



អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា
Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
Chambres Extraordinaires au sein des Tribunaux Cambodgiens

ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King
Royaume du Cambodge
Nation Religion Roi

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះសាលាដំបូង
Trial Chamber
Chambre de première instance

ឯកសារដើម
ORIGINAL/ORIGINAL
ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ (Date): 28-Mar-2017, 12:51
CMS/CFO: Sann Rada

TRANSCRIPT OF TRIAL PROCEEDINGS

PUBLIC

Case File N° 002/19-09-2007-ECCC/TC

18 May 2015
Trial Day 281

Before the Judges: NIL Nonn, Presiding
YA Sokhan
Claudia FENZ
Jean-Marc LAVERGNE
YOU Ottara
Martin KAROPKIN (Reserve)
THOU Mony (Reserve)

The Accused: NUON Chea
KHIEU Samphan

Lawyers for the Accused:
Victor KOPPE
LIV Sovanna
SON Arun
Anta GUISSSE
KONG Sam Onn

Trial Chamber Greffiers/Legal Officers:
EM Hoy
Roger PHILLIPS
SE Kolvuthy

Lawyers for the Civil Parties:
Marie GUIRAUD
VEN Pov

For the Office of the Co-Prosecutors:
Dale LYSAK
SONG Chorvoin

For Court Management Section:
UCH Arun
SOUR Sotheavy

I N D E X

Ms. VONG Sarun (2-TCW-986)

Questioning by The President (NIL Nonn) page 3

Questioning by Mr. LYSAK page 6

Questioning by Judge FENZ page 53

Questioning by Ms. GUISSÉ page 64

Questioning by Mr. KOPPE page 71

List of Speakers:

Language used unless specified otherwise in the transcript

| Speaker | Language |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Judge FENZ | English |
| The GREFFIER | Khmer |
| Ms. GUISSSE | French |
| Mr. KONG Sam Onn | Khmer |
| Mr. KOPPE | English |
| Mr. LYSAK | English |
| The President (NIL NONN Presiding) | Khmer |
| Mr. SON Arun | Khmer |
| Ms. VONG Sarun (2-TCW-986) | Khmer |

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 (Court opens at 0913H)

3 MR. PRESIDENT:

4 Please be seated. The Court is now in session.

5 Today the Chamber will hear the testimony of a witness,

6 2-TCW-986.

7 Ms. Se Kolvuthy, please report the attendance of the Parties and
8 other individuals at today's proceedings.

9 THE GREFFIER:

10 Mr. President, for today's proceedings, all Parties to this case
11 are present, except Mr. Victor Koppe, the International defence
12 counsel for Nuon Chea, who is absent today for personal reasons.

13 And Mr. Calvin Saunders, the standby counsel for Khieu Samphan,
14 is absent <for personal reasons as well>.

15 Mr. Nuon Chea is present in the holding cell downstairs due to
16 health reasons.

17 Today's witness -- that is, 2-TCW-986, confirms that to <her>
18 best knowledge, <she> has no relationship by blood or by law to
19 any of the two Accused - that is, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan,
20 nor to any of the civil parties admitted in this case. The
21 witness took an oath before the Iron Club Statue this morning.

22 Thank you, Mr. President.

23 [09.15.25]

24 MR. PRESIDENT:

25 Thank you.

2

1 And Nuon Chea's defence, have you submitted the waiver from your
2 client?

3 MR. SON ARUN:

4 Mr. President, the case manager, Mr. Prum Phalla, has just
5 arrived, due to traffic congestion, and a waiver will be
6 submitted shortly. Thank you.

7 MR. PRESIDENT:

8 The Chamber has heard the request by Nuon Chea, through his
9 defence counsel, to follow the proceedings remotely for today's
10 hearing, as he waives his direct presence in the courtroom. And
11 his defence team assures the Chamber that the waiver will be
12 submitted in due course. And based on the above information, and
13 pursuant to Rule 81.5 of the ECCC Internal Rules, the Chamber
14 grants Nuon Chea his request to follow today's proceedings
15 remotely from the holding cell downstairs via an audio-visual
16 means. As Nuon Chea has waived his right to be present in the
17 courtroom, the defence team is requested to deliver the waiver as
18 soon as possible, with the thumbprint or signature of the
19 Accused, Nuon Chea.

20 The Chamber instructs the AV Unit personnel to link the
21 proceedings to the room downstairs so that Nuon Chea can follow
22 the proceedings. That applies for the whole day.

23 Court officer, could you usher the witness into the courtroom?

24 (Witness 2-TCW-986 enters the courtroom)

25 [09.19.38]

1 QUESTIONING BY THE PRESIDENT:

2 Good morning, Madam Witness.

3 Q. What is your name?

4 MS. VONG SARUN:

5 My name is Vong Sarun.

6 Q. Thank you, Madam Vong Sarun. Do you recall when you were born?

7 A. Yes, I was born on the 28 of November 1954.

8 Q. Thank you. And where were you born?

9 A. I was born at <Khcheay> Khang Tbound village, <Dang> Tong
10 commune, <Dang> Tong district, Kampot province.

11 [09.20.35]

12 Q. Thank you. And where is your current address?

13 A. I live in the same village that I just told Your Honour.

14 Q. Thank you. And what is your current occupation?

15 A. <After> 1979, I was a primary teacher. However, currently I am
16 retired.

17 Q. Thank you. And what are the names of your father and mother?

18 A. My father is Hour Sor (phonetic), and my mother is <Lonh Hen>
19 (phonetic).

20 Q. And what is your husband's name, and how many children do you
21 have together?

22 A. His name is Prach <Son> (phonetic) alias Saet, and we have
23 four children.

24 [09.21.44]

25 Q. Thank you, Madam Vong Sarun. The greffier made an oral report

4

1 that to your best knowledge, none of your father, mother,
2 ascendants, children or descendants, brothers, sisters, in-laws
3 or husband is admitted as a civil party in Case 002. Is this
4 information correct?

5 A. Mr. President, please repeat your question.

6 Q. The greffier made an oral report that to your best knowledge,
7 none of your father, mother, ascendants, children or descendants,
8 brothers, sisters, in-laws or husband is admitted as a civil
9 party in Case 002. Is this information correct?

10 A. I don't understand your question, Your Honour.

11 Q. Madam, do you know if any of your relatives filed an
12 application to become a civil party in this case?

13 A. No.

14 [09.23.14]

15 Q. Thank you. And the greffier also reported that you already
16 took an oath before your appearance in this Court; is that
17 correct?

18 A. Yes, I took an oath.

19 Q. Thank you. And the Chamber would like to inform you of your
20 rights and obligations as a witness. Regarding your rights, Madam
21 Vong Sarun, as a witness in the proceedings before the Chamber,
22 you may refuse to respond to any question or to make any comment
23 which may incriminate you. That is your right against
24 self-incrimination. This means that you may refuse to provide
25 your response or make any comment that could lead you to being

5

1 prosecuted.

2 Regarding your obligations, as a witness in the proceedings
3 before the Chamber, you must respond to any questions by the
4 Bench or relevant Parties except where your response or comment
5 to those questions might incriminate you, as the Chamber has just
6 informed you of your rights as a witness. You must tell the truth
7 that you have known, heard, seen, remembered, experienced or
8 observed directly about an event or occurrence which are related
9 to the questions that the Bench or a party pose to you. Do you
10 understand about your rights and obligations as a witness before
11 this Chamber, Madam Witness?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 [09.25.05]

14 Q. Thank you. And Madam Vong Sarun, have you been interviewed by
15 investigators of the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges of the
16 ECCC?

17 A. No, I haven't.

18 MR. PRESIDENT:

19 Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 91(bis) of the ECCC Internal Rules,
20 the Chamber shall give the floor to Nuon Chea's defence to put
21 questions to this witness. However, as requested by Nuon Chea's
22 defence to put the questions last to this witness, although they
23 were the requestor for this witness, the Chamber grants the
24 defence team their request, and the floor will be given first to
25 the Co-Prosecutors before other Parties to this case. The

1 Co-Prosecutors, you have the floor.

2 [09.26.25]

3 QUESTIONING BY MR. LYSAK:

4 Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, Your Honours, counsel.

5 Q. Madam Witness, my name is Dale Lysak. I'll be asking you some
6 questions this morning, and I'd like to start, if you could tell
7 us simply where you were living at the start of the Khmer Rouge
8 regime on the 17th of April 1975?

9 MS. VONG SARUN:

10 A. <As of> 17 April 1975, I was detained in prison, just to be
11 brief.

12 Q. Are you sure that you were in prison on the 17th of April, and
13 can you tell us a little bit about when you were detained and
14 what prison you were at?

15 A. I was detained at Krang Ta Chan prison in Samraong commune,
16 Tram Kak district, Takeo province.

17 [09.27.54]

18 Q. Let's come back to the dates a little later. Why don't you
19 tell us where you lived, and what you did for work prior to the
20 time you were arrested and sent to Krang Ta Chan?

21 A. Before I was detained in prison at Kraing Ta Chan prison, I
22 was transferred from Tram Kak to Chan Teab village, Trapeang Thum
23 commune, Tram Kak district, Takeo province.

24 Q. Before you were arrested and sent to Krang Ta Chan, did you
25 work as a medic at a hospital that was known as Hospital 22?

7

1 A. Yes, I was a hospital staff at Hospital <M-22>, and after the
2 liberation in 1975, I was sent to Tram Kak district as I just
3 mentioned earlier<, specifically Chan Teab village>.

4 Q. How long did you work at Hospital 22?

5 A. I cannot recall it clearly. I cannot say how long I worked
6 there. It could be three or four months before the liberation
7 <that took place on 7 January 1975 I am not certain of this.>

8 [09.30.30]

9 Q. And where was Hospital 22 located?

10 A. Before the liberation on 17 April 1975 -- rather I cannot
11 recall the location of that hospital. I simply recall that I was
12 sent -- or transferred to work at the provincial hospital in
13 Takeo province <right after the liberation>.

14 Q. Do you remember, was Hospital 22 in Tram Kak district? Or was
15 it in some other part of Takeo province?

16 A. If I am not mistaken, that hospital was close to <the>
17 Trapeang Kul <Hospital, which was also located in> Tram Kak
18 district, Takeo province.

