

**DC-Cam's Promoting Accountability Project**  
**A Field Trip's Report in Veal Veng District, Pursat Province**  
**May 18-24, 2011**  
**By Long Dany**

**General Description and Brief History of Districts**

After the integration of the Khmer Rouge forces by the Cambodian government in 1996, Veal Veng was created as a district in Pursat province. Previously, Veal Veng had been one of the communes included within the Kravanh district. Veal Veng is approximately 120 kilometers from Pursat, and it can be reached by Road Number 56 which links Pursat and Veal Veng across the Kavanh district. The road between Pursat and Kravanh district is paved and smooth, but the road from the Kravanh district to Veal Veng is bumpy and rough. It is a gravel paved road with several old and ailing bridges.

The Veal Veng district town is located 75 kilometers from the Thai border of the Trat province. The border checkpoint is called Thma Da. Nowadays, the authorities of both countries allow their citizens to cross the border only on Saturdays. Approximately 60 kilometers south of the Veal Veng district is the O Ta Som commune, where a Chinese company is building a hydroelectric power station. O Ta Som is just about 40 kilometers from the Koh Kong provincial town.

Veal Veng comprises of five communes: Pramoy, Anlong Reap, O Ta Som, Kra Peu Pi, and Thma Da. Veal Veng has a population of 13,822 people—3,197 families. At the present time, the government is drafting a decree to create more communes and villages for Veal Veng because of its huge space of land. According to the head of the Veal Veng district's administration department Chin Ly, 40 or 50 percent of the population in Veal Veng constitutes former Khmer Rouge cadres. Aside from this subgroup, there are those who come from different provinces to make a living, attracted to the huge space of land which makes it easier for them to farm. Furthermore, Veal Veng covers thousands of valuable forest land consisting of mountains and wildlife animals, including but not limited to, elephants, tigers, wild oxen, wild buffalos, deers, and boas.

In 1979, after the Vietnamese troops arrived in Cambodia, a majority of upper level Khmer Rouge cadres, top military leaders, workers from Phnom Penh, cadres from various zones, and regional cadres escaped to the Khmer-Thai border. Veal Veng is a former place where the Khmer Rouge soldiers took shelter and used guerrilla tactics to ambush the Vietnamese troops and People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) troops

who were stationed near the area. However, this region did not have as many Khmer Rouge forces hiding as did the other respective regions.

There were two Khmer Rouge divisions, the second and third divisions, stationing along Khmer-Thai border, starting from the Koh Kong to the Thma Da region of Veal Veng district. Tim Ren, Ta Mok's son-in-law, led the second division. According to former Khmer Rouge cadres living in the Veal Veng district, Tim Ren's wife is Krou, Ta Mouk's daughter, and that Tim Seng, former deputy chief of division 164 based in Kampong Som between 1975 and 1979, led the third division. Meas Mut, a former division 164 chief and former son-in-law of Ta Mok, served as a commander in chief along the border of Koh Kong province, Thma Da and Samlot district, Battambang.

Tim Ren, the second division chief, died in 1987 from disease shortly after he had eaten the eggs of a king cobra he had killed. Tim Seng, the third division chief, (Tim Ren's brother) had died in the 1990s.

When the Vietnamese withdrew their troops from Cambodia in 1989, the Khmer Rouge sent more soldiers and their families to live in other parts of Veal Veng in an attempt to widen their base. Particularly, from 1993 onwards, the Khmer Rouge began to build houses and divided plots of land for their citizens to do the farming gradually.

Between 1980 and the early 1990s, Khmer Rouge leaders created three additional autonomous brigades in Veal Veng after the second and third division were demobilized. Uon Yang led one autonomous brigade, which carried out the operation along the Veal Veng, Kravanh district, Pursat province, and Mong Russei district of Battambang province, particularly along road number 56. Ieng Phan led another brigade which carried out the operation along railroad, from Pursat to Battambang province, especially Ta Nak railway station, located in Kra Kor district. Kim Peou led the last autonomous brigade which carried out the operation and defended Veal Veng. After the integration in 1996, Uon Yang became Veal Veng district chief and won the election to serve as head of Veal Veng district council from 2009 until today. Ieng Phan became a deputy commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> military zone of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF). Kim Peou became the commander of brigade number 14 of the RCAF.

## **Methodology**

Our PA team consists of three members—Dany Long , Vannak Sok, Bunthorn Som—who participated in the trip to the Veal Veng district from May 18 to 24, 2011. The following materials were prepared: a S.U.V, authority letters, notebooks, pens,

booklets, copies of DC-Cam's magazine "Searching for the Truth", mp3 recorders, digital cameras, laptops, and a modem.

Similar to the previous PA field trip to the Malai, Thma Puok and Svay Chek districts in Banteay Mean Chey province and the Kamrieng, Phnom Prik, Sampov Laun districts, Battambang province in late 2010 and early 2011, the team had two days to prepare for the field trip.

The team had one meeting session before traveling to Veal Veng district. The meeting addressed the following:

- Techniques in approaching and interviewing former KR cadres. Each PA member shared their experiences and what they had learned from previous field trips.
- Methods in collecting geographical information of Veal Veng district before, during, and after the Democratic Kampuchea period.

### **Summary of interviewees**

Between May 18 and 24, 2011, we interviewed 36 former KR cadres (12 females and 24 males) in the Stoeng Thmey, Chheu Teal Chrum; Pramaoy villages within the Pramaoy commune; and the Dei Kraham and Chamkar Chrey Khang Cheung villages within the Anlung Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat Province. The summaries of these interviews can be found below.

#### **1) Nan Poan, (F)**

She is 50 years old and was born in Char village, Svay Chacheob commune, Ba-Set district, Kampong Speu province. She has 7 siblings—three of them had taken part in the Khmer Rouge revolution.

She joined the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1973 in her village. Then she was sent to the children's unit. A year after the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975 she was moved to the mobile unit and worked at the Sen Pheas and Trea collectives located in the Takeo province.

In 1978, Angkar sent her to work at the Jute factory in the Dounteav, Battambang province. She fled to Thailand when Vietnam troops entered Cambodia in 1979.

In 1980 she moved to Samlot where she was recruited to work in the transportation unit. She married in 1990 and transferred to Veal Veal in 1996.

She lost two siblings, 1 brother and 1 sister. Now she has 5 children and lives in the Stoeng Thmey village, Bramoay commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province.

## **2) Ith Ny (M)**

He is 52 years old and was born in Ampong village, Prahbat Chonchum commune, Kiri Vong district, Takeo province.

