

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

KAMPONG CHAM PROVINCE

District	Site Name/ Visit Date	Site Type	Est. Victim	Witness	File #/ID Code	Latitude	Longitude
Prey Chhor	Tuol Trapeang Lvea/ 6 July 1998	50-100 pits	300-500	Tep Mao ទេព ម៉ៅ	R 070606A/ 031302	N 12°04'1040"	E 105°15'3397"
Prey Chhor	Wat Ta Meak Prison/ 6 July 1998	Prison	N/A	Chun Chamraen ជួន ចំរើន	R 070607A/ 031301	N 12°03'4131"	E 105°14'5160"
Chamkar Leu	Mit Sao Prison/ 7 July 1998	20-30 pits	500-600	Chim Vann ជឹម វ៉ាន់	R 070703A/ 030201	N 12°20'4481"	E 105°19'4896"
Chamkar Leu	Mit Sao Prison/ 7 July 1998	Prison	N/A	Pei Nakk ប៉ី ណាក់	R 070704A/ 030202	N 12°20'4801"	E 105°19'5801"
Chamkar Leu	Wat Po Preng/ 7 July 1998	Memorial	N/A	Pei Nakk ប៉ី ណាក់	R 070704B/ 030203	N 12°20'35888"	E 105°19'4815"
Chamkar Leu	Prey Trapeang Kuk Sam/ 7 July 1998	8 big pits	8,00-1,000	Long Kheng ឡុង ខេង	R 070705A/ 030204	N 12°20'4825"	E 105°20'2417"
Chamkar Leu	Chamkar Ta Pom/ 7 July 1998	54 pits	10,000	Sum San ស៊ុម សាន	R 070707A/ 030205	N 12°20'1272"	E 105°15'5628"
Chamkar Leu	Chamkar Ta Pom/ 7 July 1998	Prison	N/A	Sum San ស៊ុម សាន	R 070707B/ 030206	N 12°20'2256"	E 105°15'5411"
O Reang Ov	Prey Thoudong/ 8 July 1998	Memorial 6 pits	214	Kiv Huon គីវ ហ្គុន	R 070802A/ 031101	N 11°47'3824"	E 105°30'2622"
O Reang Ov	Trapeang Sangke/ 8 July 1998	Prison 8 pits	319-500	Khlok Yan ខ្លោក យ៉ាន	R 070803A/ 031102	N 11°48'0977"	E 105°28'1305"
O Reang Ov	Moat Boeng Kapit/ 8 July 1998	4 pits	240	Heng Khorn	R 070804A/ 031103	N 11°48'3486"	E 105°26'4998"

Documentation Center of Cambodia

Searching for the Truth

ស្វែងរកការពិត ដើម្បី ការបង្កើនចំណេះដឹងយុត្តិធម៌

	8 July 1998			ហេង យន			
Koh Sotin	Wat Chumnik/ 9 July 1998	Prison 40 pits	300-800	Ing Khemara ឥង ខេមរា	R 070904A/ 030801	N 11°52'5220"	E 105°25'1021"
Koh Sotin	Neak Ta Chen/ 9 July 1998	10 big pits	1,000- 1,500	Muok Savin មួក សាវិន	R 070904B/ 030802	N 11°53'3512"	E 105°25'3444"
Koh Sotin	Wat Chihe/ 9 July 1998	Memorial	N/A	Chan Kim Chin ចាន់ គីម ជិន	R 070905A/ 030803	N 11°53'3998"	E 105°25'5866"
Batheay	Santesokh Batheay Prison/ 10 July 1998	Prison Memorial 400-500 pits	8,000- 10,000	Sim Saroeun ស៊ីម សារឿន	R 071001A/ 030101	N 11°59'4551"	E 104°50'4780"
Batheay	Chamkar Daem Khnao/ 10 July 1998	150-200 pits	3,000- 7,000	Ros Aun រស់ ឥន	R 071002A/ 030102	N 12°02'3244"	E 104°58'4461"
Batheay	Svay Chrum/ 10 July 1998	a rice field (200meters , 300 meters)	500-600	Sim Saroeun ស៊ីម សារឿន	R 071004A/ 030103	N 11°59'0184"	E 104°56'3633"
Batheay	Tuol Khmaoch Chaom/ 10 July 1998	100-200 pits	700-800	Sa Meng ស ម៉េង	R 071006A/ 030104	N 11°53'4937"	E 104°53'3595"
Srey Santher	Munty Prey Ta Beh	5 mass graves and 2 pits	8,000- 10,000	Kot Tin កុត ទីន	R 112808A/ 031405	N 11° 49' 0045"	E 105° 05' 5924"
Srey Santher	Ta Duong Prison (also known as Wat Prasat Watdei	Prison 10 pits	4,000	Chhem Chhorn ច័ន្ទ ឆន	R 112806A/ 031404	N 11° 53' 2568"	E 105° 09' 4879"
Srey Santher	Wat Chey Mongkol	Prison Memorial 6 mass graves	2,000	Mong Sreng ម៉ុង ស្រេង	R 112805A/ 031403/M 031401/P 031402/B	N 11° 54' 1729"	E 105° 14' 3705"

Dambe	Khnao Chas (GPS data missing)	Prison 6 pits	1,200	Bun Nhal ប៊ុន ញ៉ាល	R 112403A/ 030401 B 030402 P	N 11° 53' 4118"	E 105° 92' 4166"
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On July 6, 1998, the Documentation Center of Cambodia [DC-Cam], in cooperation with the Archives Department of Council of Ministers, sent its mapping team to Kampong Cham province in order to do research in certain districts in the province. The mapping team departed Phnom Penh at 6:30 a.m. via National Route 6A to Kampong Cham province. We arrived at the provincial hall at 9: 30 a.m. There we talked to:

- 1- Mr. Kao Bunna, Deputy Director of Public Relations Office.
- 2- Mr. Lay Seng Hott, Deputy Director of the Provincial Cabinet.
- 3- H.E Hun Neng, Governor. He granted us a permit letter and arranged for our team to carry out the research in accordance with the formalities in the province. Later, we went to the Office of Culture and Fine Arts, where we met the Acting Deputy Chief of the office and he agreed to cooperate with us. He joined our trip to Prey Chhor district.

Information

According to the report provided by the provincial office, Kampong Cham province is situated north of Phnom Penh. It lies on a high land plain rich in forests, mountains, lakes, and rivers. Kampong Cham is the second biggest province in Cambodia.

- The total area: 9,798.60 square kilometers
- Cropping area: 3,295.50 square kilometers
- Cultivation area: 7,720.00 square kilometers
- Year-long cropping area: 575.50 square kilometers
- Cultivable area: 81.00 square kilometers
- Uncultivable area: 2,822.00 square kilometers
- Public construction area: 82.52 square kilometers
- Village and city area: 623.06 square kilometers
- Hydrological area: 126.60 square kilometers
- Road area: 271.20 square kilometers
- Rivers, lakes, water routes: 570.58 square kilometers
- Mountainous area: 908.90 square kilometers
- National defense belt construction: 11.10 square kilometers
- Miscellaneous area: 277.85 square kilometers

- Total area for planting trees 3,000 square kilometers
- Low forest coverage: 490 square kilometers
- Deep forest: 420 square kilometers
- Half deep forest: 4,930 square kilometers
- Flooded forest: 950 square kilometers
- Bamboo forest: 290 square kilometers

In this province, there are 16 districts, 173 sub-districts and 1,747 villages. The total population is 1,566,293, out of which 760,000 are male and 806,288 are female. Kampong Cham is bounded to the north by Kratie and Kamong Thom, to the south by Prey Veng, to the west by Kampong Chhnang, and to the east by Vietnam. In the Khmer Rouge time, Kampong Cham was in the Eastern Zone. People make their livings by growing rice, fruit tree farms, and other cropping, and doing fishing and producing rubber.