19 Q. And can you tell us what type of hospital was Hospital 22? Do
20 you know -- was it a zone hospital, a sector hospital, a military
21 hospital? Can you tell us a little bit about Hospital 22?

22 A. Hospital <M-22> was the Southwest Zone hospital, but it
23 provided treatment for <the> military.

24 Q. Who was the head of Hospital 22 during the time you worked
25 there?

8

1 A. The chief of hospital was Kang. I did not know his surname.

2 [09.33.17]

3 Q. And can you tell us how it was that you came to be assigned to
4 work at Hospital 22?

5 A. I could recall it. I got married and my husband was a medic,
6 so I was allowed to live with my husband.

7 Q. Let me ask you a few questions about your husband. When was it
8 that you got married? What year?

9 A. I got married in 1973.

10 Q. Where were you living when you got married to your husband?

11 A. After my marriage, first I lived in Prey <Khmao (phonetic)
12 village> , Chhuk district, Kampot province.

13 Q. And where was your husband from? Was he from the same village
14 and commune as you?

15 A. My husband was born in <Phum Thum (phonetic) alias Tonn Honn
16 (phonetic)>, Kampong Trach district, Kampot province.

17 Q. Was your husband Khmer Krom or Kampuchea Krom?

18 A. My husband was purely Khmer, but he was living in <Tonn Honn >
19 (phonetic) <next to> the border <between> Cambodia and Vietnam
20 <>.

21 [09.36.12]

22 Q. Do you know whether, before the time you got married, whether
23 your husband had lived in Vietnam at any time?

24 A. Before I got married to my husband -- actually, my husband was
25 purely Khmer, but it was said that he was from Hanoi.

1 Q. Can you explain that? Why did people say he was from Hanoi?

2 A. For this matter, I am not sure. But he told me that during the
3 Issarak time he worked as a medic. <And when the war ended,> he
4 was collected and sent to Vietnam to <continue practising
5 medicine>.

6 Q. When you and your husband were married, was it a traditional
7 Khmer wedding? Or was it a wedding arranged by the Party, by
8 Angkar?

9 A. For my marriage, Angkar arranged it for me.

10 [09.38.10]

11 Q. And can you tell us what your husband's position, or
12 positions, was during the Khmer Rouge regime -- that is, from
13 April 1975 through January 1979?

14 A. He was a surgeon, giving treatment to people.

15 Q. Where did he work as a surgeon?

16 A. As a surgeon, he was working in <M-22>.

17 Q. So, you and your husband worked at the same hospital, Hospital
18 22; is that correct?

19 A. Yes, that is correct.

20 Q. Is your husband still alive today?

21 A. He is already deceased. He was imprisoned at Krang Ta Chan
22 security, where I was also <detained>.

23 [09.40.10]

24 Q. And can you tell us, did he die at Krang Ta Chan? Or did he
25 survive the Khmer Rouge period like you, and die later?

10

1 A. After he <had been> arrested for one week, he was executed at
2 Krang Ta Chan.

3 Q. I'll come back to ask you some more questions about that
4 later.

5 Your husband's name, did I understand correctly that his
6 revolutionary alias was Saet?

7 A. Yes, his name was Saet. It was his alias name.

8 Q. Could you repeat for me what his family and given name was?

9 A. My husband's name -- full name was Prach <Son (phonetic)>, and
10 his alias name was Saet.

11 Q. Thank you. I want to turn now to some questions about your
12 arrest and the events that occurred leading up to and after your
13 arrest. Could you tell us what happened, where you were when you
14 were arrested by the Khmer Rouge?

15 A. Could you clarify for me what event are you referring to?

16 [09.42.55]

17 Q. You've indicated that you were detained at Krang Ta Chan
18 prison. What I want to know -- what I want you to tell us about
19 first is how you got to Krang Ta Chan. Were you arrested? And if
20 so, can you tell us who it was that arrested you and sent you to
21 Krang Ta Chan prison?

22 A. After my husband <had been> taken away, I was put in the
23 cooperative of Chan Teab, in the widows' unit. I was asked to
24 build dams, dig canal, and after my return at noon time I saw two
25 militiamen. I was told that I had to go back to my home. At that

11

1 time I asked permission to collect my belongings, and I was told
2 that I did not need to go to collect my belongings. They would
3 collect the belongings for me<, and have them sent to me later>.
4 At that time I had a baby, a one-year baby <girl>. When I was
5 working in the mobile unit, <both my baby and I> had nothing but
6 <only> one set of <worn-out> clothes <each. They did not care if
7 we had enough to wear.> They made us work, and gave us only a
8 ladle of gruel. <My baby was crying> every day. <This made me
9 miss> my husband <as> I did not know how hard he was <being>
10 asked to work.
11 <The moment> , I was told that I had to go back to my home, <I
12 was shocked, and knew for certain> that I would be <taken and>
13 imprisoned <due to the fact that my husband had already been
14 arrested. I have already forgotten the name of that female chief.
15 I then asked her to tell me the truth about the place I was being
16 taken as I had not seen my parents for ages. I told her that I
17 was married with a child, but> my husband <had already been>
18 taken away and disappeared; <and I was being left all alone with
19 the child in worn-out clothes as no one seemed to care.> And
20 <then>, I <left> with them, <and as we were arriving at a
21 bridge so-called> Trapeang Thum <they> asked <me> to wait there
22 <for another person. A moment later, I spotted a lady carrying a
23 three-month old infant. I knew the lady. Her name was> Han. <She
24 used to work at Hospital M-22 with me.>
25 [09.46.07]

1 <The moment she saw me, she came running to hug me and was
2 telling me that both of us would end up in a prison. At that
3 particular moment, I could neither talk nor weep. I became
4 totally overwhelmed, and could not tell any direction. Having
5 walked about between four and five kilometres further when we
6 reached> a place <by> a <pond. The two> militiamen asked <us> to
7 stop, <and> searched <us for things that we might have hidden.
8 Frankly,> I had nothing at that time, as I said. I had <only> a
9 set of clothes <so did> my baby<. Before that, I was assigned to
10 carry dirt at a canal project during which I did not bring along
11 anything, and my parents and I did not come from that place. I
12 was a worker there, but> I was considered <belonging to> a class
13 below <the> ordinary people <who lived there. And for this
14 reason, they did not give me any clothes to wear.>
15 <After being interviewed at the lake,> I was taken to a place
16 <located > about 100 metres away from <> that lake. <The place
17 was surrounded by the fences with barbed wire, but there was no
18 gate, and then they> led <me> into that place<. About 50 metres
19 later, there was another layer of fences with a gate. Having
20 studied the situation, I was thinking to myself> that I <was
21 about to die. My baby hugged me and cried. I also hugged her and
22 cried. Just after going past the gate, I saw long halls> with
23 wooden <walls. The militiamen then took us to a hall. The prison
24 chief there then unlocked the hall, and led me in. Inside the
25 hall,> I was asked to sit down <with my legs laid before me, and

1 then they put shackles around my ankles, and secured them by a
2 metal bar. These objects have been well preserved as evidence at
3 Krang Ta Chan prison to the present. Not only my> ankles were
4 shackled, <but> my hands were <also> cuffed. And they <were also
5 making fun of me by asking me to confirm whether or not I was the
6 wife of Ta Saet.>

7 [09.48.38]

8 <I did not care to respond as the situation was rather
9 overwhelming. But I was thinking to myself that if> my husband
10 <had died> already>, I would rather choose to die here with my
11 baby as well. I did not think about anything else afterwards.
12 While being detained in the cell,> I was given <> a ladle of
13 gruel <in which very few rice grains could be spotted. As for the
14 water-lily > soup, <> no salt <was used. My baby and I were given
15 a ladle of gruel each. I decided> not eat <my ration of> the
16 gruel <for three days because I had to give> it to my baby <who
17 was hungry and crying. I had to do that because they would come
18 and beat my baby whenever she was crying. She was just a baby.
19 Whenever she was hungry, she would cry. But when she cried, they
20 came in and beat her before my very eyes. As a mother, my heart
21 was breaking into pieces. As a result, I was starving myself.>
22 <Probably because> of <the> good deeds <I had earned>, Yeay Nha,
23 <the lady in charge of cooking the gruel, and whose> whole family
24 <was also> imprisoned in that place <> was very kind <to me.
25 During each mealtime, she> gave me <a few pieces of> salt <and

14

1 some pieces of ripe coconut flesh as> she could see that I did
2 not have any meals for three days. Yeay Nha told me <that if I
3 continued to starve myself, I would die from starvation. She
4 encouraged me> to be strong<. She told me that as she herself was
5 also a prisoner there, and that she was being treated as badly as
6 everyone else was.> And after her explanation, I started to eat a
7 little bit.

8 After seven days I was walked out of the room to be interrogated.
9 <As soon as I got out of the room,> I was falling down repeatedly
10 <after making only a few steps, but with all my might, I tried to
11 stand up again and continue to walk because it was obvious that
12 they would beat me.> I had no strength to walk, and I <was also
13 suffering from numbness> in my ankles because I was shackled.
14 <While I was walking there, I did not even feel my legs.> When I
15 arrived at the interrogation place, I was asked to sit on a
16 <square> metal chair <before interrogators.>

17 (Short pause)

18 [09.51.29]

19 MS. VONG SARUN:

20 Mr. President, I would like to have a short break. I have no
21 strength to speak of that, to tell the Court about the events.

22 MR. PRESIDENT:

23 Please wait for a while. Mr. Deputy International Co-Prosecutor,
24 you can be seated.

25 (Judges deliberate)

15

1 [09.54.03]

2 MR. PRESIDENT:

3 It is better to take a short break now. And the Chamber will take
4 a short break from now until <10.30 a.m.> -- rather, the Court
5 will be resumed at <10.10 a.m.>

6 Court officers, please find a proper place for this witness <and
7 the TPO staff>, and have <them> returned> at 10 past 10.

8 (Court recesses from 0954H to 1012H)

9 MR. PRESIDENT:

10 Please be seated.

11 The Court is now back in session and again the floor is handed to
12 the Co-Prosecutors to put questions to this witness. You may now
13 proceed.