He has 4 siblings. While he was in grade 9 (old system), he left school. After Lon Nol defeated King Sihanouk in 1970, he volunteered to join with Khmer Rouge revolution and was placed in a mobile brigade work unit. He was assigned to dig canals and to farm in the collective. In 1973, Angkar recruited him to work in a secret police unit and trained him for two months in the Kiri Vong district.

In 1976 he was sent to regiment 105 where Neak was chief of commander. He then was assigned to be stationed in Soam (Cambodia-Vietnam border). At that time, he was ordered to protect the border from Vietnamese invasion.

When Vietnamese troops assaulted Cambodia in late 1978, he fled to the forest with Khmer Rouge defectors. At Kravahn district of Pursat province, he was rounded up by Vietnam troops.

Again, he joined military of Republic of Kampuchea in division 2 controlled by Ky Ngou and later Huy Vanna, chief of commanders based in Steung Chral. A year later he resigned from his position.

Now he lives in Pramoay village, Pramoay commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province.

## **3) Nop Sarin allies Nin (M)**

He was 59 years old and was born in Prey Cheuteal village, Angkor Chey commune, Angkor Chey district, Kampot province.

He was in grade 9 (old system) in 1970. After he left school, he came to help his parents farm. Two years later, Khmer Rouge rebels came to his village and assigned him to be an Angkor Chey commune militiaman.

At that time the chief of unit assigned him to fight against Lon Nol soldiers at the Tany and Ang Tasoam towns.

Later he got married and came to stay with his wife at the Chum Kiri district and worked in the collective.

In January 1977, a chief of collective recruited him as a military, and then sent him to train at the Truong Andaek, Seh Sar, Kep province.

After the training, he was transferred to an infantry unit for a month and then to an intervention unit where Ream was a chief of regiment, situated north of Prek Chak market. There, he was ordered to protect water lines and islands from Vietnamese invasion.

A month later he was assigned to Kok Kambao, located in the east of Bat Mountain, Kampong Trach district. There, his commander assigned him to fight against Vietnamese soldier for three days and more than a hundred Khmer Rouge soldiers died.

He fled to his home for a while but later he was captured and sent to fight against Vietnamese soldiers in Phnom Doung where Kun was the chief among the district militiamen.

When Vietnamese troops entered Cambodia in 1979, he returned home but was eventually recruited as a Sre Samroang commune militiaman.

Now he has 8 children. He moved to Phnom Phroek district, Battambang province in 2000.

#### **4) Ham Thy (F)**

She is 49 years old and was born in Prek Tol village, Anlong Ta-our commune, Sangke district, Battambang province.

She has 7 siblings (4 sisters and 3 brothers). She was in grade 12 (old system).

She was in the children's unit after she left school. Then she was recruited to work as a female medic in O-Dambang; she was trained for many months in practicing injection and taking care of patients.

After training, she was transferred to the Kampong Phrah Hospital where Hor was the chief of the hospital. Hor assigned her to inject patients and help the medical group in concocting Khmer traditional medicines.

Later Hor asked her to move to the regional hospital where Roeun was the chief of hospital at Anlong Vil. She worked as part of the medical staff.

In 1979 she fled to Khmer-Thai border and then to Samlot, where she was recruited to work in the transportation unit. She was ordered to transport some equipment to the Khmer Rouge militaries situated at the front line.

In 1988 she was in a mine explosion accident and lost a left leg. She stayed in a hospital for many months until she got better. Then she was assigned to work in the medical unit until she moved to Veal Veng in 1999.

Now she has two daughters. She lives in Samlanh village, Stoeng Thmey commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province.

### **5) Soeun Rai (M)**

He is 57 years old and was born in Wat Tamoem village, Wat Tamoem commune, Battambang district, Battambang commune.

He has 5 siblings (2 brothers and 3 sisters) and he is the second son. His father died in 1972 by diseases; his mother presently lives in Battambang Province.

He studied in Wat Tamoem Primary School for two years. In 1970 he left the school and later was ordained in Thvak Pagoda.

In 1969 he left the monkhood and went to join Issarak forces at Phnom Veay Chap. He was then assigned to fight against the Lon Nol soldiers. In 1970 he moved to join with the Khmer Rouge revolution and he was in Battalion 17, where Von was a chief of the battalion.

In 1972, he went to Hanoi, Vietnam for two years. When he eventually returned to Cambodia, he was responsible for teaching Khmer Rouge soldiers fighting techniques.

When the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975, Angkar assigned him to lead the production unit, located in Anlong Vil. He took his forces and tractors to plow the fields in Maund Russey. Later Angkar took him from the production unit and placed him in Pailin.

There he was accused as a traitor, and in turn, was sent to S-24 (Prey Sar prison). He met Duch and was eventually released.

Again, he joined the Khmer Rouge forces at Somlot when Vietnam troops entered Cambodia in 1979. Later, he moved to Veal Veng after the Khmer Rouge in Pailin and Malai defected into the government.

Now he lives in Stoeng Thmei village, Pramoay commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province.

## **6) Chhoun Ven (F)**

She is 56 years old and was born in Pong Sat village, Chhouk commune, Chhouk district, Kampot province.

She has 11 siblings, only 3 survived. In 1970 Khmer Rouge entered a village and evacuated her family to liberation zone.

When the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975 she was in the mobile unit. In 1976 she moved to work in the salt fields in Kampong Nong, Seh Sar, Kep province.

Later she was appointed to work as part of the medical staff in Hospital 17 April (Russian Hospital). There she married Von Vet's bodyguard, then moved to work at the Lork Sang Hospital.

She was captured and sent to Chey Udom pagoda after her husband disappeared. In 1979 she fled to Thmar Da where she was recruited to work in the transportation unit.

In 1984 she married a new husband and moved with him to Samlot. She came to Pramoay village, Pramoay commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province in 2000.

She has three children and has lived as a merchant, while her husband is a teacher.

## **7) Yu Thy (F)**

She is 49 years old and was born in Dang Peng village, Dang Peng commune, Sre Ambil district, Koh Kong province.

She joined the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1975 and she was placed in the children's unit. Later she was recruited to the Regional Arts Unit.

In 1977 she was recruited to serve Phal's family (former chief of region 37) and the office of region 37, located in the Prey Nob district.

She fled to Kampong Chhnang province when Vietnamese troops entered Cambodia in 1979. Later Khmer Rouge collected her and the other women and sent them to Thmar Da. She was assigned to work in the transportation unit.

In 1988 she got married and then moved to Samlot. In 1999 she came to Pramoay village, Pramoay commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province.