July 6, 1998

Prey Chhor District

After finishing lunch at 11:30 a.m., we left for Prey Chhor district and arrived there at 12:00 noon. We met district Governor at his home. His name was Mr. Meas Tuok.

Information

Prey Chhor district is located west of the provincial hall of Kampong Cham province. It is about 24 kilometers from the hall via National Route 6A to the district. According to the district report, this district has 15 sub-districts and 176 villages. The total population is 127,000. The land area is categorized as follows:

- Rice farming area: 18,000 hectares
- Fruit tree farming: 12,000 hectares
- Dry season farming: 1,000 hectares
- Major means of making a living: growing crops and fruit-trees, and climbing palm trees for palm sugar.
- People over the age of 18, which are eligible to vote, are 16,000.

Prey Chhor district is bordered by Baray district in Kampong Thom on the north, by Kang Meas district in Kampong Cham on the south, by Cheung Prey in Kampong Cham on the west, and by Kampong Siem in Kampong Cham on the east. In the Khmer Rouge time, Prey Chhor district was in Region 42 of the Eastern Zone.

Prey Chhor District Genocide Sites:

1. *Wat Ta Meak, Security office and prison of Region 42, located in Ta Sleng village, Chrey Vien sub-district.*
2. *Tuol Trapeang Lvea, Chrey Vien sub-district.*
3. Interrogation center and prison located in a former village called Tatit, which now becomes part of Daun Dei village.
4. Security offices, prison, and execution sites, Kor sub-district.
5. Security offices, prison, and execution site, Wat Thma Poun in Thma Poun sub-district.

The sites are about 10 kilometers from the district hall. They cannot be reached by car. According to the witness named Tep Mao, mass killings took place at these sites. Killings were also committed in 12 other sub-districts though in a smaller scale than in these three sites.

Direct visit to the genocide sites

At 1:00 p.m., our team joined by the officials of the provincial culture office reached the site of Tuol Trapeang Lvea, where we met Mr. Nan Heng, 37, who is currently Chief of Daun Dei village, Chrey Vien sub-district. He was in a mobile work brigade in the Khmer Rouge time. In 1981, he returned to his home village. He first started work as from group leader to his current job as village chief. He himself visited the killing sites and collected the remains of the victims. Once a year on May 20 people celebrate the Hatred Day against the genocidal clique of Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, and Khieu Samphan. Accompanied by our witness, we walked about 800 meters to the site, to examine the killing sites. We further asked him for more information while walking on the way to the killing site.

1. Tuol Trapeang Lvea 031302 B Daun Dei village, Chrey Vien sub-district

The size of the killing site is 50 meters wide and 100 meters long. There are from 12 to 15 pits on the top of Tuol Trapeang Lvea, 10 pits on the surrounding rims of Tuol (anthill) Trapeang Lvea and 50 to 100 small pits at the Tuol Prey in the vicinity of Tuol Trapeang Lvea.

Number of victims

Mr. Nan Hieng estimated that the site contained at least 50 to 100 victims on top of the anthill near the edge of a pond, and from 20 to 150 surrounding the small anthill. Total number of victims is approximately 500. The second witness, Mr. Tep Mao, 61, lives in Daun Sei village, Chrey Vien sub-district. In the Khmer Rouge time, he lived in Chambakk village next to Daun Dei. He agreed with the first witness, Mr. Nan Hieng. He added that in the Khmer Rouge time, he saw lines of 2-4 victims tied up together and walked from the nearby Chrey Vien sub-district at 1:00 p.m. Some victims were brought from Wat Ta Meak prison and the prison in Tatit village. Some other victims were brought from various villages in Chrey Vien sub-district and in nearby sub-district. The Khmer Rouge cadres brought people from many sub-districts interchangeably.

Those considered wrong and those seen through their biographies as having tendency toward supporting Lon Nol regime, as well as Khmer Rouge officials considered wrong, were killed there.

2. Ta Meak Prison 031301 P

Ta Sleng village, Chrey Vien, Sub-district

At 3:00 p.m., we visited Ta Meak prison in Ta Sleng village, Chrey Vien sub-district. There, we collected information from two witnesses, Mr. Chun Chamraen, 61 and Mr. Ket Poch, 66. They were born and live in Ta Sleng village, Chrey Vien sub-district. Currently they are clergymen of the Wat. In the Khmer Rouge time, Mr. Chun Chamraen lived near Wat Ta Meak. He showed us the two residences and dining hall of the Wat, which the Khmer Rouge used as prisons. Mrs. Chum Touch lived behind the Wat. The Khmer Rouge used her house as kitchen. She is still alive. Looking at the monk's residence, we saw holes in the walls into which the Khmer Rouge constructed iron shackles for prisoners. We took pictures of the holes as evidence. We interviewed Mr. Chun Chamraen and Mr. Ket Poch for details. Mr. Ket Poch told us that there was another security office and prison at Kor sub-district, where mass killing happened. He saw Lon Nol soldiers brutally killed by the Khmer Rouge cadres in a large scale in 1973-74 and 75. The site is called Tuol Prey Totung, close to a river. Tik Chha is a stream that flows about 2 kilometers to the side of Wat Kor. Another site is near Wat Tham Poun in Thma Puon sub-district, where a lot of people were killed. In the Khmer Rouge time, he saw and heard clearly because he lived there.¹

Conclusion

This time Kampong Cham trip was very hard because heavy rains flooded many areas and fields. So we had to walk through knee-deep water. We were very sorry that we could not go ahead to Kor and Thma Puon sub-districts because the road was very slippery and bumpy, with big deep holes. If we went there and the rain came when we were half way, we may have been in big trouble. It took us half day to work at Prey Chhor. In my view, we should once again visit the sites in harvest or dry season because two witnesses and the district Governor reported to us very clearly, especially that they saw killing acts over there. We finished Prey Chhor at 4:00 p.m.

July 7, 1998

Chamkar Leu District

On July 7, 1998, our team visited Chamkar Leu district. We departed from the provincial hall of Kampong Cham at 7 a.m. via National Route 6A. At Traeng Market, we turned right, taking Street 71 toward Chamkar Leu. It is 30 kilometers from Treang Market to Chamkar Leu; and 45 kilometers from the provincial hall of Kampong Cham to Chamkar Leu district. At 9:30 a.m., we arrived there and met Mr. Khlaut Phorn, District Governor, and Mr. Yin Kim Horn, Deputy Governor. We informed them of our purposes and requested to visit and research some places in this district. The Governor described to us in full. The district hall is at a crossroad on Route 71 north of Kampong Cham. Chamkar Leu

¹ Note that there are two sites we could not reach because of time constraint and a difficult road.

district is bounded to the north by Baray District in Kampong Thom, to the south by Prey Chhor and Kampong Siem districts, to the west by Baray district in Kampong Thom, and to the east by Stung Trang district in Kampong Cham province. The district consists of 8 sub-districts and 97 villages, in which 65 are farm villages, 19 are Chamkar Kaosou (rubber) villages, and one is Kabbass (cotton plant) village. 5 sub-districts are the rubber plantation areas. All rubber plantations belong to a rubber and coconut tree company. The total population is 122,589, out of which 61,227 are male and the rest female. People over 18 amount 61,300. Most of the people make their livings by growing rice or other crops, and doing logging and sawing business.