14 BY MR. LYSAK:

15 Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Madam Witness, for telling
16 us what happened to you. I know how much difficult it must be.

17 I'll come back to pick up what you were telling us about
18 interrogation but first I want to go back to ask some details
19 about some of the things you just told us.

20 Q. You indicated that after your husband was arrested you were
21 sent to work in a widows unit. Could you tell us how long you
22 worked in that widows unit before the time you were arrested, or
23 in other words how long after your husband's arrest that you were
24 arrested and sent to Krang Ta Chan .MS. VONG SARUN:

25 A. My husband was arrested and sent in the transplanting season<.

16

1 And> after the harvest season, we were sent to work on the dyke
2 system and that was when I was arrested. However, I cannot recall
3 the period between my husband's arrest and when I was arrested. I
4 only knew that <it was between> the rice transplanting season
5 <and the harvesting season>.

6 [10.15.32]

7 Q. The period between when your husband was arrested and when you
8 were arrested, was it a short period, just a few weeks or was it
9 a longer period a number of months?

10 A. If I recall it correctly, my husband was arrested when my
11 daughter became seriously ill, we didn't have any treatment for
12 her and I was told that there was no need to look after my
13 daughter and the old ladies or women would look after her and
14 that I had to return to work. At that time my daughter was still
15 young, she was a bit over a year old, she started walking at that
16 time and that was the time that my husband was arrested and later
17 on during the harvest season and it was almost over when I was
18 arrested. And when my daughter was sick, I wanted her to be sent
19 to a hospital but the village chief denied the request.

20 [10.17.17]

21 Q. Thank you, Madam Witness. You also told us that when you were
22 arrested, your one year old child was arrested with you, did you
23 have other children and if so, what happened to them when you
24 were arrested?

25 A. I had two children when I was arrested. However, the

17

1 <youngest> one died<.The other one was the child who was about
2 one year old when my husband was taken away and killed. Later> on
3 when I remarried I had three more children.

4 Q. The child of yours that died, did this child die before Krang
5 Ta Chan or while you were at Krang Ta Chan?

6 A. She died before I was sent to Krang Ta Chan.

7 Q. How old was your child who died before you were sent to Krang
8 Ta Chan and was this a boy or a girl and can you tell us what
9 happened to that child?

10 A. It was my son. He died after I delivered him, not long after I
11 delivered him; because of the improper delivery he died.

12 [1019.38]

13 Q. Thank you, Madam Witness.

14 Mr. President, with your leave, at this point I would like to
15 provide a document to the witness, a Krang Ta Chan prisoner list
16 to see if that helps refresh her recollection about the timing of
17 when she was sent to Krang Ta Chan. This is document E3/4164 -
18 E3/4164. With your leave, may I provide this to the witness?

19 MR. PRESIDENT:

20 Yes, you can do so.

21 [10.20.26]

22 BY MR. LYSAK:

23 Q. Madam Witness, the document that you've been provided is a
24 prisoner list titled "Brief biographies of prisoners at Tram Kak
25 district education office". The second prisoner on this list, and

18

1 I've highlighted that information to make it easy for you is
2 yourself, a person named Vong Sarun, a 27 female from Kcheay
3 village, Dong Tong commune in Kampot, married to husband name
4 Prach Set, and this prisoner list records the date of your
5 arrival at Krang Ta Chan as the 23rd of May 1977. Does that
6 refresh your recollection about when you were arrested and sent
7 to Krang Ta Chan? Was it in fact around May 1977?

8 JUDGE FENZ:

9 While the witness is thinking, could you please provide us with
10 the reference, the ERN number?

11 MR. LYSAK:

12 Yes, Your Honour, it is the second person on the list. The
13 specific ERN references are English, 00973147; French, 00937104;
14 and in Khmer, it's a two page document and it's not -- her
15 information goes across both pages. Just to make sure the record
16 is clear, the English ERN - so -- and the document again is
17 E3/4164.

18 [10.22.48]

19 BY MR. LYSAK:

20 Madam Witness, does this refresh your recollection of the time
21 that you were arrested and sent to Krang Ta Chan was in May 1977?

22 MS. VONG SARUN:

23 A. Yes, I recall it. However, I was not asked whether I <had>
24 stayed at <Takeo> hospital<. After> the country <had been>
25 liberated, I was <actually sent> to work in <Takeo > hospital <to

1 transplant rice> for two years <in Takeo province> before I was
2 sent to Tram Kak district. <I was not asked about the time I had
3 spent working in Takeo.>

4 Q. Now the prisoner whose name that appears immediately below
5 yours so it's the third person on this list, is identified as Uch
6 Han, a 26-year old female from Trapeang Kol, who arrived on the
7 same date as you, the 23rd of May 1977. Is this is person that
8 you referred to earlier named Han, the female who you met and who
9 was sent to Krang Ta Chan with you?

10 A. Yes, that is correct. However, I do not know the surname of
11 that woman; I only know her name as she was known as Han.

12 [10.24.55]

13 Q. Now in the far right column for both yourself and Han, if you
14 look at the second page of your document, you will find that
15 column, the list indicates that yourself and Han had been
16 arrested because you were implicated in the responses of Hang and
17 Kang and I would like to ask you now a few question about the two
18 people who were referenced here, Hang and Kang. You've already
19 identified for us that Kang -- a person named Kang was the head
20 of Hospital 22. Do you remember -- were you still at Hospital 22
21 and do you remember if Kang was arrested at some point?

22 A. One night, I did not know when, all the medical staff were
23 called to attend a meeting and Kang told my husband and myself
24 that we would be transferred to Tram Kak district. And after the
25 meeting was concluded, I saw a Lambretta vehicle and my husband

20

1 and I were put onto that Lambretta and I didn't know where we
2 were sent to because it was dark. And by dawn we arrived at a
3 location where I learnt that it was Tram Kak district<, the
4 district office of Tram Kak.> And I did not know Tram Kak
5 district before, so we didn't know about the location that we
6 were transferred to although later on I knew it was Tram Kak
7 district.

8 [10.27.37]

9 And later on, my husband also told me that Ta Kang was arrested
10 though he didn't know where he was sent to<. I did not know what
11 else happened to other members of M-22 on that night.> I saw a
12 large vehicle <coming and > all the medical staff <were
13 transported elsewhere, including myself. However, I was not aware
14 of Ta Kang's case as I did not know where he was staying. I
15 myself stayed among other medical staff. I saw them calling one
16 another > to board that truck, although I did not know the reason
17 for them being put into that truck. However, my husband and I
18 <also left that night>, and as I said, later on we <learned> that
19 Ta Kang <had> also <been> arrested.

20 Q. At this meeting at Hospital 22, did Kang tell you or the other
21 staff why you were being sent away?

22 A. No, we were not told anything. However, because we stayed
23 close to other medical staff and <I saw the big truck come, and
24 the staff > were instructed to board <the> vehicle while my
25 husband and I were instructed to board that Lambretta vehicle,

21

1 and after that I did not know what happened to those medical
2 staff.

3 Q. How many people worked as medical staff at the hospital and
4 how many of them were taken away that night?

5 A. There were more than 20 medical staff at that hospital
6 including men and women. However, I did not know who were called
7 to board that vehicle and it happened at night-time. <The last
8 time> I saw them <was when they were> being called to board that
9 vehicle and I myself was also rather confused as we were
10 instructed to board a separate vehicle. <I did not know how many
11 of them were being called to board the truck.>

12 [10.30.58]

13 Q. Let me now ask you about the other person that was referenced
14 in the list I provided you which indicated that you were arrested
15 because you had been implicated by two people: Kang and Hang. Did
16 you know a staff or cadre named Hang who worked at Hospital 22?

17 A. It seems that I cannot recall anyone by the name of Hang or it
18 could be an alias for a person that I knew, I cannot say.

19 MR. LYSAK:

20 Mr. President, with your leave, at this time I would like to
21 provide another document to the witness to see if I can refresh
22 her recollection about Hang. This is Krang Ta Chan notebook,
23 D157.13, and the relevant ERN references are Khmer, 00270827 to
24 829; English, 01064174 to 176; French, 00971285 to 288. With your
25 leave, may I provide this document to the witness?

22

1 [10.32.57]

2 MR. PRESIDENT:

3 You may proceed.

4 BY MR. LYSAK:

5 Q. Madam Witness, the document I'm handing you is a notebook that
6 has been identified as coming from Krang Ta Chan. It contains
7 notes relating to a person name Hun Hang; you'll see the start of
8 the entry for Hun Hang is on Khmer, 00270827. This person is
9 described as being 59 years old, wife's name Kham and he was in
10 born in Cheang Tong commune, Tram Kak district. The notes
11 indicated that he had been assigned to be a staff member at
12 Hospital 22 in charge of herbal medicine. Does that refresh your
13 recollection; do you remember this person named Hang from
14 Hospital 22?

15 MS. VONG SARUN:

16 A. I do not know this name.

17 [10.34.50]

18 Q. If you can look at the next page in Khmer -- that is, page
19 002700828, you'll see that there is a list, a numbered list of
20 people who were identified by Hang as reportedly being involved
21 in "traitorous activities with the contemptible Kang". And
22 there's 13 people on that first page, continues on the next page,
23 there's a total of 16 people listed. I first direct you to number
24 13, which is Run, female, Set's wife. Can you tell us whether you
25 were referred to by some people as Run during the Khmer Rouge

1 period?

2 A. Yes, I was referred as Run by some people.

3 Q. What I would like you do is, take a look at the list of 16

4 names there and tell me if you remember any of these people,

5 whether any of the other people who were listed here were people

6 who also worked at Hospital 22 like yourself?

7 [10.36.35]

8 MR. PRESIDENT:

9 Please wait, Madam Witness. You may now proceed, Mr. Kong Sam

10 Onn.

11 MR. KONG SAM ONN:

12 Thank you very much, Mr. President. I would like to make an

13 observation in relation to the presentation of names by

14 Co-Prosecutor. He mentioned the name Hang. I read document

15 D157.13 at the number mentioned by Prosecutor, the name was <Hun>

16 Han and it's not clear, perhaps the name is not Hang, so I seek

17 -- I would like to ask the Chamber to ask the Co-Prosecutor to

18 clarify the name whether it is Hang or whether it is <Han>.

