muny 020803 B/P/M

At 3:00 p.m., we visited another location Wat Samdech, the place for keeping victims temporarily and killing. The main Wat building was used as prison. The execution site is located in the east of the Wat. This location is situated in Samdech village, Ta Pon sub-district, and Sangke district. It is 12 kilometers southeast of the district office and 15 kilometers from the provincial office. We reached the site by travelling on paths which then led to Ta Pon Road (The road condition is not so good).

There, we met 3 witnesses:

1. Mr. Tith Hoeum, 67, Assistant to the chief of Wat Samdech, was a traditional medicine expert living in Samdech village. Nowadays he lives in Wat Samdech.
2. Mr. Mao Song, 69, Committee Chief of Wat Samdech. In the Khmer Rouge time, he was an ordinary person.
3. Mr. Ken Hiep, 56, is a retired official. In the Khmer Rouge regime, he lived in Samdech village, Ta Pon sub-district. Nowadays, he is an ordinary person.

Mr. Tith Heoum said that in the Khmer Rouge regime, he was a traditional medicine expert. He mixed medicine for sick people in Wat Samdech from 1977-1979. One day, he said, he saw Khmer Rouge groups gathering mixed people (young, old, female and male) from various cooperatives in Ta Pon sub-district, and from other places to keep in the Wat. And the total number of victims each time could have been between 100-500. The Khmer Rouge told the people that, "If you want to visit your birth place, please come and write down your names and then rallied at Wat Samdech."

Next time, they cheated other people by telling them that, "If you want to plough your own rice field, and work in another cooperative where you will have sufficient food to eat, please come and register your family members, including children, husbands, wives and parents." After that they gathered those people and kept in the Wat. He continued telling us that at 6:00 a.m., they called the names of the members of each family and tied their both hands together and walked them line by line to their deaths.

At that time, he heard screams of pain of the victims. Some victims fought back against the killers just to receive even harsher battery until the blood poured and covered most part of the Wat. The killers started killing from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. But in case that they could not finish all the victims, they continued killing until 10:00 p.m. Mr. Hoeum confirmed that the killing period was between 1977-78, but the mass killing was

carried out at the end of the 1978. He himself and other 20 or 30 medicine experts had gone through a great deal of Khmer Rouge cruel activities.

Two other witnesses, who had known and seen the killing events, guarded us to take photos of the execution sites and killing pits east of the Wat. The witnesses expressed similar feelings as Mr. Hoeum had mentioned. Moreover, he added that after the victims had been killed, the killers sowed salt on the bodies, and then filled up the graves. They said he felt a regret at that time that the killers used salt to cover the bodies. During that time, people did not have salt to eat. He recalled his sentiment of his grief at the time and said that this unfortunate place was different from others. Mr. Ken Hiep, she/he confirmed that no one dared to come near here, because it was a forbidden area. If anyone crossed the bridge to the Wat, she or he might take a death risk.

Estimate Number of Killing pits and victims

Each pit is about 4 or 5 meters long and 2 meters wide, with 3 meters deep. Some pits were dug by orphans. The total number of pits both big and small here is 6.

Even though, there are a few pits, a large number of people were killed. Because the bodies were placed in many rows and layers. The estimate number of victims is from 5,000 to 6,000.

The killer (executioners)

- Comrade In and Ol (disappeared),
- Ta Sem, cooperative chief (diseased),
- Ta Saing and Ta Nauv (diseased).
- Ta Nauv (diseased).

Conclusion

We have visited the exact locations and met certain main witnesses who used to be in prison in the Khmer Rouge regime, and met those who had witnessed the real killing and Khmer Rouge activities in its era.

Possible evidence

Remains have nearly vanished. There remains some in the earth. The Khmer Rouge cadres burned down the remains in some places. There is no document left. Because some had been sent to the higher level, and the rest had been destroyed by the Khmer Rouge.

Some of perpetrators or controllers died; some disappeared; and we could not manage to search for them. People filled up most of the pits in order to do farming. So in the photos, we could not see the pits. However, we have got some witnesses, including former Khmer Rouge elements and cadres who volunteered and are willing to report the real events in that era to us.