Chamkar Leu District Genocide sites

- 1) Speu sub-district, Chamkar Leu district
 - a- Prey Trapeang Kuk Sam, execution site.
 - b- Trapeang Khna, executions site.
 - c- Wat Po Preng, memorial.
(This site, 8 kilometers from the district hall, is in Po Preng village, Speu sub-district.)
- 2) Execution sites (Region 42, Central Zone) at Chamkar Ta Pom, Chamkar Svay, and Chamkar Andaung

The leader of Committee of Region 42, Central Zone, lived in the place where is now Chamkar Leu district office. The current district office is the former political training school of the Khmer Rouge.² The district Governor continued to tell us that the victims were brought in from Region 41 to the east of the Mekong River—in that there are Krauch Chhmar, Tbong Khmum, Memot and also from Kang Meas, Prey Chhor, Cheung Prey and Batheay districts. He estimated the number of victims at tens of thousands. Killings happened in other sub-districts, but not in so much large a scale as in Kor sub-district and Chamkar Andaung sub-district. The Deputy Governor told us that victims at Chamkar Ta Pom, Chamkar Svay, Chamkar Durian included:

- High rank officials, colonels, and those with higher ranks as well as capitalists from the Lon Nol regime.
- The Khmer Rouge killed new people in 1975-76. Also killed there were the Khmer Rouge cadres [who committed something wrong]. Chairman of the Central Zone Committee was Ke Pauk alias Ke Vin³ (*rumor*).
- Chairman of Region 42 was Comrade Soeun.

That district was different from others. Some sub-districts had 3 or 4 security offices, that is:

² Note that the site of Chamkar Ta Pom, Chamkar Svay, Chamkar Andaung is only one site but is called by three different names. 3 kilometers to the north of Chamkar Leu district hall.

³ Ke Pauk defected to the Royal Government of Cambodia in May 1998.

- 1 security office for the mobile team.
- 1 security office for Chamkar Kabbass.
- 1 security office for Chamkar Kao Sou.
- 1 security office for Chamkar Daem Morn.

These 4 sites were in Svay Teap sub-district in Chamkar Leu district. The killing there was not in a large scale, 1 or 2 victims only. The mass killing was carried out at the district security office, office of Comrade Sao, the chief of security of the Khmer Rouge in this Region. Another big killing site was at Chamkar Ta Pom and Chamkar Svay.

Direct visit to the genocide sites

We first visited Comrade Sao Prison and the execution sites at Trapeang Kuk Sam, and Trapeang Khna.

3. Comrade Sao Prison 030202 B

Mr. Long Kheng, district officials of Chamkar Leu, we departed the district hall by Route 71, then turned left to the Road 222. At 10 a.m., we met with Deputy Chief of Po Preng village, Speu sub-district, and 3 witnesses introduced by the former. Some of the witnesses had been imprisoned in Comrade Sao Prison, others saw the victims being led, and some others excavated the pits, looking for gold after 1979.

Witness

Mr. Khean Thol, 36, Mr. Um Phorn, 36, Deputy Chief of Po Preng village and Mr. Chin Vann were imprisoned in Comrade Sao Prison. These three witnesses were born in Po Preng village, Speu sub-district, Chamkar Leu district, Kampong Cham province.

4. Wat Po Preng 030203 B

Po Preng village, Speu sub-district

It was built in 1973, operated until 1979. In other killing sites like Prey Trapeang Kuk Sam, Trapeang Khna, the Khmer Rouge killed villagers from the day the prison was built until 1979. These three witnesses, along with Mr. Bin Nak, village Chief, currently Chief of Po Preng village, Speu sub-district, are very important.

Victims

The Khmer Rouge killed villagers sorted by year before and after 1975. In 1975, soldiers, civil servants, new people, teachers, literate people, big capitalists, military officials, policemen, and alleged spies were arrested. In 1976-79, evacuees from the city were also arrested. The Khmer Rouge first took only husbands. In 1977-78, they took the whole family. They practiced the theory, “*[If you] pick out the grass, [you must] pull out its roots*”. The Khmer Rouge cadres at village or sub-district levels (or high military rank) who were considered immoral were also killed

there. In 1976-77, the Khmer Rouge arrested new and base people, accusing them of having immoral conducts or having tendency [toward supporting individual(s) viewed as Ankar's enemy]. They were imprisoned and then killed. The victims were also killed at Trapeang Khna. The witness reported that those killed here were brought by cars or by ox-carts. The last wave of killing individuals young and old, male and female, or even families, was within 1977-78.

Graves

1- Trapeang Kuk Sam has 8 square pits of 4 meters each side with the depth of 7 meters. So 8 pits of 50 to 100 victims each contain between 400-800 victims.

2-In Trapeang Khna, there are approximately 500-700 small pits, and each small pit contains 4 to 5 victims over one square kilometer. The area is about one square kilometer with each side of about 1,000 meters. According to our witness Mr. Pei Nakk, village Chief, the number of victims could reach 10,000. Total victims at these two sites: Trapeang Kuk Sam and Treapeang Khna can be from 6,300 up to 10,000. We took pictures of and interviewed all four persons who agreed to report to us and to be witnesses.

5. Comrade Sao Office/Prison (no GPS reading)

Po Preng village, Speu sub-district

At 10:50 a.m., we took picture of the site called "Comrade Sao Office" where the security chief lived. This site is currently a field of betel trees, longan trees, and houses. It is in Po Preng village, Speu sub-district, Chamkar Leu district. In the pictures attached, Mr. Long Kheng was standing and pointing to the site (pictures taken for our record). At 11:30 a.m., our team went to look and take pictures of the prison, about 100 meters close to Comrade Sao Office. There were three double mango trees and one separate mango tree. Mr. Pei Nakk was pointing to the place as in the picture we took for our record.

6. Trapeang Khna (no GPS reading)

Po Preng village, Speu sub-district

At 11:40 a.m., our team and the village chief went to the first killing site, Trapeang Khna, about 150 meters from the prison. There, we met Mr. Kung Dum. We took picture of him pointing to the site. Mr. Long Kheng pointed to the pits that were not totally covered. We interviewed Mr. Kung Dum. He knew that many people were killed there, the same information as the previous witnesses told us. At 12:00 noon, we visited the memorial, which store victims' remains in Wat Po Preng in Veal village, Speu sub-district, Chamkar Leu district. This Wat is next to the forest of Trapeang Khna. People used to celebrate the Hatred Day on May 20. Now there are no remains. The on-looking villagers echoed that no one takes care of Po Preng memorial.

7. Prey Trapeang Kuk Sam 030204 B

Po Preng village, Speu sub-district

At 12 noon, we visited, took GPS reading, took picture of the second site, Prey Trapeang Kuk Sam, situated at the edge of the village about 1 kilometer away. We drove our car on the ox-cart trail toward the site. Mr. Long Kheng standing and pointing to the killing sites. A total estimated number of victims at Prey Trapeang Kuk Sam is 2,400-6,300, the number could reach 10,000.