19 MR. LYSAK:

20 Mr. President, obviously, I cannot read Khmer. I can tell you

21 that both in English and French translations the name is

22 translated as Hun. In English, Hun Hang; and the French, Hun

23 Hang; so, essentially, the same name. The counsel is correct, the

24 writing is a little hard to read but both translators were able

25 to interpret it.

1 [10.38.18]

2 BY MR. LYSAK:

3 Q. Madam Witness, the question I was asking was, looking at the
4 list of 16 people, are there any other names on that list that
5 you recognise as people who worked with you at Hospital 22?

6 MS. VONG SARUN:

7 A. I could not read some names because some of the names are not
8 clear to me, and as for my name it is clear, I could read it
9 clearly.

10 Q. Fair enough, thank you, Madam Witness.

11 One of the references in these notes, there is a reference to
12 your husband <Saet>, and also to another cadre from Hanoi, a
13 person who is identified as a cadre from Hanoi named Duong. Do
14 you know a person named Duong who worked with your husband and
15 who was also referenced as a cadre from Hanoi?

16 A. As for Hanoi <cadre> who <was> working as <a> surgeon with my
17 husband, the name -- one individuals name was <Ta> Duong<,not
18 Doeun (phonetic)>.

19 [10.40.20]

20 Q. Thank you. I apologise for my pronunciation.

21 Is it correct then that Duong also worked at Hospital 22 with you
22 and your husband?

23 A. Yes, his name was Duong. He was also a surgeon.

24 Q. And do you know what happened to him during the Khmer Rouge
25 regime, was he also arrested like your husband and yourself?

1 A. When my husband and I were <being> transferred <on that
2 night>, Duong and his wife<, who was a pure> Chinese descendant,
3 were also transported together with us. <However, when we arrived
4 at the district office of> Tram Kak, I did not know <as to> where
5 he was sent <due to the fact that we were dropped there at the
6 district office of> Tram Kak, <while> Duong and his wife were
7 <still being> transferred <> elsewhere. I did not know where they
8 were transferred to.

9 [10.41.55]

10 Q. And did you ever hear or learn after that what happened to
11 Duong and his wife?

12 A. I do not know. I have no information.

13 Q. You've told us about your arrest, what I want to ask you now
14 is what you can tell us about the time that your husband was
15 arrested and taken away.

16 A. It was almost at noon time. At noon time, when my unit
17 returned from work, the <old lady, the owner of the house where I
18 was staying,> told me <that my husband,> Ta <Saet, had been>
19 arrested and sent for <a study>. I was crying after I heard this
20 news. <I would like to tell the Chamber that, actually, before I
21 got home on that day, I felt like something was telling me while
22 walking home along the road that my husband had been arrested. It
23 was like someone was whispering to my ears. I passed out and fell
24 down. The lady who was the house owner found me and took me home.
25 She then asked me what had happened. I told her that I was not

1 feeling well, and fell down. Then she told me that Ta Saet had
2 been asked to attend to a lady who was delivering a baby in a
3 village so-called> Trapeang Thum. <Although, I was not told my
4 husband had been taken to Krang Ta Chan, the moment I heard that
5 people had come to him, I burst into tears already.> I knew that
6 if I was <to be removed> from my unit, I would <either> be <>
7 killed <or imprisoned> because <by that time,> I <knew> that I
8 was put in a class below ordinary people group.

9 [10.44.39]

10 Q. Did you ever see your husband again after he was taken away
11 that day?

12 A. I did not meet him later on. <On one occasion after that,> I
13 was sent to <> carry earth <at a canal worksite located in a
14 village to the north of Krang Ta Chan>. My unit was sent to do
15 such work. The <old lady, the house owner where I was staying was
16 very fond of me, and even considered me her own daughter because
17 I looked identical to her daughter. I was always addressed by the
18 lady as the Mother of Chreb (phonetic) because the name of my
19 baby was Chreb (phonetic). .She asked me to hold my tears after
20 learning the fact, and continued that in fact, my husband had
21 been taken to Krang Ta Chan prison. Probably it was not the right
22 time for me to die that when I came to work at the canal
23 worksite, I went around asking the villagers where exactly Krang
24 Ta Chan was. I was told that in order to get to the place, I had
25 to walk a bit far towards the south until I could see the place

1 with a few layers of fences. I actually started heading for the
2 place by following the instruction as I was thinking to myself
3 that my husband was still alive.> When I was walking, there was
4 a person running to hold my wrist and told me not to approach
5 that area; otherwise, I would be in danger. <I was thinking to
6 myself that I would go inside Krang Ta Chan prison.
7 Before my own arrest, I had knowledge of my husband's arrest and
8 imprisonment at Krang Ta Chan from my godmother. While working at
9 the canal worksite, after I was told where Krang Ta Chan prison
10 exactly was, I was determined that I would go there during the
11 lunch break with the hope that I may see him there. I was also
12 told that my husband was being assigned to carry water to boil
13 herbs there. I still had the hope that if I went to that place, I
14 would see him. But in fact, I have never saw him again.>

15 [10.47.18]

16 Q. Thank you for that response, Madam Witness. I want to turn now
17 to the period that you were detained at Krang Ta Chan. You've
18 already told us about your arrival and how you were shackled in a
19 detention building for seven days before you were taken for
20 interrogation. I would like you to, if you can, to describe for
21 us in a little more detail the building in which you were
22 detained, what was that building like, how many other prisoners
23 were detained in there with you, can you tell us a little bit
24 about the building in which you were detained at Krang Ta Chan?

25 A. There were three buildings for keeping prisoners. One <was

1 located on> the north <of the entrance,> another one<, where the
2 prison chief stayed,> was <located on> the east and <a bit
3 further on to the south of the chief's building located two other
4 identical buildings>. The <buildings were> long <and> roofed with
5 leaves. There were wooden walls<. When I first arrived,> I did
6 not pay any attention to <the planks of wood used for walls of>
7 the building. <Only once I entered the building did I smell
8 death. The moment I saw it my heart grew heavier. Since the
9 building was covered with planks of wood as its walls, I could
10 not see from the outside what the building was like from the
11 inside. The moment I was in the room, I noticed that from the
12 inside of the building, the walls were secured by bars similar to
13 the shape of a checkerboard, and both the ceiling and the floor
14 upon which we were sleeping were also secured by barbed wires.
15 The place where I laid my legs was also secured by barbed wires.
16 I can say that> even the cockroaches and rats could not escape
17 from that place. <The entrance to the building was also secured
18 by barbed wires. Thus, I was thinking to myself that it was the
19 place of death as it was impossible for anyone to escape from
20 there.> The three buildings were used to keep prisoners.

21 [10.50.27]

22 <Initially, other prisoners who were kept in the same building as
23 mine were> Phon (phonetic), <and Voeun (phonetic)<. As for the>
24 family <members> of Yeay Nha <who> were also <prisoners> at that
25 place, <several of her sons, and her youngest > daughter <who was

1 four or five years of age> were allowed to stay outside of the
2 cell because Yeay Nha was a cook<. When I was out of my cell, I
3 noticed that > other prisoners in the other buildings > were <in
4 fact> new peasants<. On one> night <at around mid-night,> I heard
5 <footsteps> and <after that> the door was opened; <it was a
6 frightening moment. I saw lines of people whose hands were tied,
7 and they were kept about> one meter away from <one another. They
8 were being walked by a small boy who was armed with a rifle>. At
9 that night-time, all of us could not sleep and babies were crying
10 because <> too many people <were brought into the building. It
11 was chaotic as the building became overcrowded. The next
12 morning,> some <people> were <released to go home. When I first
13 arrived,> I was very happy <to hear that people were being
14 released to go home. On several occasions, I was attempting to
15 ask them for my release to go home. However, whenever I was about
16 to raise the issue with them, Phon (phonetic) started pinching
17 me; thus, I was never be able to make such request to them. I
18 first thought that they actually meant it when they said people
19 were being released to go home. I saw lines of people.> I could
20 see that at that time, <those people who were kept there a bit
21 long before their execution were very thin, and> they could not
22 even -- they could hardly walk. <For this reason, they had to be
23 transported by a cart when they were taken out for execution. I
24 did not know at all that those who they said they were being
25 released to go home were in fact taken to be killed. And in that

1 moment, they put on loud music over the> loudspeaker <so we could
2 not hear anything. After those people had left, sister Phon
3 (phonetic) who constantly pinched me when I was about speak told
4 me that, "Run>, you perhaps was not -- were not aware of the
5 pretext that people were <sent> back home; actually, they were
6 sent to be killed." I believed <that it was> because of my good
7 deeds <of> <treating> people at the hospital <that people around
8 me were always helpful to me.>

9 [10.53.10]

10 <I saw many people in such an incident. I can hardly give the
11 number. If prisoners had been brought> to Krang Ta Chan during
12 the transplanting season, <they> would <have not been> killed
13 immediately. <Those prisoners would be> asked to go and
14 transplant <seedlings> with all of us <including, Ta Dam, Pou
15 Saem (phonetic), Aunty Rat (phonetic), Aunty Phon (phonetic), and
16 Voeun (phonetic)>. We <were the type of> prisoners <who> were
17 allowed to work outside the prison<. Usually, when the
18 transplanting work was concluded, those prisoners would be
19 released to go home. In fact, being released to go home meant
20 being taken away and killed. The pretext was used until all the
21 prisoners were executed, except the very few of us. People were
22 taken away and killed almost on a daily basis.> Prisoners were
23 <brought> in one after another and they were interrogated also
24 one after another.
25 I had a friend <whose> name <was> <Rom (phonetic).>, she <> was

31

1 the child of district committee <of Angkor Chey, but both of her
2 parents had been arrested>. This person, <Rom> (phonetic), did
3 not know that <her> parents <had been> arrested<, so she went to
4 see them. She was later arrested, and brought to> Krang Ta Chan.
5 <> I knew this person, <so> I talked to her and I asked her why
6 <she ended up in that place as well . She had not spoken a word
7 to me yet, but because> I was <> talking to this individual, <> I
8 was put back in the prison <again. I was imprisoned and shackled
9 for a week before I was released to work outside. However, only
10 one night after I was detained there, did they take Rom
11 (phonetic). Mr. President, for this reason,> I stopped talking to
12 anyone later on. <I just did not want to be known for talking to
13 or knowing many people anymore. Rom (phonetic) and I were kept in
14 the same cell that night. Prisoners were to sleep on both sides
15 of the room in order to make way for an aisle in the middle. That
16 night, I staggered to her and touched her. My goodness, what's a
17 pity! The moment I touched her, I could no longer feel the flesh
18 on her body, but rashes from the tortures as big as the size of
19 my thumb all over her body.> We could see each other only <on
20 that night>. I was detained there for seven days <after which> I
21 was warned <> not <to talk to anyone or to hear anyone's story,
22 and that I had no such rights to do so in that place.> I could
23 not forget all the things I experienced <there>.
24 [10.56.97]
25 Q. Thank you for all that information, Madam Witness. You

1 indicated that the prison building that you were in was very
2 crowded, there were too many prisoners there. Are you able to
3 give us any estimate of the total number of prisoners who were in
4 that building with you?