Obstacles

The condition of most of the roads is so poor that sometimes we could not reach certain locations. Another unexpected problem is our cassette player. Our cassette player does not work well; may be it is getting very old. It is regrettable that we could not manage to record some witnesses' testimony in this district.

Ratanak Mondul District

On December 3, 1998, our research team continued our visit to another district, Ratanak Mondul. At 7 a.m., we departed from Battambang provincial town on National Road # 10 to the district office of Ratanak Mondul. We spent two hours to reach there. We met three district officials:

1. Mr. Prak Sun, Deputy District Governor,
2. Mr. Nguon Muon, District Military Commander,
3. Mr. Nop Loh, Deputy District Commissioner.

Information

There we introduced our team and then presented to the district officials our purposes and requests to visit certain sub-districts where genocide locations exist and search for witnesses, documents and possible evidence relating to genocide during the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-79). All these issues will be recorded as a long-term history of the Cambodian genocide. In other words, the Documentation Center of Cambodia plays a very important role in finding documents relating to the Cambodian genocide, mapping mass graves, gathering evidence, locating witnesses and perpetrators, and those who were once imprisoned in these Khmer Rouge prisons for Cambodian government, if necessary. Then we obtained information from those officials. The district office of Ratanak Mondul is located along National Road # 10, 37 Kilometers northeast of Battambang Provincial Office.

Geographical Features

The district location is situated in a plateau, which is mainly covered by mountains and plots of cultivating land. Most people are farmers. It is divided into 4 sub-districts and 19 villages. It has 5,160 families equal to 27,270 people. The district is bordered on:

- the north by Bavel district,
- the south by Samlot district,

- the west by Pailin town, and
- the east by Banan district.

Information Relating to Genocide Sites

- 1- All genocidal documents had already been sent to the Provincial Department of Culture.
- 2- Security office/prison (Banteay Treng) located in Kilo village, Treng sub-district, Sangke district.
- 3- Execution sites (Banteay Ba) about 50-100 meters from the barrack.
- 4- Execution sites in Cheav village are located on both sides of the intersection in the village.
- 5- Execution site in the bamboo dense forest is located in Pluav Meas sub-district.
- 6- Banteay O Ta Krey is next to National Road # 10. The execution site is about 50 to 100 meters behind the barrack.
1. (All above-mentioned locations are situated in the east along National Road # 10 around 10 Kilometers from Ratanak Mondul district office).
- 7- Execution site in Dangkat Chong Srah village.
- 8- Security office/prison in O Ta Tea (We could not reach there because of landmines).
- 9- Execution site in Prey Tum Pong located in Andaek Hep (near Phnom Veay Chap).
- 10- Thma Pruos Hospital: (Region Hospital) mass killing field (landmines nowadays).

We are informed that there are many execution sites in that area. But we could not reach there because of landmine mines. A lot of mines exist on both sides of the road we were travelling on. At 10:30 a.m., we left the district office. After that we met a sub-district chief and asked him for more detailed information.

Banteay O Ta Krey 020701 B

At 10:50 a.m., we reached Banteay O Ta Krey. This location was also used as a barrack in the Khmer Rouge era. The execution site is behind the barrack about 13 kilometers from the district office. It is close to the National Road #10. It is fenced by mine fields. Now it is used as the government police station.

We met a police commander Mann San, 42, who stayed in that barrack. About 150 to 200 meters behind that place, there are about 35 killing pits. Each pit is 5 meters long, 2 meters wide with a depth of 1.5 meters. The police commander told us that trucks transferred victims from the east to kill here between 1977 and early 1979. The estimate number of the victims is from 1,500 to 1,550.

Witness

1. Mr. Mann San was a mobile soldier in the Khmer Rouge regime. While he was cutting firewood for cooking rice, he saw executioners beating victims. Then he hid himself and continued looking at the event.
2. Mr. Nguon Muon, former chief of Treng sub-district, also obtained some information from his elder brother in law. But in 1979 he came here and collected the victims' remains. During that time, there was no minefield here. He said the victims might have been taken from Banteay Treng prison.