8. Chamkar Ta Pom 030205 B/P

Ta Pom village, Chamkar Andaung sub-district

At 2 p.m., our team visited the killing site in Chamkar Ta Pom, Chamkar Svay or Chamkar Durian (Khmer Rouge Region 42). It is about 3 kilometers from the district hall. We travel on street 71. Just go 3 kilometers ahead, turn right and then take another 600 meters, the site is close to Andaung rubber plantation. We can recognize this site because there are mango trees, durian growing field and peanuts and sesame fields as a mark. There, we met two witnesses:

1. Mr. Sum Sam, male, 47, currently lives in Ta Pom village, Chamkar Andaung sub-district. In the Khmer Rouge time, he lived in Andaung Po village, Andaung Po sub-district, Chamkar Leu district, Kampong Cham.
2. Mr. Chhun Iv, 41, currently lives in Ta Bom village, Chamkar Leu sub-district. In the Khmer Rouge time, he lived at the same place in Chamkar Leu district. There were rice fields next to the killing site.

When returning to their home village in 1979, all the witnesses saw the corpses of victims killed by the Khmer Rouge. They also saw some remains of the corpses in 1984 when villagers excavated the pits looking for gold. Mr. Chhun Iv saw the Khmer Rouge cadres kill 20 or more truckloads of victims at a time. The prison of Chamkar Ta Pom (**030206**) is just 300 meters away from the burial site.

Victims

A mixture of people, young, old, male and female, were evacuated [from the cities] between 1973-1979. The biggest wave of killing was in 1977-78. The witness said that the execution happened once or twice a month but there were 20 or more truckloads of victims killed at a time. All witnesses continued to tell us that in 1975 and after 1975, either the base or new people were killed. The mass killing was in 1977-78. The information we obtained from the district Governor also covered the kinds of victims killed at Chamkar Ta Bom in Region 42.

Estimation of pits and victims

On the right-hand side, there were 20 big square-shaped pits, each with 4 meters each side, 2 meters deep. Each pit contains 50 to 100 or possibly 100-200 corpses. So, in total, there were approximately 2,000 or 4,000 victims. On the left-hand side, there were 30 pits of US B52, and 4 wells. The square-shaped US B52 pit is 10 meters each side, 7 meters deep. The well is also square-like with 1.5 meters each side, 7 to 12

meters deep. There were 30 small and big pits with 2 or 3 meters each side. An estimated number of victims in a pit is 30 to 50. The reported figures are as follows:

- US B52: 3 x 100 = 300 victims
- Well: 4 x 100 = 400 victims
- Pits: 4 x 50 = 200 victims

Total: 9,00 victims

So, the minimum number of victims killed would be about 2,900 and the maximum 4,900. We took picture of the witnesses and recorded our detailed interviews on cassettes. They agreed to be witnesses and gave the same information on the number of graves and victims.

Conclusion

We did a good job in Chamkar Leu district, because we made it possible to visit all the important sites we planned. We met important witnesses and former prisoners of the Khmer Rouge although we could not find the remains and the documents. The cult and religion officials of the district held the documents. They live very far from the places we visited. They did not come to the district hall. We visited, took picture, and took GPS reading of all pits, security offices and prison. The local authorities at every level were very helpful. We did not care about security problem because through our experience a simple, close friendly approach is always successful.

July 8, 1998

O Reang Ov District

At 6:30 a.m., we departed from the provincial hall of Kampong Cham, and took a ferry across the Mekong tribute called Tonle Bet. Then, we traveled toward the district office. We turned right at Suong Market and went on via National Route 5. We arrived at the district hall of O Reang Ov at 8:30 a.m. There, we met two important officials: 1) Mr. Em Yin, Chief of officials of the district Culture and Find Arts, 2) Mr. Yin Say, Chief of the Office of Culture and Religion. We showed them our authorized research permit, telling them our purposes and requesting to examine the Khmer Rouge crimes in this district. The district Governor was on a mission to the town of Kampong Cham. So, we obtained information from the two officials above.

District geography

O Reang Ov district lies along National Route 15 linked to Suong district and Prey Veng province. This district is located west of Kampong Cham. It is about 30 kilometers from Kampong Cham provincial hall. In the Khmer Rouge time, it was in the Eastern Zone. The district comprises 8 sub-districts. The O Reang Ov district is bordered on:

- the north by Tbong Khmum district, Kampong Cham,
- the south by Sithor Kandal district and Kanchreach district, Prey Veng,
- the west by Koh Sotin district, Kampong Cham and Prey Veng,
- the east by Ponhea Krek district, Kampong Cham.

It is very important and helpful that we have documents on the map of the genocide sites provided by Mr. Yin Say, Chief of the District Culture and Religion Office. We decided to go straight to the prison, security office, and the killing sites.

9. Prey Thoudong 031101 B/M

Village 2, Korng Chey sub-district

At 9:30 a.m., Mr. Say accompanied us to O Reang Ov district. We went to the killing site, Wat O Reang Ov. The site is in front of the Wat O Reang Ov. It is called Prey Thoudong. The remains are held in a stupa in the compound of Wat O Reang Ov. This is located in village 2, Korng Chey sub-district, and O Reang Ov district. We have found witnesses at the area, and we also took with us documents, so that we could ask for details. We met Mr. Chiv Horn, 68. He currently lives in Village 2, Kong Chey sub-district. In the Khmer Rouge time, he also lived there.

Information from, Mr. Chey Horn

This site was neither a security office, nor a prison. It was a place for temporarily detaining people to be interrogated. The victims were brought in family by family, and sometimes two families at one time, to Prey Thoudong in the front of Wat O Reang Ov. The victims were detained in two school buildings of 8 rooms and in the Wat before the Khmer Rouge cadres executed them.

Victims

The victims were people of all ages including young, old, male, or female. Mixed kinds of victims including married people, children, military commanders, Lon Nol soldiers, civil servants, teachers, professors, students, doctors, and capitalists. Also, new people who were evacuated in 1975 were killed. They were brought in from various cooperatives, villages, and sub-districts of O Reang Ov district. They were killed during the period of 1977-78 and early 1979. The way of killing is by cheating wives into believing that they were being taken to see their husbands. This means the husband had already been killed in 1975-76.

Information from Mr. Em Yin

There were some base people over there. The Khmer Rouge killed all new people. According to Mr. Em Yin, district culture officials, military commanders and soldiers were killed. According to the District Report dated June 15, 1997:

- 1- Monorom with two mass graves containing 1,406 victims.
- 2- Koh Nhek with 1 mass grave containing 164 victims.
- 3- Cheay Kao Sou, 1 mass grave containing 150 victims.
- 4- Dei Mountain, 1 mass grave containing 234 victims.

These sites were in Thma Da Kaet (east) and Thma Da Lech (west), Tuol Sophy sub-districts. These sites were close to one another at the slope of the mountain. We took pictures of 6 wells into which people were killed and thrown. The number of victims is estimated at 200. We took pictures of the remains, which are annually celebrated every May 20. Interviews with the witnesses were recorded on cassettes.

10. Wat Po Meas

Bos La-hong village, Ampil Tapork sub-district

At 10:30 a.m., we went to Wat Po Meas and Trapeang Sangke (**031102 B/P**) genocide sites. There, we found three witnesses:

- 1- Mr. Chhlot Yan, 65.
- 2- Mr. Neou Pan, 64.
- 3- Mr. Chuon Sat, 62.