5 A. <The building could actually hold about 40 prisoners, but in
6 such a case, we had to squeeze ourselves when we slept. As for
7 the other two buildings, whose sizes were more or less the same,
8 they could probably hold the same number of prisoners, to my
9 observation. For each building, prisoners had to sleep on both
10 sides of the room to make way for an aisle in the middle.>

11 Q. You also mentioned the names of some other prisoners who were
12 detained in the same building as you. You mentioned Yeay Nha and
13 her family as prisoners who were already there. We are familiar
14 with who Yeay Nha is. You also mentioned the names of some new
15 prisoners who were put in the building at the same time as you.
16 Could you tell us again the names of the prisoners who were put
17 in that building with you and who they were?

18 A. I did not dare to ask other <prisoners of their> names because
19 I was <traumatized by the incident during which> I was <trying
20 to talk> to <a> friend <of mine. However, I only knew the
21 prisoners who had been there before me. I was actually the last
22 person brought to the prison compared to them.> When I arrived in
23 that prison, I could see <those> prisoners <who> had already been
24 <there> in that place. There were new prisoners coming in but I
25 did not dare to ask their names because I got one experience

1 already. <I was afraid of getting punished again.>

2 [10.59.19]

3 Q. Earlier you told us that when you first arrived at Krang Ta
4 Chan and that your baby cried for three days and that she was
5 beaten. Can you explain what happened to your baby and who it was
6 that hit or beat or who was it that hit your baby?

7 A. <When my> baby was crying<, it was Sim (phonetic) who came in
8 and beat her>. I heard people <also> call him <Sim> (phonetic)
9 when I was working outside<. My baby was in fact not only beaten.
10 When they had caught catfish namely walking catfish and striped
11 dwarf catfish, they would ask my baby to play around with the
12 fish before me. Both the walking catfish and the striped dwarf
13 catfish have hard and sharp fins, particularly, it is very
14 painful to be hit by any of the fins of the striped dwarf
15 catfish. They made my baby catch the fish, and said that they
16 wanted my baby to die so that there would be no more offspring of
17 the contemptible Saet. They said that in front of me. I could not
18 do anything to help my baby, but to pray> to Buddha to <protect
19 my baby from being hit by the fins of those fish. Fortunately, my
20 baby was not harmed by the fish. She went through the incident
21 unharmed.>

22 [11.01.19]

23 Q. Madam Witness, did your baby manage to survive and live
24 through the time that you were at Krang Ta Chan?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And a couple of more questions about the conditions at this
2 prison. Can you tell us whether prisoners became sick there often
3 and whether medical treatment was provided to the prisoners when
4 they were sick?

5 A. In the building that I stayed, there was one man by the name
6 of <Yoeun (phonetic)> who was a former soldier and he was blind
7 in both eyes. His wife was Phon (phonetic) and they had a <son>,
8 <Pik> (phonetic)> and they were housed in the same building.
9 Initially, <he was > allowed to stay out, but <since> he was so
10 hungry, <> he stole, <and ate> a chicken egg<. He> was caught and
11 placed in that building and was not <released> to <see sunlight
12 ever again.>

13 [11.03.09]

14 Allow me to tell you that, in that building, there were many mice
15 running around and he caught a mouse alive and because of his
16 hunger he ate that mouse alive and he gave some meat to his
17 <one-year old> child <who was learning to walk;> but his wife did
18 not dare eat the meat of the mouse<. About> a month later, his
19 body became swollen, so <did> his child and they were not given
20 medical treatment, not at all, and as a result he died. His child
21 also died. And when he died, his body was <not properly carried
22 away from the room. Instead, the fellow prisoners were asked to
23 tie his ankles with a robe in order to drag his body> off the
24 wooden floor, <and over the door frame. Because> the <> door
25 <frame> was laid with barbed wire, <his body> was caught with

1 barbed wire and <I> could see the wounds and the marks on the
2 dead body. <I was weeping in my heart as I dared not show that to
3 them for fear of being killed. I witnessed the event unfolded
4 before my very eyes due to the fact we were imprisoned in the
5 same building. As for other occasions, when people were being
6 taken for execution, we would be asked to enter the buildings.
7 However, through the holes in the wall, I saw that those
8 prisoners with swollen bodies were put in a cart and transported
9 away. I was thinking to myself that this time they were killing
10 those people, so my time would also come. I witnessed the event
11 unfold before my very eyes. These were the things I went through,
12 saw and experienced personally.>

13 [11.05.26]

14 Q. The former soldier that you just told us about, who was blind
15 and who died after eating rat, when you say he was former
16 soldier, do you know was he a Khmer Rouge soldier or was he
17 soldier for the Lon Nol regime?

18 A. <Yoeun (phonetic)> was a former Khmer Rouge soldier.

19 Q. You have started to tell us about when you were taken for
20 interrogation. You indicated that you were detained for seven
21 days, shackled, and after seven days you were released from your
22 shackles and taken to sit on a metal chair in the interrogation
23 place. Can you describe for us, as better you remember, what
24 happened when you were interrogated?

25 A. When I reached the area, I was asked to sit on <a> small

1 <square metal> chair and I was asked where I <was hiding> a
2 pistol. But I myself was not aware of any pistol. I did not have
3 any pistol with me; the only thing that I had was the clothes
4 that I was wearing and I had some clothes but it was at the
5 cooperative and that was one of the questions that I was asked.
6 [11.07.35]
7 Then they asked me as to what level of education I studied and I
8 replied that I studied at the Touk Meas College at the third
9 grade in the old education system and then they told me that
10 <because of my status as a student that made it easy for my
11 husband to convince me. I remained silent. Then> they asked me
12 how <> my husband <introduced> me to the KGB or "Yuon" spy
13 network. I replied <to them> that I did not know anything about
14 <the> KGB or "Yuon" spy. <To this day, I have not known of what
15 the KGB or the Yuon network is all about.> Although my husband
16 and I were a couple, we rarely stayed together as my husband
17 stayed at the front battlefield <to do surgery> and I stayed at
18 the rear battlefield to provide treatment to the wounded
19 soldiers. <And my husband made no mention regarding the KGB and
20 Yuon network to me.> And after I gave that response, I <looked
21 down, and began to weep>, then one of them was about to hit me
22 with a tree stem but he was stopped by another person<. The man
23 asked his colleague not to beat me as I was an innocent. After
24 that, Ta Penh (phonetic) who was about to beat me put down the
25 stick.Then> they told me to return and to write my summary

1 biography <on> my background, <> what my husband did or my
2 parents, <siblings> did, <my level of education and> what I did
3 before I started working. I was not beaten physically but I was
4 hurt emotionally. They teased me <by saying that> because I was
5 good looking that's why my husband <always missed me. Having
6 heard that, I had the impression that> my husband <must have been
7 killed there. They were actually not lying to me. They did tell
8 me that my husband had been killed there.>

9 [11.10.00]

10 And on <one> occasion, <when the cows broke loose, I was asked to
11 make sure that the cows were not going to the west towards the
12 interrogation place,> I was told by Yeay Phon (phonetic) that my
13 husband <had been taken to be> killed near a tree to the west of
14 the compound<.> I decided to <herd the cows into the place
15 anyway, in order to see for myself if the skull of my late
16 husband was still there. When the cows were heading towards the
17 west, I was also alerting others that the cows were heading
18 towards the west. Actually, I was also following the cows. Of
19 course, I encountered many bones and skulls there but I could not
20 tell to whom they belonged. After the incident, having been
21 accused of trespassing on the prohibited areas,> I was then
22 transferred to another location<. One day, they said they were
23 releasing people to go home, while Ming Phon (phonetic), Ta Dam,
24 Pou Saem (phonetic), Yeay Nha, and I were asked to remain in the
25 building, but those people were being lead to> a pond where there

1 were no houses of the nearby villagers. <On that same day,
2 between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.,>,I saw <machetes with curved blades
3 being > sharpened <and I became curious. The moment they said
4 people were being released to go home,> the <> music <started
5 playing> over <the> loudspeaker<. Through the holes in the
6 window, I saw lines of people being walked away, but none of them
7 was tied. Since each prisoner was given only a ladle of gruel,
8 not any rice, those prisoners were walking tiredly. For this
9 reason, I noticed that not a prisoner was tied. However, I did
10 not know how they were executed.>

11 [11.12.28]

12 <As soon as the gate was locked, I went straight to the toilet
13 through where those people were being walked, not to relieve
14 myself, but to observe how they would actually kill those people.
15 Your honours, I in fact did not know what actually had happened.
16 But if those people had not been chopped to death, how would the
17 bodies of those executioners have been soaked with blood all
18 over? Usually, after the execution, those executioners bathed
19 themselves in the pond. As I told you as soon as the gate was
20 closed, I went straight to the toilet from where I could observe
21 the execution.> At that time, I wanted to know how they killed
22 those people so I would know how my husband was killed. <I wanted
23 to know whether those people were actually beaten or chopped to
24 death> as <> my husband had already been killed<, and I had no
25 idea how he died. In fact,> I didn't see how they killed those

1 people; I only saw <bloodstains> all over their bodies when they
2 came to clean themselves in the pond. So I made my own conclusion
3 that my husband was not killed by bamboo stick, but was killed by
4 a long knife as the ones that I saw.