Phlauh Bambek Phum Cheav (meaning Crossroads at Cheav village) 020702 B/P/M

At 11:00 a.m., we moved back to an execution site called Phlauh Bambek Phum Cheav in Cheav village, Treng sub-district (near an intersection on the road to Samlot. This place was the Khmer Rouge prison. But the execution sites are on both sides of the intersection. Now people's houses cover these sites completely.

Witness

The former Sub-district Chief Mr. Nguon Muon is now First Lieutenant, Military Commander of Ratanak Mondul district. Some remains have been kept in a memorial on the intersection, but were burned down by the Khmer Rouge soldiers in 1996. There, there is no killing pit. The estimate number of victims can be 150 to 200.

Phlauh Meas 020703 B

At 12:30 p.m., we visited another execution site known as Phlauh Meas. In this location, there is no killing pit. Now, there still have some skulls left. But because of minefield, we could not reach and examine the site. A handicapped man said he had found a few remains, one meter from the pavement after mines were cleared by CMAC team. There, there is another site located next to a small stream about 150 to 200 meters from this location. But we could not reach the sites, because there are a few mine signs. These two locations are in the north of Phnom Chi Pang.

Wat Village 020704 B

Mr. Nguon Muon, our witness, testified that he had seen victims being transported by trucks from Pailin in the Khmer Rouge days. These two locations are located in Wat village, Plauv Meas sub-district, Sangke district. The estimate number is between 150 to 250. These victims were killed in between 1977-78.

Banteay Treng 020705 B/P

At 1:00 p.m., we visited another prison and execution site called Banteay Treng. This location has been used as a military barrack for 4 regimes; now it belongs to the government military. In the Khmer Rouge regime, this place was used as prison. At that time, we met Captain Uk Sokh. He told us that this location is about 50 meters next to Banteay Ba. It is located in Kilo village, Treng sub-district, and Sangke district.

Victims

According to Mr. Nguon Muon, victims were taken from village, Ka Koh sub-district, and other places including Region 1, 2, and 3, and 4. The Khmer Rouge carefully singled out those who had committed serious crimes. But the victims were mixed people. In 1975, they killed New People. In 1976, they examined people's biographies and selected those who were from different tendencies which they categorized as follows:

- reserved people,
- parasitic people,
- full rights people.

Between 1977-78, a largest number of people were indiscriminately killed there. The size of the killing field is about 10 hectares covering the entire bamboo forest called Prey Russei Sang Ha Dek. Some bodies were buried, but most of them were thrown scattering along the small stream with a 10-hectare plot of land.

Estimate number of victims

According to the witness, the estimate number of victims is about 800 to 1,000. And most killers disappeared, except Chen Kantal, perpetrator who now lives in Pailin. He is Khmer Rouge defector. His birthplace is Boeng Krasal, Snoeng sub-district, and Banan district.

Remains

Mr. Nguon Muon, former chief of Treng sub-district, said the remains were kept in one place, but also were burned down by the Khmer Rouge soldiers because this place was a controversial location.

Conclusion

In this mission, we have achieved satisfactory result. We gained a lot of reliable information, and also visited the places surrounded by mines. However, we failed to take photos of some locations because of minefield. In some execution sites, there is no killing pit; we also could not find many perpetrators and witnesses, especially the ones who were imprisoned there. Because in the Khmer Rouge time, no one dared to live near those locations. Victims had been taken from various places. After the war, if they still survive, people would return to their birthplaces located far away from those locations. Therefore, Mr. Muon assumed they were all killed.

Remains

Memorials were built to keep the victims' remains, but were later burned down by the Khmer Rouge soldiers. However, there still have some remains left in the minefields. But because of the yet-cleared minefields we could not reach those locations.

According to all informants and witnesses, there is many other execution sites in Ratanak Mondul district. We hope that after all minefields have been cleared, we will come and continue our research again.