### **8) Suon Khot (M)**

He is 55 years old and was born in Anh-Chanh village, Cheung Kuon commune, Samrong district, Takeo province.

He was in grade 9 (old system) at the Wat Khdei Tontoem primary school. He volunteered to join with the Khmer Rouge revolution after he left a school. Angkar assigned him to the children's unit, to raise pigs for two years.

Later, Angkar recruited him to serve as a messenger of regiment 1 that was headed by Khun. He was ordered to send letters and rice from the village to Khmer Rouge militaries placed at the front line.

In 1975 he was stationed at Trapaing Kraloeng. Three months later, Angkar assigned him to the Vietnam border next to the Kandal and Takeo provinces. He was promoted to chief of the special unit.

In 1979 he led a thousand Khmer Rouge troops to Laos's border and took some forces to Prah Vihear and Anlong Veng. He was eventually recruited to lead the transportation unit.

When Khmer Rouge forces in Veal Veng integrated with the government in 1997, he was promoted to the police post office, stationed at Thmar Da (Khmer-Thai border).

Now he lives in Pramoay village, Pramoay commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province.

### **9) Uk Tom (M)**

He is 55 years old and was born in Tuol Kandal village, Prey Khla commune, Koh Andet district, Takeo province.

He has 6 siblings and two of them were died. He was in grade 7 (old system) at Koh Andet primary school. He came to help his parents at their farm after he left school.

In 1972 he joined the Khmer Rouge revolution. Later a village chief recruited him to the supporting unit. He had the responsibility of transferring Khmer Rouge forces who got injured at the front line to a hospital.

In 1975 he moved to division 2 of which Ren was the chief. He was stationed at the Cambodia-Vietnam border for two years. Later he was withdrawn and placed on a farm at the Kong Pisey district, region 33.

In 1979 he fled to Samlot Battambang Province; eventually, he traveled to the Kampong Speu province and worked with Ke Pong, the chief of division 18. He was assigned to lead the logistic unit.

He came to Dei Kraham village, Anlong Reap commune, Veal Veng district after Khmer Rouge force in Veal Veng integrated with the government. Later he was promoted to a district police.

### **10) Koy Sour (F)**

She is 48 years old and was born in Skul village, Tralach commune, Koh Andet district, Takeo province.

She has 8 siblings (5 sisters and 3 brothers) and 3 of them disappeared. When she was 15 years old, a village chief assigned her to the brick production unit.

In 1977 she was recruited to the April 17 Hospital (Russian Hospital) that was headed by Chuon Cheun.

She fled to Samlot in 1979 and was recruited to work as part of a medical staff with Ieng Thyrih.

In 1993 she married to Suon Sem and a year later she moved to Kraham village, Anlong Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province.

### **11) Suon Sem (M)**

He is 60 years old and was born in Chheu Teal village, Phdoa commune, Cheung Prey district, Kampong Cham province.

A commune chief recruited him to the militiamen unit after Lon Nol defeated King Sihanouk in 1970. He was sent to be trained at Cheung Prey pagoda.

After training, he was sent to the militiamen unit of the Central Zone where Suong was the chief of division 450. Later he was assigned to fight against Lon Nol's soldiers at Ph-ao.

When Khmer Rouge forces took Phnom Penh in 1975 he was stationed east of Chhroy Changva. Two weeks later, his regiment was placed in Snuol.

In 1977 he was assigned to fight against Vietnam troops at the border in the Takeo province, led by Ren who was the chief of division 2. A year later he moved to Memot. In 1979 he fled to Samlot and joined Sou Met once again.

He was assigned to Thmar Da and now lives in Dei Kraham village, Anlong Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province.

## **12) Chey Khan (M)**

He is 60 years old and was born in Prey Kahi village, Kraing Deivanh commune, Phnom Sruoch district, Kampong Speu province.

He has 12 siblings and only 5 survived. He was in grade 2 at his school village and later he was ordained. In 1970 he released a monkhood and then joined Khmer Rouge revolution. That time he was a commune militiaman.

In 1971 he was promoted to chief of district militiamen and eventually to chief of regional 32 militiamen, located north of the Kampong Speu province.

After 1975 he became chief of brigade 138. He led his forces to a tea farm at Kirirom and to protect North Korean technicians who had constructed the Stoeng Chral hydro electric power.

In 1979 he fled to Samlot and in 1981 he was recruited to lead the transportation unit. In 1991 he worked with Ke Pong, a chief of Khmer Rouge commander, based north of the Kampong Speu province.

In 1994 he moved to Chamkar Chrey Cheung village, Anlong Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province.

## **13) Pen Han (M)**

Han is 53 years old and lives in Stoeng Thmey village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Han was born in Boeng Prey village, Snoeng commune, Banan district, Batambang province. Han's husband's name is Ya Ret and she is 52 years old. Han has 3 children. Han's father's is Un Pen, who died before the coup d'etat in March 18, 1970; his mother is Set Bao. Han has 7 siblings.

Han went to school for only one week as a young child. Han can do a little bit of reading and writing. Han volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1973 when he was 15 years old. He served as a soldier in battalion 15, regiment 71 where Chea Savoeun was the chief of the division.

When the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975, Han was assigned to patrol along the Cambodia – Thailand border at Pailin. Han said that he used to arrest many people who escaped to Thailand and sent them to the division office.

In 1978, Han was sent to act as a guard prisoner at Pi Phet pagoda in the Battambang provincial town. He guarded the prison for 6 months; when Vietnamese soldiers marched toward Cambodia in 1979, he fled to the Cambodia – Thailand border.

#### **14) Pol Sun (M)**

Sun is 56 years old and lives in Kandal village, Thma Da commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Sun was born in Peam Khvav village, Or commune, Phnom Sruoch district, Kampong Speu province. Sun's wife's name is Sok Pan. She is 51 years old. Sun has five children. Sun's father's name is Pol Sann and his mother name is Tauch Yim. Sun has 5 siblings.

Sun studied in grade 7 (old system) when he was young. Sun became a Buddhist monk for three years and he quit monkhood in 1971. Sun volunteered to serve as a soldier in Region 33, South West Zone.

After April 1975, Sun was promoted to chief of a regiment, and his unit was assigned to patrol along railway in the Pursat province. Sun said, he used to attend annual meetings with senior leaders at the Olympic Stadium every year during the Khmer Rouge regime.

Sun's unit was given enough food: meals three times a day and desserts every third day.