5 [11.13.44]

6 Q. Madam Witness, you just mentioned a fellow prisoner named Yeay
7 Phon (phonetic), a person who told you about where your husband
8 had been killed. Can you tell us who Yeay Phon (phonetic) was,
9 what did you know about her?

10 A. Yeay Phon (phonetic) was the <wife> of <Yoeun (phonetic)>, the
11 man who died as I mentioned. <He> did not commit any wrongdoing<.
12 Immediately after> the country was liberated, <he> was in charge
13 of the blind people and <he> was accused of <having traded> an
14 elephant for <a car that belonged to a New Person> from Phnom
15 Penh<. He was then brought in for refashioning. Initially, he was
16 allowed to stay outside the building with his wife, and for this
17 reason, Phon (phonetic)> knew that <Ta Saet,> my husband <had
18 been taken, and> killed at the location<. She was actually not
19 detained in the room like I was.>

20 Q. Did Yeay Phon (phonetic) -- was she one of the survivors of
21 Khmer Rouge or did she die at that prison?

22 A. Before <the fall of> Phnom Penh <>, Yeay Phon (phonetic) was
23 told to prepare her belongings as she would be sent back home and
24 that she had been re-educated. So Yeay Phon (phonetic) and
25 another young girl by the name of Voeun (phonetic) were sent

1 away. However, I did not know whether they were returned to their
2 village or not as they had left before I left.

3 [11.15.48]

4 Q. I want to go back to your interrogation that you described for
5 us. Can you tell us how many cadres were there who conducted --
6 who interrogated you, how many people interrogated you and do you
7 know the names of any of the prison cadres who interrogated you?

8 A. The chief was Ta An and Ta Penh was the one who interrogated
9 me and there was also another man by the name of Cheng
10 (phonetic), though I don't know whether he was in any real
11 position, and there were these three or four people who were
12 interrogating me at that time.

13 Q. You mentioned that one of the people started to hit you with a
14 club but was stopped by one of the others. Can you tell us who it
15 was that was going to hit you and who it was that stopped that
16 person?

17 A. It was Penh who was about to beat me up; however, An, the
18 chief, said that I was innocent and that it was my husband who
19 did the wrongdoing, so then they instructed me to write my own
20 biography and that it would not be long before I die.

21 [11.18.04]

22 Q. After you wrote your biography, were you ever interrogated
23 again?

24 A. They stopped interrogating me by then; however, I was
25 detained in that house for another week, then I was led out to

41

1 work in the field with other inmates, including the children of
2 Yeay Nha, <Ta> Dam , <Pou Saem (phonetic)> and <Voeun
3 (phonetic)>. We were asked to carry <soil> and termite <mound
4 soil> as well, and I became ill, physically ill as I worked so
5 hard in carrying the <soil> at the time. <I have suffered from
6 the fallen uterus to the present. The soil-carrying baskets were
7 huge that I had to use all my strength to lift them up.> And even
8 when I was assigned to do the rice transplantation, I had to work
9 very hard in order to achieve the work quota, <or I would not
10 receive my ration of the gruel.> and while I was transplanting
11 the rice, there were some small little frogs in the field and I
12 caught them and put them in my -- hid them in my pocket, so when
13 I returned to the kitchen, I used an old cooking pot left over -
14 left from the previous prisoners and cooked those little frogs
15 <in the tasteless soup provided to us> and ate them <with my
16 child>.

17 [11.20.23]

18 And during the frog hunting night, usually they would cut off the
19 frog heads and throw them away <with their inner organs> and I
20 would go, I would pick those frog heads up, <clean them up,> put
21 them into the <tasteless> soup <provided to us, and cook the
22 soup> and try to eat it in order to survive. <We strived to
23 survive, but if we were to die, it would no longer be an issue.>
24 We were mistreated in every manner although they did not
25 physically beat us up. And I asked Yeay Phon (phonetic) why I was

42

1 not beaten up and that I was only threatened and she said, for
2 those people like myself who were not beaten up means that I
3 would be used to provide the service in the prison until the day
4 I die. <Having heard that from Phon (phonetic), I realized that
5 those who had not been beaten were actually the ones who were not
6 to be killed. But those who have been beaten,> none of them
7 survived. Only the very few of> us who <had not been beaten> were
8 spared because they needed <to enslave us in order> to provide
9 them with the service within the compound.

10 MR. LYSAK:

11 Mr. President, at this time I would like to provide one more
12 document for the witness to see. This is another Krang Ta Chan
13 interrogation notebook, document 157.7, and the ERN references
14 are Khmer, 00270874; English, 00866434; and French, 00872809.
15 These are notes relating to the interrogation of this witness at
16 Krang Ta Chan.

17 [11.22.34]

18 MR. PRESIDENT:

19 Yes, you may do so.

20 JUDGE FENZ:

21 Before we do this, please. We are back to the issue of torture --
22 possibly torture tainted evidence. What are the notes about? Not
23 the substance, but obviously the quality of the notes, what's in
24 the notes?

25 MR. LYSAK:

1 The notes have biographical information on her and then a summary
2 of matters on which she was interrogated, so the purpose of
3 questioning is simply to a number of things that I want to ask
4 the witness about, whether she is familiar with how these notes
5 were kept, recorded and also whether this refreshes her
6 recollection about subject matters she was interrogated about.

7 [11.23.55]

8 JUDGE FENZ:

9 Can we please keep the document away from the witness until we
10 have decided? Take it away until we have decided, please. Thank
11 you.

12 (Judges deliberate)

13 [11.27.32]

14 MR. PRESIDENT:

15 The Co-Prosecutor, the Chamber grants you the use of the
16 document; however, please try to avoid the substance of the
17 document in your question.

18 And Court officer, please deliver the document for the witness
19 examination.

20 MR. LYSAK:

21 Thank you, Mr. President.

22 JUDGE FENZ:

23 I just want to clarify something. I know we will have to debate
24 on torture tainted evidence in a very short time so I don't want
25 to go into any detail, but if I understood you correctly -- and

44

1 please tell me if I didn't -- you're confronting her with a
2 statement that was taken when she most probably wasn't -- was
3 maltreated and you want to confront her with the substance of
4 what she said then; wouldn't that be the core of the protection?

5 MR. LYSAK:

6 No. The torture convention is intended to prevent us people from
7 relying on the truth of confessions. It allows us to put --
8 introduce evidence that she was interrogated and made statements.
9 So the issue here is simply what was she interrogated about, did
10 she make the statement and does she know who kept these notes.
11 These are all uses -- none of these uses are in anyway barred by
12 the Article 15 of the Torture Convention.

13 [11.29.12]

14 JUDGE FENZ:

15 There is no problem with who made the statement, there is no
16 problem with did you make this statement, but there might be a
17 potential problem with, did you say what, this and this, in this
18 statement.

19 BY MR. LYSAK:

20 My question was not going to be to confirm whether she said these
21 things, whether they were true but just to know, does this
22 refresh her about the questions that were asked to her. I think
23 it is entirely appropriate to know, to use this evidence to find
24 out what she was being interrogated about, not for the truth of
25 it but to know what the purpose of the interrogation was.

1 Q. Madam Witness, the page on which there are notes relating to
2 you is that page that I marked, Khmer, 00270874. My first
3 question to you is whether you remember, whether there was anyone
4 recording or taking notes while you were being interrogated that
5 day?

6 MS. VONG SARUN:

7 A. Yes, somebody was taking note and in fact it was An who was
8 taking note at that time.

9 [11.31.02]

10 Q. Do you recognise the handwriting of these notes? Are you able
11 to tell us whether this is An's handwriting?

12 A. He was sitting at the far end of the table so I could not see
13 the handwriting. However, allow me to tell you that although I
14 didn't confess <anything> they would just write down what they
15 wanted in the document. One day I was <tasked to feed pigs.
16 Actually,> the interrogation house was <at most 50 metres away>
17 from the <kitchen>. Although there was cassava plantation
18 in-between, I could clearly hear what was being said in the
19 interrogation house. <They were interrogating people loudly. They
20 did not care if I was listening to them as they knew that my life
21 would come to an end there at that prison. They were
22 interrogating a New Person from Phnom Penh. They were asking him
23 > whether the person <had> held the rank of a captain in the
24 army, and the <New Person responded that he had not held any
25 position in the army.> Then I heard the sound of whipping.

1 <Probably, they had beaten him to satisfaction before> they asked
2 the question again whether he <had> held the rank of a captain
3 and he said "no" and the same process kept repeating<. The man
4 was actually beaten almost to his death before he finally>
5 confessed that he <had been> a captain <in order to have the
6 beating stopped.> So I could conclude that <regarding my
7 responses,> they could write anything <> they wished. <I
8 witnessed the incident when a man was beaten until he had to
9 confess that he had been a captain as they wished to hear. So I
10 am of the opinion that my responses to their questions could be
11 written by them anything they wanted.>

12 [11.33.27]

13 Q. One last question on these notes and your interrogation
14 (inaudible) there's a reference in here to Kang, the head of
15 Hospital 22. Do you remember being asked questions during your
16 interrogation about Kang?

17 A. No, I was not asked questions about the person. They asked me
18 questions about my husband and <what specifically he had
19 instructed me to do.>

20 MR. LYSAK:

21 Mr. President, the civil parties have ceded all the time for
22 questioning this witness to me; I have about 10 more minutes to
23 finish my questions. I can proceed now, if you wish, or proceed
24 after the break but I request an additional 10 minutes to finish
25 my questioning.

1 [11.34.49]

2 MR. PRESIDENT:

3 You may proceed. There was a slight delay at the start of the
4 session this morning as well, so you can proceed.

5 BY MR. LYSAK:

6 Thank you, Mr. President.

7 Q. Madam Witness, you told us about witnessing some people being
8 taken away for executions and about music being played. I have a
9 few more questions that I want to ask you about the subject of
10 prisoner executions at Krang Ta Chan. Can you tell us how often
11 were prisoners taken away from your detention building during the
12 time you were there? How often did you see people being taken
13 away, taken out to the west side of the prison that you talked
14 about?