The locations are in Bos La-Hong village, Ampil Tapork sub-district, O Reang Ov district. They all were born in Bos La-Hong district. In the Khmer Rouge time, they also lived there. Mr. Yan was a village official; Mr. Pan was a construction worker in the Khmer Rouge time. Now they all were members of the Wat comMitee.

Information from witnesses

The security office was built in 1975. People were killed there between 1977-79. This site was not a prison; it was a place to temporarily detain victims for interrogation before killing. The temporary places were a Wat dining hall and a building of Wat Po Meas. The last places to stop over were a ceremony hall, a dining hall and a building of Wat Po Meas. In these places, before being killing, victims were interrogated and then one family were tied and brought to kill at a time. During each time of killing, loud music, especially with microphone, was played loud music to cover the scream of victims from being heard.

Victims

1- Families of commanders, soldiers, civil servants of the Lon Nol regime. The eastern Khmer Rouge cadres killed people, family by family in 1976.

2- Families of cadres at village, sub-district and district levels were killed by the Khmer Rouge military in 1977. The husbands were killed first. The Southwest Zone Khmer Rouge cadres killed the people.⁴

The Khmer Rouge brought Krachao [hemp] by trucks to tie the victims. The people were brought in from various villages to be killed at Trapeang Sangke. Mr. Chhlot Yan told us that one time he heard victims scream. When he sneaked in closer, he saw the victims being killed. He also saw some victims being killed while he was on a palm tree. The total number of victims is estimated at between 300-500. Yan was an Eastern Khmer Rouge cadre. He lived right in this place. He survived because he escaped into the jungle. We have taken photos of the 8 big pits. We have also taken photos of 3 witnesses and recorded their interview on cassette tapes.

11. Prey Moat Boeng Kapit 031103 B

Thma Samlieng village, Mien sub-district

Kapit (forest around Kapit lake) or called Chhoung Daun Sa is located in Thma Samlieng village, Mien sub-district. It is about 8 kilometers from the district hall. Here, we found witnesses at killing sites, and they witnessed the killing activities. Mr. Heng Khan, 45, currently lives in Thma Samlieng village, Mien sub-district. He is Third Deputy Sub-district Chief responsible for fine arts. His house is about 100 meters from Prey Moat Boeng Kapit. In the Khmer Rouge time, he lived in the same place as above. He saw killings at 10 a.m.. The last day, he saw a boy being hit on the head with rock till death. People were brought from every cooperative, and they were killed there. There were two main kinds of victims:

1. The first were soldiers, civil servants of the Lon Nol regime.
2. The second were families of Eastern Khmer Rouge cadres. The method of killing is by cheating people. Wives were told to go and see their husbands. They were stopped over in a textile factory, logistic warehouses in Thma Samlieng village, Mien sub-district. They were brought to be killed just about 100 meters away from the village. The site of killing is square-shaped with 50-80 meters each side. There were about 60 pits with a total of 200-300 victims.

Mr. Heng Khan added that the area was a flooded forest. In the flooding season, corpses were floating around, all over the Kapit Lake. He tied the smelly corpses, and brought them to place far away to get rid of the smell. Truckloads of people were brought to kill here. We took pictures of the site, and witnesses. Interviews with the witness were recorded on cassettes.

⁴ Ampil Tapork sub-district comprises 12 villages. There were 12 cooperatives in the Khmer Rouge regime. The victims were all killed here. People were cheated like those at Wat Prey Stung. Husbands were killed first, then wives, and children. Pretty women were raped by the Khmer Rouge cadres before the killing. The killing wave got worse in 1978.

Conclusion

We have done a good job at O Reang Ov district. We managed to visit 3 sub-districts. We found important killing sites and witnesses. In the meantime, documents from the districts had a big slogan saying, "Absolutely against the Khmer Rouge regime, prevent the return of this regime". The second documents are about crimes, genocide sites such as prison, pits, and interrogation centers classified by sub-districts in the district. The district Governor had signed and sealed the documents for official record. Some obstacles result from day-and-night rains that make it impossible to access remote sites. The ox-cart trail, muddy, cannot be reached by car, and too far to walk. If we have a chance to come back again with the guidance from the documents in the dry season, please see the map of O Reang Ov district, and also a list of killing sites including number of victims and pits.

July 9, 1998

Koh Sotin district

On July 9, 1998, our team boarded a taxi-boat down the Mekong River tribute called Tonle Bet to Koh Pen with an area of 8 square kilometers. At Chihe sub-district, we took another taxi-boat. We arrived at the Koh Sotin district hall at 8 a.m. We met Mr. Muok Sarin, Chief of the District Administration and Culture Office and Mr. Ing Chim called Ing Khemara, Deputy Chief of Kampong Cham Health Care Center in Koh Sotin district. There, we showed our authorized mission permit to important officials in the district, and told them about the purposes and requests of our team. According to Mr. Muok Sarin, the district is 17 kilometers from the provincial hall. The district is a plain land with rivers, river tributaries (Prek), streams, lakes, and flooded forests. Koh Sotin district is bordered on:

- the north by Kampong Siem, and Kong Meas districts, Kampong Cham province,
- the south with Sithor Kandal district, Prey Veng province,
- the west with Srei Santhor, Kampong Cham province,
- the east with Tbong Khmum district and O Reang Ov district, Kampong Cham province.

The district has 8 sub-districts and 85 villages. The total population is 13,832 families or 74,888 people, of whom 36,130 are male. 80% of the people are farmers; 10% handicraftsmen; 5% businessmen and 5% fishermen. Main production is steaming tobacco leaves to produce Cambodian Ko Tab cigarettes. Total land area is 17,633 hectares. Cultivation area is 5,024 hectares. Rice field is 1,365 hectares. Mr. Chan Kim Chin told us about security office, prison, and killing sites as follows:

1. Wat Chumnik has prisons, security offices, and killing sites. The killing site was 100 meters behind the Wat. Today, it is a crematorium. The Wat is located in Bakk Nam village, Peam Pra Pnoh sub-district, Koh Sotin district.

2. Kbal Koh village (at present called village 2), Koh Sotin district. The killing site with many pits is located in Neak Ta Chen (at present called Sala Chen [meaning the Chinese School]). People built their houses on top.
3. Prek Ta Nuong sub-district:
 - Wat Ta Nuong, security office and prison.
 - Wat Pung Ro, security and prison.
4. Memorial in front of Wat Chihe, Chihe village, Koh Sotin district. Remains were brought from Neak Ta Chen, where they used to be stored.

Witness:

1. Mr. Muok Sarin is an official of Koh Sotin district since 1979. He is now a sub-district chief. He cooperated with various officials, especially at Koh Sotin to report to us.
2. Mr. Chan Kim Chin, Chief of District Culture Office. He reported the same as Mr. Muok Sarin.

In the Khmer Rouge time, Mr. Ing Khemara was imprisoned in the prison at Wat Chumnik. He saw the acts of killings. He was hit with sticks three times till unconscious. Mr. Chhim Chea was a Khmer Rouge cadre responsible for culture and fine arts of the Khmer Rouge regime. He was disbanded in 1977 because he was known as an intellectual. He lived in Batt Nam village, Prathnuoh sub-district, close to Wat Chumnik, which was a prison and security office.