#### **15) Chea Phean aka Nhan (M)**

Phean is 54 years old and in Stoeng Thmei village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Phean was born in Prek Ta Ke village, Lve commune, Koh Sotin district, Kampong Cham province. Phean's wife's name is Ha Phoeun. She is 44 years old. Phean has 5 children. Phean's father's name is Chea Phoeun and his mother's name is Sokh Som. Phean has 5 siblings.

Phean studied in grade 7 (old system) when he was young. Phean became a Buddhist monk after he dropped out of the school. Phean resigned from the monkhood when the KR came to power in 1975.

After April 1975, Phean was forced to work in mobile brigade work unit in his home village. In October 1975, Phean was selected to work as a worker in Phnom Penh by the KR Angkar. Phean was an electricity worker and he stayed a place near Phsa Tauch with other 100 workers. Phean fixed electricity power along factories; and foreign embassies in Phnom Penh City until 1978.

In 1978, Phean was sent to Kampong Som and served as an electricity worker in a construction site of hydro power and Roluos Railway Station until Vietnamese marched toward Cambodia in 1979.

### **16) Kung Chheav (M)**

Chheav was born in 1952 in Sang Kream village, Sang Kream commune, Stung district, Kampong Thom province. Chheav's wife's name is Uch Rim. She is 56 years old. Chheav lives in Stoeng Thmei village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Chheav's father's name is Kung Nhem and his mother's name is Kaet Ram. Chheav has three siblings.

Chheav studied in grade 10 (old system) when he was young at Sang Kream Primary School. After dropping out of school, he helped his parents on the rice field.

In 1971, Chheav volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution and served as a soldier in Zone 304. Following April 1975, Chheav was assigned to guard trucks, which transported supplies from Zone 304 districts within the Kampong Thom province; he did so until 1979.

### **17) Kim Lay (F)**

Lay is 53 years old and lives in Pramaoy village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Lay was born in Thma Kre village, Thma Kre commune, Kratie district, Kratie province. Lay's father's name is Kung Keup and his mother's name is Pann Samin. Lay has two siblings. Lay's husband's name is Chey Sary. He is 56 years old. Lay has five children.

Lay went to Thma Kre Primary School when she was young. She dropped out of school when she was in grade 10 (old system) before 1970 and Lay helped her parents on rice field. In 1970 Lay was selected to join the Thm Kre village's Women Association by the Angkar Khmer Rouge. Then, she was sent to work in the Kratie district unit and to help villagers with their farming.

In 1972, Lay was sent to serve as a member of the medical staff in Autonomous Region 505. There, she trained to treat = soldiers who were injured during combat against Lon Nol soldiers.

After April 1975, Lay remained part of the medical staff in the Region 505 Hospital of the Kratie provincial town. In 1976, Lay was sent to train medicine with Chinese experts for two months in Phnom Penh. Lay returned to the hospital in Kratie after she completed the course in Phnom Penh. But Lay was ordered to work as a midwife and general departments where Len was the head of the hospital. Lay saw many patients who died of malnutrition and serious injuries as the Khmer Rouge fought against Vietnamese soldiers along the Cambodia – Vietnam border between 1977 and 1978.

### **18) Prakk Sokha (M)**

Sokha is 55 years old and lives in Pramaoy village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Sokha was born in Prey Chheu Teal Krom village, Ang Tasom commune, Tramkak district, Takeo province. Sokha's wife's name is Preap Phat. She is 56 years old. Sokha has 5 children. Sokha's father's name is Nhem Hean and her mother's name is Ep Khin.

Sokha studied until grade 9 (old system) when he was young. Sokha quit school in 1970 and moved to the Khmer Rouge liberated Zone (Pravong village, Ta Phem commune, Tram Kak district, Takeo province) in 1971. Following Prince Sihanouk's appeal from Beijing, Sokha joined the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1972. Sokha was part of the Khmer Rouge secret police in Ta Phem for a short time and eventually became a soldier in the Tram Kak district, Region 13.

After April 1975, Sokha was sent to Kampong Som. There, he joined with Division 164. At that time, Meas Mut was chief of the division. Sokha was in an infantry unit of division 164 and Sokha was responsible for a machine gun 105 mm between 1975 and 1977. In 1978, Sokha was sent to work on rice fields in O-Treh until 1979.

### **19) Chhouk Rem (F)**

Rem is 51 years old and lives in Pramaoy village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Rem was born in Khpuos village, Rong Veng commune, Kampong Trach district, Kampot province. Rem's parents died since she was young.

Rem did not go to school when she was young. When the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975, Rem was assigned to work in the children unit of her village until 1977. Then, Rem was selected to join in the mobile brigade work unit in Kampong Trach district. There were around 400 young women in the unit. Chan and Chip were the unit committee. Rem's unit was assigned to help villagers on the rice fields. Kampong Trach district's chief's name is [Ta] Suos. Rem saw many 17 Mesa people

(New People) ewho were killed by the Khmer Rouge at Khnol Prey Security Prison near Phnom Vor.

## **20) Leang Bie (M)**

Bie is 53 years and lives in Dei Kraham village, Anlung Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Bie was born in Kok Prich village, Kok Prich commune, Kiri Vong district, Takeo province. Bie's father's name is Leang Chea and his mother's name is Ang Sin. Bie has 4 siblings. Bie's wife's name is Chuop Chrip. She is 46 years old. Bie has 5 children.

Bie went to Wat Sleng Primary School and he dropped out of school when he was in grade 10 (old system) in 1970. Then, he helped his parents on the rice field.

In 1973, Bie volunteered to join the KR revolution because of the Prince Sihanouk appealed from Beijing and Bie was in Takeo's military unit in Takeo, South West Zone.

After April 1975, Bie was sent to Kampong Som with ten thousand soldiers from other zones across the country. There, the Khmer Rouge created a new division called division 164 under the supervision of Meas Mut.

In 1976, Bie saw Pol Pot and the Chinese delegation when they visited the Kampong Som dock. At that time Chinese donated weapons to the Khmer Rouge. From 1977 1978, the soldiers who originally came from the Eastern Zone were arrested and killed or forced to work at the Kang Keng rice field or the Stoeng Hav harbor construction site.

## **21) Say Rim (M)**

Rim is 53 years old and lives in Dei Kraham village, Anlung Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Rim was born in Peam Veal, Trapeang Chang commune, Oral district, Kampong speu province. Rim's father's name is Prakk and his mother's name is Puch. Rim has 7 siblings. Rim's wife's name is Chhuon Mao. She is 40 years old. Rim has 3 children.

Rim went to school for only one year. Then, Rim helped his parents on the rice fields until 1974.