15 [11.35.55]

16 MS. VONG SARUN:

17 A. It was rather often, until those <two to three> big pits were
18 filled and after that prisoners were taken out of the first fence
19 <perimeter> -- that is, within the first and the second fence
20 <perimeter> where people were not allowed to trespass. <Within
21 the <perimeter> of one kilometre around Krang Ta Chan, people
22 were not allowed to live or trespass.> So when the pits within
23 the first <perimeter> were filled, then they were taken out and
24 killed outside the first fence <perimeter> but within the second
25 fence <perimeter>.

1 And I would like to tell you about <the most horrifying> incident
2 that I still <dream about it to this day. The incident is just
3 still fresh before my very eyes. On one occasion, a> soldier was
4 <brought in, and put to sleep next to> me. <He> said that he was
5 missing his family <so he fled to see them. He was then caught.
6 They did not send him back to his unit, but> he was brought to <>
7 Krang Ta Chan<. During> his interrogation he was severely beaten
8 up. His entire body was wounded and throughout the night, he
9 cried from the wounds, he cried for his parents, he cried for his
10 mother to help him throughout the night and next day he was
11 interrogated again and I and other workers who were carrying
12 earth to the west part of the interrogation house -- and if I am
13 not mistaken - a prisoner could only escape during the
14 interrogation <as> they would be untied. So, the person jumped
15 over the first fence <perimeter> and then he could also jump over
16 the second fence <perimeter> and we were looking at him, running
17 away and the soldiers who were guarding <over> us ordered the
18 workers to go and chase him. He was caught up, he was beaten
19 until he became unconscious, then they tied his feet and dragged
20 him over the rice field <and the two layers of the barbed wire
21 fence>. His clothes <and flesh> were torn <apart by the barbed
22 wire> and he was bleeding all over his body and, at the end, he
23 was dragged back to his <original place which was next to me.
24 That's> what I witnessed personally. I couldn't see -- I couldn't
25 say how much pain <he was suffering> and next day he was told

1 that he would be sent back to his unit. He was put on a motorbike
2 and then there was another person who was sitting behind him with
3 <an AK> rifle. <I was thinking to myself that he would not be
4 able to escape anywhere, but he was being taken away and killed.
5 Having been detained long enough, I no longer believed that when
6 they said someone was being sent home, or being returned to his
7 or her unit, she or he would actually be sent to their home or
8 unit.>

9 [11.40.02]

10 And there was another <separate> incident <in which> a new female
11 <peasant> who wanted to flee <was assigned to work with me.
12 While> working in the rice field <,> she said that she wanted to
13 go and quickly relieve herself<. I told her to go to a> nearby
14 bush, <not far away to avoid being mistreated. She actually went
15 into> hiding <in a bush> behind a termite mound and then we were
16 ordered to go and find her, <but we could not find her. They then
17 went there by themselves and found her> hiding under the
18 kantreang khet (phonetic) <plants> near the termite mound. She
19 was then arrested, brought back and beaten up. She was badly
20 beaten and it was so pityful to witness such incident and there
21 were many more incidents that I personally witnessed during the
22 time that I was detained there. Although <they were not beating
23 me physically,> but I felt the pain that those people suffered
24 and I could imagine the sufferings that my <parents and>
25 relatives received when they were being beaten up. <I had no news

1 about them anymore as my husband and I had left them for a long
2 time.>

3 Q. Thank you, Madam Witness. You mentioned -- told us about an
4 incident where you saw guards or people sharpening their knives,
5 you saw a line of people being walked to an area where there were
6 graves and after you saw them cleaning blood from their swords.
7 My question is: Who were the people who were sharpening their
8 swords and then cleaning the blood off them? Do you remember the
9 names of any of these people?

10 A. I think I was in a rush to know what happened to those people
11 and I couldn't clearly see who they were due to the bushes and I
12 did not have time to have a proper observation, I only had a
13 quick look at it and then I <returned>.

14 [11.42.57]

15 Q. Could you tell us when it was that you left Krang Ta Chan and
16 the circumstances of how you survived and were able to leave that
17 prison?

18 A. During a harvest season, we were asked to harvest the season,
19 to thresh it and then the rice would be put into a rice barn. And
20 at that time I heard <gunshots> from a distance and a few days
21 later we were told that we had to pack our belongings and we had
22 to move on as we could no longer stay there. <One night, they>
23 killed those people that they didn't want to let go and they
24 <announced> over <the> loudspeaker that it was unsafe to remain
25 in that compound and that we had to leave by midnight<. That>

1 night we <did not> sleep because we <knew> that we would be
2 killed, but we were not called and only certain prisoners
3 <targeted for execution> were called. Their names were called out
4 to be killed, including <Rom (phonetic)>, who was my friend and I
5 knew of her death from the scarf that she had. And we were told
6 that those people would be sent first and that my group would be
7 sent by dawn<. We> couldn't sleep because we knew that we would
8 be killed during the night so the first group went and in the
9 morning we were not allowed to go out. And then they cooked gruel
10 for us and I went to the pond, the pond where I saw those people
11 who cleaned their bodies with blood and that's where I saw the
12 scarf of <Rom (phonetic)>, then I knew that surely <Rom
13 (phonetic) had been> killed because the scarf was caught in the
14 barbed wire and I knew that they were not being transferred
15 elsewhere but instead they were killed and then we were told that
16 we would be transferred.

17 [11.46.18]

18 <Aunty> Han (phonetic) and I were amongst them and she had a
19 three-month baby when she was detained, <while my baby was over 1
20 year of age,> but in <a few> years' time, <both her child and
21 mine> could walk. So we saw people going to the upper part and we
22 were not allowed to go with those villagers and we simply
23 followed them as we didn't know the area well. So <> Han
24 (phonetic), the lady and I moved along together with them and
25 when we reached Pursat, Han luckily met her husband and reunited

1 with her husband, but certainly, I did not meet any of my
2 relatives. And several months after, we heard that Vietnamese
3 soldiers were approaching the area and that there was aerial
4 bombardment by the Vietnamese troops and when the situation quiet
5 down, <my child and I> returned to my village at the beginning of
6 the transplantation season and that's how I survived the regime.
7 [11.47.53]

8 Q. One last question that I have to ask you about, Madam Witness,
9 one of the surviving prisoners from Krang Ta Chan -- this is in
10 document E319/20.2 -- has indicated that you had a relationship
11 with prison chief, An, at some point. Is it true, did you have a
12 relationship with prison chief, An? If so, was this something
13 that you wanted to do, or is it something that you were forced to
14 do? Can you tell us that, please?

15 A. This <was> simply a rumour. <I was a prisoner> and <he> was
16 the chief of the prison and I personally did not have any
17 relationship whatsoever with a person who killed my husband. I
18 was a prisoner there, so it <was> impossible to have a
19 relationship with the killer of my husband.

20 MR. LYSAK:

21 Thank you, Madam Witness, for answering all my questions today.

22 Mr President, I have no further questions.

23 MR. PRESIDENT:

24 It is now time for our lunch break. We take a break now and
25 resume at <1.30 p.m.>

53

1 Court officer, please make arrangements to assist the witness
2 during the lunch break and invite her, as well as the TPO staff
3 back in to courtroom at <1.30 p.m.>

4 Security personnel, you are instructed to take Khieu Samphan to
5 the waiting room downstairs and have him return to attend the
6 proceedings this afternoon before <1.30 p.m.>

7 The Court is now in recess.

8 (Court recesses from 1150H to 1333H)

9 MR. PRESIDENT:

10 Please be seated. The Court is back in session.

11 I would like to ask whether any one of the Judges on the Bench
12 have any questions to put for this witness. You may now proceed,
13 Judge Fenz.

14 QUESTIONING BY JUDGE FENZ:

15 Thank you, Mr. President. Before I ask you questions, I want to
16 tell you two things. Firstly, if you don't remember something
17 because it has happened a long time ago, it's perfectly okay to
18 tell me, I don't remember. And the second issue, if you get
19 emotional again as you did this morning and if you feel you need
20 a break, please tell us immediately. You will get the break. Have
21 you understood that?

22 MS. VONG SARUN:

23 A. Yes, I understand it.

24 [13.35.20]

25 Q. Okay then. Let's get started. My questions will be follow-up

1 questions on what the prosecutor asked you this morning. You told
2 him a lot of things which none of us has ever heard before
3 because you have never been questioned before. And for me there
4 were a couple of things which I didn't understand quite well. So
5 I'll ask you a few questions which cover the same territory as
6 the Prosecutor has done in the morning.

7 To begin with, can you remind us exactly when you came to -- when
8 you were brought into Krang Ta Chan, and when you went out of
9 there, because I've written down two different dates? So when did
10 you come into Krang Ta Chan prison?

11 [13.36.26]

12 A. I do not recall exactly when I was <brought to be detained at>
13 Krang Ta Chan. And <no specific individual actually released me.
14 Other people and I were just trying to run away from them when we
15 felt that it was a suitable time to do so while the Vietnamese
16 were entering> the country, and we were told that there were
17 bombing -- aerial bombing. During that time, I could make <the>
18 escape.

19 Q. Thank you. I understand you don't know exactly when you were
20 brought there. But can you tell us, was it more than a year, did
21 you stay more than a year there or shorter or longer, if you can?

22 A. This morning I was <not> asked <whether I had> worked in <>
23 Takeo <Hospital; thus, I responded that it was in 1975 that I was
24 brought to Krang Ta Chan. Having thought over, I recall that I
25 actually had spent two years working at Takeo Hospital before> I

1 was sent to Krang Ta Chan <prison>.

2 [13.38.16]

3 Q. Okay. I'm now coming to the subject of your husband's
4 execution. I just have one question in this context. You told us
5 that you were shown the tree or the place where your husband was
6 allegedly executed. And you went there and you found bodies, but
7 none that you could identify as your husband's. Now my question
8 to you is, these bodies, were they lying on the ground, or were
9 they in a ditch, or were they buried or half-buried? What
10 situation did you find when you came there?

11 A. <I had the chance to go and see> the place where my husband
12 was allegedly executed. <The place was not an open field, but a
13 long ditch. I noticed that the bodies had not been arranged in a
14 pattern. I thought that after being executed, the bodies could
15 have been pushed here and there into the ditch.>

16 Q. I understand that. Perhaps you can tell us -- I'm not
17 interested in the exact location of the place. What I would want
18 to know is; when you came there, what did you see, bodies lying
19 on the ground; bodies in a ditch; buried, not buried?