12. Wat Chumnik 130801 P/B

Bakk Nam village, Peam Prathnuoh

After obtaining information from the four witnesses, our team went to the genocide site at Wat Chumnik. The site is located in Batt Nam village, Peam Prathnuoh sub-district, Koh Sotin district. Our team accompanied by our four witnesses went to visit the Wat, a former Khmer Rouge prison. The stupa was used as dark prison and place of interrogation. Killing took place behind the Wat. The Khmer Rouge killed the victims and pushed the corpses into a well in the Wat. We took pictures of all these places. Mr. Ing Khemara was imprisoned there. He told us that the Wat was the dark prison. The well was also the killing place. One day, he saw about 50-100 prisoners doing work such as chopping fire wood, grinding rice, carrying water, cultivating plants near the Wat. The prisoners of serious cases were not allowed to come out. The prison was built in between 1976-79.

There were two kinds of prisoners:

1. Those with a tendency [toward supporting any party], soldiers, policemen, military police, civil servants, teachers, professionals and students were killed from 1975 onward.

2. The Eastern Khmer Rouge cadres who were considered wrong in their behavior or any kinds of immorality. They were gathered from various sub-districts. Almost all the people imprisoned there died. They were men only, not children. Their wives, evacuees, and the base people were partly sent to Kampong Thom province. Mr. Ing Khmera and Mr. Chhim Chea told us that the one-eyed man named Comrade Pheap, Chief of the Khmer Rouge Security, was dead. Another prison chief named Comrade Meach is alive and lives in O Reang Ov district. Mr. Chhim Chea recalled that once he was plowing near the Wat, he saw prisoners crawling and looking for food. He felt pity for them. He baked potatoes and kept them at a place for the prisoners to eat, then he ran away, fearing that he might be seen.

Mr. Ing Khmera told us that when the Khmer Rouge killed people, they turned on microphone. When the sound of the microphone went off, he heard screams. He survived because a villager helped him. Mr. Ing Khemra added that there was a work site called Karathan (place where people were sent to work collectively). This was for family of civil servants totaling 567 people, of whom he was one. Every day, they were led to cut forest, to do rice farming at about 8 meters far away at 4 a.m. and had to work until 4 p.m., until 1979. They were all killed. The group of three including him was brought to the prisons at Wat Chumnik.

Number of pits at Wat Chumnik:

1. A well contains about 70 victims.
2. About 200-300 pits contain 2-4 victims each. In total, there are an estimated 300-400 or up to 800 victims due to many times of continuous killings.

List of former prisoners who are still alive today:

1. Mr. Mao Bun Thoeun, a barber at present.
2. Ms. Chheav Nai Chhin is a teacher at Damnak Pring School.
3. Mr. Nguon Kim An, Director of Kampong Cham Health Care Center at present.
4. Mr. Kuoch Ya at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at present.
5. Mr. Pheng, Official in the Treasurer Office of Province. He only remembers there were many people imprisoned with him in the Khmer Rouge time, though not who and where they are now. For more detail, we recorded our interviews with Mr. Muok Sarin and Mr. Ing Khemera on cassettes.

13. Neak Ta Chen 030802 B
Kbal Koh village, Koh Sotin sub-district

At 12 noon, we departed Wat Chumnik. We looked for people who took remains to store in a proper holy way (memorial). In front of Wat Chihe, there were 4 jars. The remains had been stored at the Chinese school near Chihe market. After 1993, the Chinese community demanded to take the school back. So, the villagers brought the remains to place in the Wat as evidence of the victims. The witnesses for this information are Mr. Sin Nai Sin and Ms. Eng Hut. At 12:10 p.m., we went to visit the killing site at village 2, Koh Sotin sub-district, Koh Sotin district. The victims were killed in front of and on the left-hand side of Neak Ta Chen⁵. The site is commonly called Neak Ta Chen. It is noticed as a killing site. There used to be forests and low land with canals but today it is plain. Pits are already filled by silt from the flood. Today there is housing on top. Estimated victims are 1,000-1,500 because people, family after family, were killed in 1977-1978. In the picture, Mr. Muok Sarin stood pointing to the killing site. He was a sub-district chief over there since the 1980s.

14. Wat Chihe 030803 M
Kbal Koh village, Koh Sotin sub-district

At 12:30 p.m., we took pictures of the remains stored in the stupa in front of Wat Chihe. The remains were brought from Neak Ta Chin, the Wat is in Kbal Koh village, Koh Sotin sub-district, Koh Sotin district. Mr. Chan Kim Chin stood pointing to where the remains were buried in front of the Wat. We took pictures for our record.

Conclusion

We did a good job at Koh Sotin district because we met old-hand officials who knew and used to work on the statistics of the crimes. Unfortunately, documents were burned and buried before the election in 1993. Moreover, we found good witnesses who worked in the Khmer Rouge time in Region 22 plus one witness named Ing Khemara who used to be prisoner at the killing site of Wat Chumnik. Mr. Ing Khemara and 7 others survived and are alive today. We interviewed them for our record. So, it is important that we have many witnesses who knew the truth because they lived around the site. We know the name of the security officer but he lives in O Reang Ov district. If we have time, we should go and interview him in the future.

July 10, 1998

Batheay District

On July 10, 1998, our team went to Batheay district, on Route # 6, about 65 kilometers from Kampong Cham provincial town. In the Khmer Rouge time, it was Region 41, Ceneral Zone. Batheay district is bordered on:

- the north by Chul Kiri district, Batheay district, Ponhea Leu district, Kandal province,
- the west by Kampong Tralach district, Ponhea Leu district, Kandal Province,

⁵ It means a Chinese spirit altar.

- the south by Muk Kampoul district, Kandal,
- the east by Korng Meas district, Cheung Prey, Kampong Cham.

According to the district office's report, the district has 12 sub-districts and 79 villages. The district total population is 16,960 families or 87,956 people, of whom 41,924 are male. There are 40,915 people eligible to vote. Total land area is 66,179 square kilometers. Productive land area is 24,680 hectares. Rainy season rice-land area is 1.863 hectares. Mid-term rice land area is 1,757 hectares. Long term rice land area is 9,543 hectares. Sowing-rice land area is 8,704 hectares. Water chasing rice land area is 964 hectares. Dry season rice-land area is 5,867 hectares. People live by doing dry season rice farming, subsidiary food cropping, fishing, palm sugar, raising ducks. Mr. Chea Tay, Chief of Batheay district told us the following information:

1. Security offices, prison, killing sites are located in Batheay village, Batheay sub-district, Batheay district. The killing site is close to Batheay Mountain.
2. Killing site, behind a hospital, is in Svay Chrum village.
3. Memorial at Wat Batheay.
4. Prey Khnao is in Pa-Av sub-district. This killing site is on both sides of the gate of Prey Lbah, Prey Sbat about 500 meters from Route 6. There was a jackfruit tree.
5. Tuol Khmaoch Chaom is in Sambo sub-district. This killing site is 15 kilometers from the district hall.
6. Ta Pring Mountain, Trabb sub-district. There are many mountains over there. The killing was at Ta Pring Mountain. It is 20 kilometers from the district hall. The road is too difficult for us to access.
7. Taing Krasaing sub-district is 18 kilometers from the district hall. Killing site is located by Vihear Mountain.
8. Cheung Prey Mountain, execution site, is in Cheung Prey district. The road to this site was slippery with deep holes.