In 1974, Rim volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in the Oral district and then, became messenger at the office of textile handiwork in Region 32, Western Zone. [Ta] Pal was the chief of Region 32.

After April 1975, Rim was sent to join in Mobile Brigade Work Unit in Oral district. Rim's unit helped villagers to carry earth, ditch canal and do on rice field. There were 100 people in the unit and Pho was a chief of the Unit.

In 1977, Rim was selected to serve as a soldier in Thpong district, Kampong Spreu province where Aun was a chief of Battalion. There, Rim was assigned to work on the rice fields and ditch canals. In 1978, Rim was sent to train tactical military at Sre Ambil and was sent to fight against Vietnamese soldiers along the Cambodia – Vietnam border unit the Khmer Rouge was defeated in January 1979.

## **22) Preap Kap (M)**

Kap is 61 years old and lives in Dei Kraham village, Anlung Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Kap was born in Chan Teap village, Samrong commune, Tram Kak district, Takeo province. Kap's father's name is Preap Ang and his mother's name is Ou Hun. Kap has four siblings. Kap's wife's name is Nop Ngim, 60 years old. Kap has two children.

Kap went to Phchich Chrum Primary School until he finished the school and Kap continued to study in Sisowath High School in Phnom Penh until he passed grade 4 (old system). Because of the coup on March 18, 1970, Kap quit school and returned home.

In 1970, Kap joined with the Khmer Rouge and ran into the forest, because he listened to Prince Sihanouk, who appealed from Beijing through radio that "young men and women who live in rural areas please go into forest and fight against Lon Nol and Unites States who dropped bombs on Cambodia soil."

In 1973, Kap was promoted to act as chief of battalion and in April 12, 1975, Kap led his soldiers to attack Lon Nol soldiers in Phnom Penh. At that time, Kap had injured his head and right eye.

After April 18, 1975, Kap was sent to Takhao town. There, he lived in the disabled unit 210, which was supervised by [Ta] Man and [Ta] Serey. In 1977, the Angkar KR arrested and killed many disabled people who were from the Eastern Zone, especially [Ta] Serey. Ta Mok often came to visit the unit and he said, he ensured to feed and bring women to them.

In 1977 and 1978, Ta Mok came to select disabled people who had come from the South West Zone to manage people in Battambang (North West Zone). At that time they had post as cooperative's chief, Commune's chief or district's chief as well. Kap tried to hide his identity by telling us that he had no post during the Khmer Rouge

regime. However, his wife told us that Kap was chief of the Samlot district between 1977 and 1979.

### **23) Nget Sokhoeun (F)**

Sokhoeun is 48 years old and lives in Chamkar Chrey Khang Cheung village, Anlung Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Sokhoeun was born in Trapeang Chhouk village, Trapeang Thom commune, Trak Kak district, Takeo province. Sokhoeun's father's name is Tauch Chea and his mother's name is Nget Huon. Sokhoeun has an older brother. Sokhoeun's husband's name is Kann Tha. Sokhoeun has 4 children.

Sokhoeun did not go to school when she was young. In 1973 Sokhoeun volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in her village. At that time, she was a child messenger. After that, she was promoted to be a messenger in the Tram Kak district's office. Sokhoeun was responsible for taking letters from the district's office to Region 13 or to communes within the district. [Ta] Chok was a chief of messenger unit in the district.

After April 1975, Sokhoeun was sent to join as a soldier in Battalion 3, Regiment 15, 5<sup>th</sup> division. The division patrolled along the sea border of the Koh Kong province. At that time, [Ta] Voeun was chief of the division.

In 1977, Sokhoeun was sent back to Sre Ambil, Koh Kong province. There she was assigned to work on the rice fields; eventually, Sokhoeun was sent to join with the Sewing Unit in Sre Ambil and she worked there until the Vietnamese entered Cambodia in January 1979.

### **24) Sokh Ret (F)**

Ret is 54 years old and lives in Chamkar Chrey Khang Cheung village, Anlung Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Ret was born in Trapeang Mtes village, Kampong Tralach Leu commune, Samaky Meanchey district, Kampong Chhnang province. Ret's father's name is Sokh Sorn and her mother's name is Im Ray. Ret has 6 siblings. Ret's husband's name is Ek Sophal. He is 60 years old. Ret has 5 children.

Ret studied in grade 8 (old system) and she dropped out of school when the coup d'etat in 1970. And then, Ret helped her parents on rice field until 1975.

In 1975, Ret married Nam Vuthy in Phnom Penh. Vuthy was a chief of the regiment in the transportation unit, which was stationed near Phsar Thmey during the Khmer Rouge regime. After marrying, Ret moved to serve as a worker in a flashlight battery

factory headed by Sie in Takhmao, Phnom Penh. At that time, Ret saw Vorn Vet, Cheng On, Chinese, Korean and Cuban delegations come to visit her factory.

When the Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in January 1979, Ret and her husband fled to live along the Cambodia – Thailand border and unfortunately, her husband died of malaria in 1983. Ret had love affairs with Ek Sophal who was the chief of a Khmer Rouge division; she married to him in late 1983.

### **25) Sep Ret (M)**

He is 54 years old and lives in Chheu Teal Chrum village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Ret was born in Thlork Yol village, Sre Knong commune, Chhouk district, Kampong Cham province. Ret's father's name is Pok Sep. He died in 1979. Ret's mother's name is Sokh Kuon. She lives in Thlork Yol village. Ret has three sisters and five brothers. Ret's wife's name is Neang Ko. She is 41 years old. Ret has six children (3 daughters and 3 sons).

Ret is fourth child in his family. Ret studied in grade 9 (old system) when he was young. He dropped out of school in 1973, because his family was poor, and there was war in his village.

Ret was selected to participate in the children unit in his village in 1974. Then, Ret was assigned to be chief of the youth unit in the Thlork Yol village. In late 1974, Ret volunteered to serve as a soldier in the Second Division, Southwest Zone. Ret was assigned to be chief of the messenger team in the Second Division's office. There, he stayed with his relative's name is Touch who was a chief of the division office.

After being liberated in 1975, Ret was sent to Phnom Penh. Ret was a deputy chief of cleaning unit in Phnom Penh. His unit cleaned along the road and prepared things and goods within the flats and buildings located in Phnom Penh.

In late 1975, Ret was sent back to Takeo provincial town and he was assigned to be a bodyguard of Ta Mok. There were 15 bodyguards for Ta Mok during that time. However, Ta Mok took only three or four bodyguards when he went to participate for each standing committee meeting in Phnom Penh or went to meet with his subordinates or people in regions, districts as well.