15. Batheay Security Office/Prison 030101 B/M/P
Batheay village, Batheay sub-district

At 9:10 a.m., we went to visit Wat Batheay in Batheay village, Batheay sub-district, Batheay district. The security office, prison, and killing site are about 50 meters in front of Wat Batheay. We can recognize them by mango trees, kapok trees, cashew trees and bamboo trees near Wat Batheay. We took pictures of the pits with Mr. Saroeun, Cultural Official, pointing to the pits. We have found one witness named Chay Loeng, male, 45, currently living at Prey Nho village, Pa-Av sub-district, Batheay district. In the Khmer Rouge time, he also lived there from 1977-78. In early 1979, he was accused of killing a cow. The Khmer Rouge at Wat Batheay imprisoned him.

Information from Mr. Chay Loeng

While he was imprisoned, he dug pits along with other prisoners committing minor offences. Serious crime prisoners were not allowed to come out. Each pit is from 3 to 4 meters each side and 1.5 meters deep. It is square-shaped used to put victims after interrogation. The total pits are 400-500 and the number of victims is 8,000 to 10,000.

Victims

The Khmer Rouge brought in truckloads of victims, male and female, from villages and sub-districts in Batheay district, who were considered immoral, having a tendency, civil servants, base and new people gathered from the Eastern Zone. One or two trucks were brought in a day until 1978. Mr. Chay Loeng knew some security officers and he secretly looked at their documents. He noticed a note, which reads "killed 6,000 of eastern people in the Eastern group". He estimated the number of victims at 8,000-10,000. Mr. Loeng was interrogated, and hit. Other prisoners were hit so badly that they screamed like dogs or cows. Then they were killed even during the daytime. He saw this. So a few survived the prison condition. None of the Eastern people brought in 1978 survived. Here are the perpetrators' names as follows:

1. Comrade Khim, Chief of the prison.
2. Comrade Lim, Deputy Chief of the prison.

They are alive today. Comrade Lim has a wife and lives in Taing Thlaeng village, Mepring sub-district, Batheay district. The prisoners at Wat Batheay Prison, who are still alive are:

1. Mr. Um Ruos at Prey Nha, Pa-Av and sub-district, Batheay district,
2. Granny Phy at Cheung Prey village, Cheung Prey sub-district, Cheung Prey districts.
3. Mr. Chay Loeng was already interviewed.
4. Mr. Phlang San (female), Samraong village, Pha-Av sub-district, Batheay districts.
5. Granny Ngoam, Thaing Krasaing, Taing Krasaing sub-district, Batheay district.
6. Mr. Bun Lieng, Pha-Av village, Pha-Av Market, Pha-av sub-district. So, at the security office, prison and killing site at Wat Batheay, we have a very important witness who was one of the prisoners. The security guards and perpetrators are alive today. It is necessary that we visit them again if we have time in the future.

16. Chamkar Daem Khnao 030102 B Pha-Av village, Pha-Av sub-district

At 9:20 a.m., our team visited Chamkar Daem Khnao [jackfruit farm], the killing site at Pha-Av village, Pha-Av sub-district, Pha-Av district. It is located midway of the entry gate to Wat Ba Dhama. We departed Wat Batheay, traveling about 4 kilometers away on Route 6, turning left and

going another 500 meters. Then, we saw a jackfruit tree by the side of the street. That place was the killing site. Examining the place closely, we saw some pits still visible. Other pits were covered by forest. Mr. Ruos Orn, 30, went with us. He lived in Pha-Av village, Pha-Av sub-district, Batheay district. He told us that no one lived in this place during the Khmer Rouge time. People were brought by trucks from various villages and sub-districts in Batheay district, and dumped at Chamkar Daem Khnao. The victims included children, men and women, along with those from the Eastern Zone. The witnesses and the district Governor reported that people were brought from bordering districts like Korng Meas, Prey Chhor, possibly from Muk Kampoul district, Prey Veng province. Three or four trucks arrived at a time, in 1977-78. The estimated pits are 100-150. The estimated victims are 3,000-7,000.

17. Svay Chrum 030103 B

Bateay village, Batheay sub-district

At 11:05 a.m., we visited a killing site at Savy Chrum in Batheay village, Batheay sub-district, Batheay district. Svay Chrum used to be District Hospital in the Khmer Rouge time. It is located south of Batehay Mountain, about 100 meters from the district hall. We took pictures of the witness and interviewed Mr. Saroeun, an official of Kampong Cham Culture Office. He was born in Batheay district. We also had another witness, Mr. Chea Tay, district Governor. We were unable to see Sub-district Chief of Batheay. We hope to interview him in the future.

Pits and victims

When we visited the site, we saw no trace for pits, all invisible. The site was used to do cropping. The mango trees were cut down. The area of the killing site is about 200 meters to 300 meters each side. Ms. Chea Tay told us that when villagers plowed, they hit the bones everywhere in the field. The estimated victims are 500-600. This hospital had branches through out Batheay district in the Khmer Rouge time. The patients were from all sub-districts because they came just like to be killed because there were no medicines, no rice. The hospital was poorly built by the Khmer Rouge in between 1976-79. The witness commented that this hospital was just the death place for patients that came in for treatment.

18. Tuol Khmaoch Chaom 030104 B

Sang Kaep village, Sambo sub-district

At 1:15 p.m., we went to the killing site at Tuol Khmaoch Chaom, which is located at Sang Kaep village, Sambo sub-district hall. We met Mr. Sar Meng, 53, over there. We went to the site along with him. The site is 1 kilometer from the village far from the housing area. In the Khmer Rouge time, he lived there. The site is an area of upper land called Tuol Khmaoch Chaom. It is a square with 1 kilometer each side. Nowadays, it is full of bayan trees, La-hong Khvang plants, and jackfruit trees. We could take picture of those pits that are still visible. There are 100-200 pits with each pit being a square of 4 meters each side, 1.5 meters deep. The victims number at 700-800. The witnesses continued to talk about kinds of victims. The victims included those who had professions or ranks as ministers, civil servants, teachers, and professors, along with the evacuees in 1975-76 and the rich or the capitalists. First, the Khmer Rouge cadres took the husbands to kill. In 1977-78, the wives and children were taken by the Khmer Rouge cadres to kill as well. More of the new people than base people were killed there. Mr. Meng went on to say that

he saw all these when he was disbanded “*from the Khmer Rouge force*”. In 1977, while he was plowing and taking care of cows, he also saw these events. Also bones can be seen when people excavated graves for gold in 1982-83. No remains are stored. Some whole families were killed because the wives cried and wanted to follow their husbands. Instead of taking them to meet their husbands, the Khmer Rouge killed them all. So at Tuol Khmaoch Chaom, we did take picture of the pits, which are not covered yet. As mentioned above, we also had a witness who was village chief in the Khmer Rouge time. He knew the truth and told us all without hiding anything.

Conclusion

Not so different from other districts, we did a good job at Batheay district. We met important witnesses who lived at the killing site areas. Some of them were village Chiefs; some were prisoners. Because of time constraint and difficult road conditions, we could not reach as many sites as we have known. We should come back here again in the future.