### **26) Leng Pheap (M)**

He is 57 years old and lives in Stoeng Thmey village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Pheap was born in Chak village Kampong Chin commune, Stung district, Kampong Thom province. Pheap's father's name is Pil Leng and his

mother's name is Sun Yem. Pheap has one sister and five brothers. Pheap's wife's name is Prum Nay. She is 51 years old. He has five sons and three daughters.

Pheap is third in his family. Pheap dropped out of school when he was in grade 9 (old system) in 1969. Then, he helped his parents on rice field for two years.

In 1971, Pheap volunteered to serve as a soldier of the KR because Prince Sihanouk appealed to young men and women to run into jungle and fighting against US and Lon Nol. Pheap trained tactical military at Kampong Thom and Pheap was sent to patrol at Angkor Wat Temple for three years.

In 1974, Pheap was sent to fighting against Lon Nol soldiers in Phnom Penh battlefields between the Phnom Ba Sith and Pochentong region. In late 1974, Pheap was injured and sent to be treated at the Changva Real hospital for 6 months.

After being liberated in April, 1975, Pheap was sent to farm at Boeng Ba Yap; in late 1975 Pheap was sent to Ratanak Kiri province along with division 801 where Sa Roeun (05) was a chief of the division. Pheap was chief of the division company.

In late 1978, Pheap was injured again when his unit fought against Vietnamese soldiers along Vietnam border at Ratanakiri province and Pheap was sent to treat at P-98 Hospital in Phnom Penh until the KR was defeated in 1979.

## **27) Prum Nay (F)**

She is 51 years old and lives in Stoeng Thmey village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Nay was born in Praing village, Dang Peng commune, Sre Ambil district, Koh Kong province. Nay's father's name is Vor Seang and he diseased during KR regime. Her mother's name is Prum Chhiek and she diseased in 1996. Nay has three brothers and five sisters. Nay is first in her family.

She did not go to school when she was young, and she can read and write a only a little bit.

After the coup d'état in 1970, Nay helped her parents on the rice fields. In 1973, Nay volunteered to serve as part of the medical staff in the Dang Peng commune. Nay was trained in medicinal studies for only a few months; and then she was ordered to take care and treat people on the commune following the other medical staffs.

In 1974, Nay was promoted to be part of the medical staff of Sre Ambil district hospital. Nay said, she treated soldiers who were injured when they fought against Lon Nol soldiers and also treated some people who affected malaria disease.

In 1977, Nay was sent to serve as a medical staff in a Region of Western Zone at Boeng Preav. A chief of the Region name is Ta Tin. He was arrested and killed by Khmer Rouge cadres from the Southwest Zone in 1977.

### **28) Y Chhon (M)**

He is 57, years old and lives in Stoeng Thmey village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Chhon was born in Prey Kraing village, Mean Rith commune, Dang Tung district, Kampong Speu province. Chhon's father's name is Y Chheng and his mother's name is Sokh Sing. Chhon has four sisters and three brothers. Chhon's wife's name is Chum Khim, 45 years old. Chhon has 2 sons.

Chhon is fourth in his family. He was in grade 9 (old system) in Wat Angkor Meas Primary School. Chhon dropped out of School following the coup d'état of prince Sihanouk in 1970.

After the coup, Chhon was assigned to be a teacher to teach children in his village for two years.

In 1972, Chhon volunteered to serve as a soldier at Kampong Trach district's office. There, Chhon trained tactical military for several days and then, his unit was moved to Phnom Din. It was located near the border between Cambodia and Vietnam.

In 1973, his unit was promoted to be military of Region 35 and then was in Southwest Zone when his unit fought against Lon Nol soldier at Chaom Chao battlefield in 1975.

After being liberated in 1975, Chhon's unit was moved to Kampong Som and he was a Khmer Rouge navy to patrol at the O-Chheu Teal beach. His division's chief's name is Meas Mut. At that time, the Khmer Rouge had only a Naval harbor. It was located in Ream. In 1976 the Khmer Rouge navy and Chinese experts built another harbor in Stoeng Hav. However, the port had not been completed when the Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979.

### **29) Keo San (M)**

He is 78 years old and lives in Pramaoy village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. San was born in Kaing Po village, Prambei Mom commune Thporng district, Kampong Speu province. San's father's name is Keo Oeu and his mother's name is Keo Muong. San has 3 brothers and 3 sisters. San has 2 wives. First wife's name is Chum Cheat and his second wife's name is Sek Han. San has 4 children (3 with his first wife and 1 with his second wife).

San is fourth in his family. He did not go to school when he was young and he only stayed Kaing Po pagoda for one year and was a monk in the pagoda for another year. He is a bit better in reading and writing.

San joined the Khmer Rouge movement since 1967. He used to accompany some senior Khmer Rouge leaders such as Ho Nim, Ho Yun, Khieu Samphan when they fled from Phnom Penh to the jungle within Kampong Speu province. San told us that he was a subordinate of Ta Mok and Chu Chet aka Sy and he worked very close to them before coup d'état in 1970.

In March 18, 1970, San led 68 Khmer Rouge cadres in Thlorng district to escape into jungle. Sou Met was among the 68 cadres. Then, San and his cadres came to persuade villagers in South part of national road # 4 such as Phnom Sruoch, Borset Kang Pisey ... to join with the Khmer Rouge.

In 1971, San moved to operate in Baty and Prey Kambas districts, Takeo province. There, San was a chief of Battalion# 120.

In mid 1972, San returned Kampong Speu and the KR leader in Western Zone established as a division well known as 1st division where Pet Soeung, Keo San and Sou Met were promoted to be the division committee. At that time the division operated between Kampong Chhnang province and north part of National road # 4.

After April 1975, Sou Met was promoted to be chief of the Khmer Rouge air forces division. The proportion of the division was one regiment from the 1st division of Western Zone and other from Southwest and Eastern Zones.

Pet Soeung and Keo San were still commanders of the 1<sup>st</sup> division of the Western Zone. The division's office was in Banteay Lungvek, Kampong Chhnang province.

In late 1975, San was called to meet with Chu Chet aka Sy. At that time Chu Chet asked San to prepare soldiers to resist and fighting against Pol Pot, but San refused Chu Chet's proposal. Soon after, San was moved from his position and sent to serve in the Rolea Pha-ear district committee by Chu Chet.

In 1977, San was promoted to the chief position of Region 33 by Ta Mok when Chu Chet was arrested and killed. San supervised the Region until the Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979.

San was a KR commander who operated against PKR and Vietnamese soldiers along National Road # 4. In particular his soldiers operated surrounding Phnom Sruoch region between 1979 and 1996. Keo San is now a CPP official in Veal Veng district Pursat province.

### **30) Chheang Chuor (M)**

He is 65 years old and lives in Pramaoy village, Pramaoy commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Chuor was born in Chrey village, Prey Sra Lit commune Pearing district, Prey Veng province. Chuor's father's name is Heng Chheang and his mother's name is Uong Hean. Chuor has 1 sister and 3 brothers. Chuor's wife's name is Uch Neath. She is 60 years old. Chuor has 1 daughter and 2 sons.

Chuor is first in his family. He studied in grade 7 (old system) at Chrey Secondary school. Chuor dropped out of school in 1962 and he helped his parents to do farming.

After coup d'état in March 1970, Chuor volunteered to serve as a soldier with Viet Cong in Chamkar Leu district. In 1972, Chuor moved along with Viet Cong soldier to Kampong Chhnang province (Kraing Lvea). There, Chuor asked Viet Cong to join with the Khmer Rouge unit. After that, Chuor unit was promoted to the 1st division of Western Zone where Pet Soeung, Sou Met and Keo San were the division committee. Chuor's unit operated between National Road # 5 (Kampong Chhnang) and National Road #4 (Kampong Speu).

After April 1975, the Division's office was located in Banteay Lungvek. Chuor and other soldiers were assigned to help people on the rice fields surrounding Basith Mountain and a few places in the Kampong Chhnang province.

Chuor's battalion was sent to the Vietnamese border at Snuol district, Kratie province when the Khmer Rouge fought against Vietnam along the border in 1977. There, Chuor was promoted to be a chief of battalion, division 117 where Rum was chief of the division.

### **31) Sim Ny (M)**

He is 58 years old and lives in Dei Kraham village, Anglong Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Ny was born in Khsach Lorpp village, Trapeang Sap commune, Baty district, Takeo province. Ny's father's name is Ting Ros and his mother's name is Uy Nov. Ny has 4 brothers and 3 sisters. Ny's wife's name is Men Sang. She is 58 years old. Ny has 3 sons.

Ny is first in his family. Ny studied in grade 8 (old system) at Wat Kraing Sleng Primary School. Ny dropped out of the school in 1964. After then, he helped his parents on the rice field.

In February 1972, Ny volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution and he served as a soldier of the Khmer Rouge in Baty district's office for a dry season and then, his

unit was promoted to the military unit in Region 33. The Region's office was along Dang Stoeng Kat Phlok.

In early 1974, Ny unit was promoted to 2nd division in the Southwest Zone where Sam Bit was chief of the division. Ny was a chief of platoon in regiment 13. Ny told us that his division operated and entered Phnom Penh via the Pochentong airport.

In 1975, Ny was sent to Kampong Som and his division was changed as a the Khmer Rouge naval division well known as Division 164. Ny was assigned to patrol around the Kampong Som dock.

In May 1975, Ny and other 300 Khmer Rouge soldiers were ordered to fight against Vietnamese at Koh Tral and almost of the soldiers were arrested by the Vietnamese. However, Ny and other twenties escaped and swam in the sea for two days until the soldiers in Ream harbor took intervention and saved him out of the sea.

In early 1977, Ny saw Meas Mut axe his soldier's head. He had ordered the soldier to build his house's roof, but the soldier did not do what he was requested.

Ny told us that he saw and gave rice to prisoners who were imprisoned at Wat Entanhean when they were released and forced to work outside the prison. At that time, Ny saw the prisoners with chains around their ankles. Ny said those prisoners were accused of involving with traitorous network or moral offense. Ny also knew that the prison was controlled by Meas Mut who was the chief of division 164.

### **32) Aom Voeun (F)**

She is 55 years old and lives in Dei Kraham village, Anlung Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Voeun was born in Kdei Run village Khvav commune, Treang district, Takeo province. Voeun's father's name is Aom Em and her mother's name is Khim Phun. She died in 1988. Voeun has two sisters and two brothers. Her husband's name is Neak Ngeng. He is 54 years old.

Voeun is third in her family and she did not go to school when she was young. Voeun helped her parents farm until she was 17 years old.

In 1974, Voeun volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution. Then, Voeun was sent to train tactical military at Phsar Tumloap for one month and then, she was sent to patrol at Phnom Din. It was located near the Cambodia – Vietnam border.

In April 1975, Voeun began to work as a medical staff at Region 11's Hospital. It was located in the Andoung Tik village. There, she used to treat many people who suffered from malaria, diarrhea, and other diseases. Many Khmer Rouge soldiers were

injured when the KR fought against the Vietnamese along the Cambodia -Vietnam border between 1977 and 1979.

### **33) Nop Ngim (F)**

She is 61 years old and lives in Dei Kraham village, Anlung Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Ngim was born in Phnom Phneng village Trapeang Thom commune, Tram Kak district, Takeo province. Ngim's father's name is Nop Yi and her mother's name is Prakk Nget. She died last year. Ngim has three sisters and four brothers. Ngim's husband's name is Preap Kap. He is 60 years old. She has one daughter and another one son.

Ngim is second in her family. Ngim did not go to school when she was young, because her family was very poor and she had to look after her young sisters and brothers. She also raised pigs.

In 1972, Ngim volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution and she left home to educate the Khmer Rouge politic at office 150 located in the Damrei Romiel Mountain. In 1973, Ngim joined the Khmer Rouge women soldiers to fight against Lon Nol soldiers at Takeo battlefield. In 1974, Ngim was sent to patrol at Phnom Din. It was located near the Cambodia – Vietnam border.

After liberation in April 1975, Ta Mok sent Ngim to serve as deputy chief of Salt Marsh Unit of South West Zone in Kep. There were more 300 women in her unit. Ngim's unit was provided enough food.

Ngim told us that Ta Mok came to visit her unit every week. Ta Mok always advised Ngim in supervising her subordinates and in separating between the revolutionary and non- revolutionary component.

In late 1977, Ta Mok sent Ngim to be in charge of the Samlot district chief. Ta Mok told her that most of the cadres in the district were arrested and killed because they had betrayed the Angkar Khmer Rouge. Ta Mok advised her to lead people to produce rice and keep track of traitorous network.

Ngim attended meetings with Ta Mok in Battambang Provincial town every month between 1977 and 1979. There, she met with [Ta] Tith and [Yeay] Chem who attended the meeting with Ta Mok every month.