Conclusion on all districts in Kampong Cham

In my personal view, we have achieved what we planned for Kampong Cham province without technical or other obstacles. In addition, we have more and more experience in proposing our requests. We have found witnesses who lived in each site in the Khmer Rouge time. Some pits are not fully covered yet. We also saw some remains. In addition, we knew about those who used to be the prisoners and killers, security officers, of whom we can not find their residence. Because they live far away. We need more time. In regard to our report, we cannot take as much notice as said by the witnesses but we have cassette tapes that can be used to fill up the gaps. So the recording of interview is very important for documentation and it can be officially used because our witnesses are important. As for pictures, we took picture of witnesses, who joined our trip visit, pointing to the killing sites, pits, or remains. So pictures are very important documents relating to genocide, too. For documents, the People’s Republic of Kampuchea governments had a guideline to preserve remains until 1984-85. After that, it had not. So local authority stopped reporting or documenting evidence, shackles, and bones, or maintaining memorials. So, we need more time for a whole district and if the road condition was good, we could have achieved more. With short time, however, we can collect information ready for the next trip. Some documents we obtained from the district shall show the location where we cannot reach. With better security of the country, better communications and with no rain, we will be able to continue.

November 27, 1998

Dambe District (*GPS data missing*)

At 11:00a.m, on November 27, 1998, we arrived at Kampong Cham provincial town. We went to see Mr. Nguon Van Chanthly, Director of Religion Office of Kampong Cham. His phone number is 015-420-094. I asked him for information about how to get to Dambe district and Srey Santher district. Mr. Nguon was very helpful. He had a list of sites with number of victims classified by villages, sub-districts, and districts. He pointed to us the map, the road, and road condition. He also radioed Dambe district authority to notify them of our presence, but its station

did not reply. Usually, it is very hard to contact them in the morning. Regarding Viet Nam research, he said it was a good idea to work through local authority network by ordering assignments from top. Then we would have a countrywide survey. It was a fruitful morning.

Unfortunately, after we crossed Tonle Bet, we had to go through the road to Dambe district, passing Tbaung Khmum, Suong, and turned left to Dambe district at Stung district. From Tonle Bet to Stung, the road was so terrible and bumpy that it took an hour for 15 Kilometers. It was raining when we were there and still raining. Yes, the rain, the mud and security alert allowed us to be able to access only one of the 7 sites in Dambe district.

We stopped and asked people in the street from Stung to Dambe districts. First, we asked a lady on her small stall, and then asked two men sitting by the side of the street. Dambe district governor's house was about 300 meters on the left turning if you reach Cheach Market in the direction toward Stung district to Cheach village. According to the district governor, Mr. Sun Sokh Ly, in 1985, the Khmer Rouge re-took over Dambe district and burned down the district office. As a result, there are no Khmer Rouge documents left. As far as he knows, no Vietnamese ever lived in Dambe district. So, to make our trip worthwhile, we documented prisons and mass graves.

He recommended that we visited Srah Bopha, Lvea Te, and Khnao Chas. Among these three sites, only Khnao Chas was in fact accessible. Khnao Chas is in Khnao village, Neang Teut sub-district. Mr. Suor Min, Khnao village chief was very helpful. He was out when I approached his home at 5 p.m. on November 26, 1998. I explained to his wife and mother our team's purpose and left a message asking to see him at 6:30 a.m. the next day. Next morning, he was there waiting even though we were an hour late. He brought us to two important informants. A woman named Yiv Ouch, 75, has 9 children, 8 alive, (3 sons, and 5 daughters). Her son Mr. Seng Set was killed in 1977 in Kok Srok village, Chong Cheach sub-district. Her nephew named Thuok was also killed in 1977 at Khnao Chas. Khnao Chas is a squared area with each side of about 150 meters. When you come from Stung district on a road toward Dambe and arrive at Khnao Chas village, just look for two big tamarind trees. Ms. Ouch said that she could see the place from her house, which was about 400 meters from the site. Another important informant was Mr. Seng Sat, 45. He was a Khmer Rouge soldier of a special unit. The site was a prison of Region 21 and also a mass grave. The prison was built in 1976 and after 1979, people broke pieces of the prison for firewood. There were 5 prison buildings with thatched and tiled roof and wooden wall and a nearby security office with a tiled roof. There were about 7 mass graves of 150 victims each. In the picture, behind the informant was one of the graves and where there used to be the security office. In the picture were a younger man, who is Khnao village chief and an elder man Mr. Bun Nhal, whose son was killed at Khnao Chas site. In the Khmer Rouge regime, he lived at the Khnao Chas village, and now lives in the same village. Victims were blind folded and thrown from trucks and when the truck arrived, informants heard the horn ringing and trucks could also be seen from his home. Victims here were brought from riverine villages. They were high rank officials in the Khmer Rouge regime. The second type of victims killed here were the military soldiers ranging from group chiefs (controlling 10 soldiers) up. These types of people took up the majority of victims. In between 1976-77, the police or the security force of Region 21 launched a campaign to purge the military force. They were told to go to Khnao Chas for study sessions. Mr. Seng Sat survived this purge by escape.

In 1976, Mr. Sim Vut, a chief of border guard regiment in Ta Mong district, Kampong Cham province, was brought to a work site about 1 kilometer from Khnao Chas. His penalty was three times lesser than those who were sent to Khnao Chas prison. Mr. Vut was forced to do rice farming and pull trees off the rice field. He was released in 1977. According to Mr. Sat and Vut, Hun Sen was part of the purged target. He escaped on a motor bike through Samrong and Daung Prampi Daem in Memut district to Viet Nam. He was Chief of Staff of a Khmer Rouge regiment. A man named Yun Sophy was Chief of the security office of Region 21. He was the one who was in charge of the Khnao Chas prison. According to Mr. Vut, Khnao Chas prison was divided into several education camps and a man named *Let* was in charge of the first education camp. Comrade Yin Sophy and Let were killed in 1979.

Srey Santher District

Wat Chrey Mongkol 031401 P 031402 B 031403 M

Wat Chrey Mongkol is situated 15 kilometers north of Prek Po village in Srey Santher District. A school building in the Wat compound was converted into a cloth-weaving factory in 1976. The weaving looms were powered by a large generator, and this generator was used in the killing process. The killings started in late 1977. Many Base People who had been loyal to Comrade So Phim were killed at this site. Base people from the surrounding villages were invited to attend "meetings" at the Wat, and there they were shackled and kept for only one or two days in the Wat and then killed.

The execution methods were unusual. The generator that powered the looms was connected to the "key" that secured the shackles, and the victims were first electrocuted before being taken to the nearby pits where they were killed by being struck with a small axe. Witnesses said that they were electrocuted so that they were unconscious when taken to be killed, and this made no sound. But screams of small children who were killed with their families were heard every night when the killings took place. The name of the security chief at this site was Comrade Hem. He disappeared on January 7, 1979.

Ta Duong Prison (also called Wat Prasat Watdei)

Prison and burial site 030404 B/P

This prison was set up at Ta Duong Prison, 7 kilometers north of Prek Po village in Srey Santher District. This prison was first used from 1976 to kill Lon Nol officials and New People, but after the execution of Comrade So Phim in 1978, many Base People loyal to him were brought here for execution as well. This prison was a major one for Region 22, and the prison chief's name was Comrade Poeu. He disappeared in January 1979. According to the victims, there were about 10 pits in which approximately 4,000 people were killed.

Muny Prey Ta Beh 030403 B

This site 4 kilometers east of Prek Po village in Srey Santher District, was used in 1978 to kill whole families of Comrade So Phim's supporters. They were brought by truck from all over Region 22 to be killed. The Security Chief in charge of the site was Comrade Hem. According to the victim, there were about 5 mass graves in which 8,000-10,000 people were killed at this site.