### **34) Touch Chhum (M)**

He is 61 years old and lives in Chamkar Chrey Khang Tbaung village, Anlung Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Chhum was born in Tum Neap village,

Omleang commune Thporng district, Kampong Speu province. Chhum's father's name is Nhaing Soeung and his mother's name is Chhay Bo. Chhum has one sister and six brothers. Chhum's wife's name is Chuon Then. She is 48 years old. Chhum has 4 daughters and 4 sons.

Chhum is third in his family. He studied in grade 10 (old system) at Omleang Primary School when he was young. Chhum dropped out of school since 1965 because his mother had passed away. So he had to help his father earn money to support the family. In 1967, Chhum became a Buddhist monk at Kanseng Sam pagoda for one year, but resigned to help his father on rice field until 1970.

After March 1970, Chhum volunteered to serve as a secret police of the Khmer Rouge in the Prey Chrov commune. Chhum was sent to as a soldier in Chreav district where Yoeun was a chief of military unit of Chreav district. In 1971, Chhum was a soldier in Region 32 in Western Zone led by Khim. In late 1972, Chum unit was promoted to the 1st division of the Western Zone where Sou Met, Pet Soeung and Keo San were members of the division committee.

After 1975, the 1st Division was separated into separate parts: the 1<sup>st</sup> division of Western Zone and the air forced division, which was called Division 502 by the general staff. At that time Sou Met was promoted to chief of Division 502. Chhum was in company 306, Battalion 131, and Regiment 15. Chhum unit was assigned to farm surrounding the Pochentong Airport.

In 1977, Chhum was sent to labor at a new airport construction site in the Kampong Chhnang province. There, Chhun was forced to labor in the field by cleaning grasses, taking out tree roots. He worked there for nearly a year.

In 1978, Chhum was sent to fighting against Vietnamese soldiers along Cambodia – Vietnam border. Chhum unit was stationed in the Snuol district, Kratie province. At the time, Chhum was promoted to chief of battalion; he was at the battlefield until Vietnamese entered Snuol in late 1978.

### **35) Keo Roeun (M)**

He is 58 years old and lives in Chamkar Chrey Khang Tbaung village, Anlung Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Roeun was born in Ta Ches village, Pech Changvar commune, Baribo district, Kampong Chhnang province. Roeun's father's name is Keo Neong and his mother's name is Vann Hun. She lives in Ponley, Baribo district. Roeun has 1 sister and 7 brothers. Roeun's wife's name is Ouch Lai. She is 54 years old. Roeun has 1 daughter and 2 sons.

Roeun is fifth in his family. Roeun studied in grade 10 (old system) at Pech Changva Primary School when he was young. Roeun dropped out of School in 1968 because his parents were very poor and had to help his parents on the rice field.

Roeun volunteered to join as a soldier of the Khmer Rouge in February 1972. Roeun stayed in Boribo district unit for two months. Then, he was sent to the 1st division of the Western Zone. Roeun was in Company 306, Battalion 120, Regiment 15 where [Ta] Lvei was a chief of Regiment 15. Sou Met and Pet Soeung were Division committee. Sou Met's father's name is Ma Mang. 1st Division operated along National Road Number # 4 and Posat province between 1972 and 1974.

1<sup>st</sup> Division started to attack the Phnom Penh battlefield in January 1975. The division was from Phnom Baseth to Pochentong and entered Phnom Penh at the Pochentong Airport.

After April 1975, 1<sup>st</sup> division was separated into two parts: the 1<sup>st</sup> division of the Western Zone and Division 502 of the general staff. At that time Sou Met was promoted to chief of Division 502 and was responsible for the Khmer Rouge air forces.

Roeun was still in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division and his regiment patrolled along Prey Nop, Koh Khyang.... where Ek Sophal was a chief of the regiment. In 1977, Sophal was moved to serve as chief of Region 37, Western Zone.

In 1977, Roeun was promoted to act as chief of Platoon of the Division and continued to be chief of the company in 1978.

### **36) Ek Sophal (M)**

He is 65 years old and lives in Chamkar Chrey Khang Tbaung village, Anlung Reap commune, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Sophal was born in Takeo village, Peam commune, Kampong Tralach Leu district, Kampong Chhnang province. Sophal's wife's name is Sokh Ret, 56 years old. Sophal has three daughters and two sons. He is a member of Veal Veng District Council since 2009.

Sophal studied in grade 6 (old system) at Tep Pranam Secondary School when he was young. Sophal volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1970. Sophal was promoted to chief of battalion in 1971. At that time, his unit operated and fought against Lon Nol soldiers in Kampong Chhnang province.

Sophal's unit merged into 1<sup>st</sup> division in late 1972 and Sophal was promoted to be chief of Regiment 15, 1<sup>st</sup> division where Pet Soeung, Sou met.

After 1975, 1<sup>st</sup> Division was separated into two divisions: the 1<sup>st</sup> division of the Western Zone and another division 502 of the general staff. At that time Sou Met was promoted to chief of Division 502, which was responsible for Khmer Rouge air forces. Sophal was promoted to chief of brigade of 1<sup>st</sup> division. His soldiers stationed in Prey Nop, Koh Khyang, Koh Thmey and Koh Kong.

Sophal was promoted to chief of Region 37, Western Zone by Ta Mok when Chou Chet and other Western Zone's cadres were arrested and killed. Sophal told us that Ta Mok took many cadres who were military officers to supervise people in regions, districts, communes; and cooperatives in the Western Zone.

### **Observation**

After 1979, Veng Veng did constitute as many Khmer Rouge forces as regions like Samlot, Malai, Phnom Proek, Sampov Loun, Kamrieng, Anlong Veng. There were only two Khmer Rouge divisions, which were stationed along the Khmer-Thai border starting from the Koh Kong to the Thma Da region of the Veal Veng district.

Most of the Khmer Rouge cadres who lived in the Veal Veng district were soldiers moving from the Samlot region in early 1990s. The soldiers were under the supervision of Tim Seng, Ieng Phan, Uon Yang and Kim Poeu. Many of them were former soldiers of Division 164 and Division 502 of Meas Mut and Sou Met.

### **Challenges**

There were a few challenges during the field trips conducted in the Veal Veng districts. First, it was not easy in approaching the targeted interviewees because the cadres were at their farms located far from their respective houses. Second, some of cadres were afraid to reveal too much information because they feared being linked to certain crimes and a few still had emotional ties with their supervisors. Every day, we drove on the dust and bumpy roads; because some of their bridges had been destroyed, it took hours to conduct interview with the Khmer Rouge in the villages.

**END.**