20 A. Upon my arrival at that place, I saw only skeletal remains<,
21 not any flesh attached to them>. And the skeletal remains were on
22 the ground -- were on the surface. <If the bodies had been
23 buried, I would not have seen the bones. So those dead bodies
24 could have been lying either face up or down. That was how it
25 could have been the case.>

1 [13.40.50]

2 Q. So I take it, and this is partly a question to translation, we
3 are really talking about skeletons, meaning bones as opposed to
4 bodies; is that correct? That's not a translation problem now?
5 What you saw were bones? Or did you see bodies?

6 MR. PRESIDENT:

7 Please hold on, Madam Witness. Please wait for the microphone.

8 MS. VONG SARUN:

9 A. I saw skeletal remains or bones. <I saw the complete skeletons
10 including the skulls, spines,> bones, bones of the leg -- leg
11 bones and everything was there.

12 [13.41.42]

13 INTERPRETER:

14 Microphone is not activated, Your Honour.

15 JUDGE FENZ

16 Q. Sorry. During the time you were there, did you ever see other
17 places where you saw skeletal remains or bodies?

18 MS. VONG SARUN:

19 A. For other places, I did not dare walk around and explore. I
20 only went to the place where I was told that my husband <had
21 been> allegedly killed. <I risked my life going to that place to
22 see for myself> whether <or not> he <had been> killed <there>.
23 For other places as I said, I did not dare walk around and
24 explore.

25 Q. My next question is about -- generally about executions. You

1 told us that people were executed, that you did not directly
2 witness an execution, but you saw one incident where, first, a
3 group of prisoners was led into a place or towards a certain
4 place and a while later, you saw people with bloody clothes
5 wiping their swords or knives. Just to clarify, this is the only
6 instance, while you were there, when you witnessed something
7 which you thought was part of an execution, or did you at any
8 other time see either an execution yourself or a similar
9 incident?

10 [13.43.41]

11 A. I saw <the event when> people were <being taken away to be>
12 executed. And in fact, I did not see the <actual> execution at
13 that time. But I <saw bloodstains> on <the bodies of those
14 executioners. This was what I saw directly. And, indirectly,> I
15 <saw knives being> sharpened and <announcements> were <being
16 made> over the loudspeaker <regarding people being sent home>.
17 This happened very often.

18 Q. What happened very often?

19 A. I would like to <reveal to you another truth>, Your Honours.<>
20 I did not see the incident <with> my own eyes, <but I heard what
21 was happening then. An elderly> woman <and her only daughter who
22 had just been married were brought to the place on the same day I
23 mentioned earlier that> many prisoners <were being brought to
24 the place, and on the next morning they were taken away. When
25 they came to take the elderly woman, she> said that she wanted

1 to wait for her <daughter . Then they told her that she did not
2 have to wait for her as she would meet her over there anyway.
3 Then the woman left with them, but I did not really notice
4 whether she was heading towards the north or the west. Later on,
5 they came again for the woman's daughter who was then with a
6 new-born baby.> After a short while, I heard the sound of crying
7 of <the> baby <from the western corner, but> I did not know what
8 <actually> happened. I heard the sound or the screaming, but I
9 did not witness the incident with my own eyes.

10 [13.45.50]

11 Q. Was this the only time you heard screaming or were there more
12 incidents when you heard screaming?

13 A. I heard the screaming of <the> baby just one time <because
14 those people were brought in> at midnight<, and they were taken
15 away the next morning.> For me and other prisoners, we were put
16 in the prison. And the screaming was not far away from the place
17 where we were sleeping. And the screaming perhaps came out from
18 another site. And there were cassava plants in-between the
19 screaming place and the place where we were sleeping.

20 Q. Witness, you told us in the morning you know that many people
21 have been killed and you know that they were not brought away but
22 killed. How did you know that?

23 A. I knew this from other or former prisoners who had been
24 detained before me. These people, <Aunty Phon (phonetic), and
25 Aunty Rat> (phonetic) <had been there before me, and> were

1 trusted by the <prison personnel. They were the ones who had
2 learned all about this, and they> told me <what they had learned.
3 And it was them who warned me> not to go <to> certain <places>.
4 When I was detained, I did not know how many ditches or pits were
5 there. <Only about three years ago when I went to visit Krang Ta
6 Chan, did I learn from observation that there were between three
7 and four ditches or pits where people had been dumped after the
8 execution within the compound.>

9 [13.48.08]

10 Q. You told us that, in the morning I believe, that loud music
11 was played when people were executed. Was this the only time when
12 music was played or were the loudspeakers also used for other
13 purposes, announcements, whatever?

14 A. <Initially, I had no idea for what purpose the loudspeaker was
15 being activated. However, later on, whenever the loudspeaker was
16 activated, it was announced that prisoners were being allowed to
17 go home since they had already been fully refashioned. This was
18 what I myself heard and saw with my own eyes. When I first
19 arrived, I asked other inmates the reason the sound over
20 loudspeaker was so loud. Then they asked me to wait and make my
21 own observation in order to know what was going on. After a
22 while, I learned by myself that when people were being taken
23 away, and killed, the loudspeaker was activated. In general, they
24 were turning the volume to its maximum so that people in the
25 buildings would not be able to hear any screaming. This is my

1 personal assumption.>

2 [13.49.24]

3 Q. I see. Yes, then just one question about the interrogations.

4 You told us about your own interrogation and you told us, if I

5 remember correctly, that you saw other interrogations; is that

6 correct?

7 A. Yes, that is correct.

8 Q. Did you see that often or, I don't know, every day, once a

9 week, three times altogether while you were there? Should be --

10 so did you see it often or just rarely, once in a while?

11 A. When I first arrived at that place, I never experienced or saw

12 such incident for <almost> a year. <After that, since they had

13 trusted> that I <would not> make an escape from that place <as I

14 was not even familiar with the area, I was tasked to feed pigs at

15 the kitchen. The kitchen was actually close to the interrogation

16 place. If no cassava trees or Kantrang Khaet (phonetic) plants

17 had not grown in-between, we could see each other. Questions and

18 responses of the interrogators and the victims could be heard

19 clearly from my location. But I did not go there often. Only when

20 I was tasked to go there and feed the pigs could I go there. If I

21 had not been tasked to do so, I would not have gone there.>

22 [13.51.22]

23 Q. Again, my question; was interrogating people something that

24 happened every day or once a week or once a month? Or was it

25 different?

61

1 A. After prisoners entered the prison for one night, they were
2 interrogated <the next morning>. <However, interrogation sessions
3 varied.> And if there were many prisoners coming into the prison,
4 two prisoners would be interrogated in the morning and until they
5 completed all interrogation of all prisoners and they stop
6 interrogating. And <><when> new <prisoners were brought in, the
7 same procedure as I mentioned was repeated.>

8 Q. Okay. I'm not asking you now about the modalities because you
9 told us about that. I'm coming now to my two last questions. They
10 have nothing to do with the situation in the centre. You
11 mentioned that you were considered to be of a class below
12 ordinary people. Can you tell us a bit about the system of
13 classes during the Khmer Rouge period, and what it meant to be
14 considered as a class below ordinary people?

15 [13.53.17]

16 A. I was a newcomer in the area and I was pitied. I asked people
17 why and what would happen to me? And I was told that I was
18 considered in a class below ordinary people. <Through my
19 observation, when there was something, people there just
20 distributed those things among themselves.> But for me, because I
21 was considered a class below ordinary people, I <received>
22 nothing. <> I was under surveillance. <They also kept us under
23 surveillance at night. They were trying to listen to our
24 conversation. I learned about this because when my husband was
25 alive, he always asked me to clean up the area underneath the

1 house in the evening as I had not enough time to do that in the
2 early morning.>

3 [13.54.30]

4 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

5 A. I later learned that I was considered in a class below
6 ordinary people. I was given a house to sleep in. <We could see
7 the sky through the roof of that> house <> and there were no
8 walls. <Actually, the> house <could have been either> deserted
9 <or its owners had been taken to be killed>. My husband and I
10 together with my child <came to live in that house.> My husband
11 <could have learned what was going on,> but he <just did not want
12 to> tell me <that we were actually being imprisoned and
13 punished.> He told me to sweep the house, and he was afraid that
14 I could not sweep the house because we had to wake up early and
15 went to work. <He asked me to do that every day. A few days
16 later,> I <kept> wondering <as when> I woke up and <> went
17 downstairs, I <saw footprints.> I could see -- I could notice the
18 footprints below my house. I was in doubt. <I asked my husband
19 about that he mentioned nothing. He could have thought that I was
20 still young to know, and that I could approach other people to
21 ask about that, and I would not live long after doing that.>
22 Every day I could see the footprints. One day, I decided to ask
23 the wife of Chan Teab village chief <who had adopted me as> her
24 <adopted> daughter. I asked her why there were footprints below
25 my house. She hugged me and told me <with tear>. She told me that

1 perhaps I did not know <> that my family <had been kept> under
2 surveillance <every night. So I learned this fact from my
3 godmother with whom I had lived. She knew we were good people.
4 Since then, I learned that> my family was under surveillance
5 <every day. So it became clear to me when we were being referred
6 to as a class below ordinary people, we were actually not
7 considered equal to the local people there> because my family was
8 <constantly> under watch or under surveillance.

9 [13.57.01]

10 Q. Just to get a halfway decent record. I got a translation that
11 said your house didn't have a roof and didn't have walls. That's
12 not a house. So can we get on the record what this structure
13 looked like? It might be a translation issue, but.

14 A. <That> house <> was <exactly> the same as <what was> depicted
15 in the <Khmer Rouge> song<, the worn-out> roof <and the broken
16 walls so that one could see through. I used to hear the song, and
17 I finally came to live in such a house described in the song.>
18 Actually <the house had pillars> but we could see the sky through
19 the roof, and we could see the surrounding through the walls. So
20 it was the same as what it described in the <Khmer Rouge> song
21 during that period. <In my life, I went through that experience
22 during the regime.>

23 [13.58.09]

24 Q. I think we have a good picture now. My last question is, you
25 mentioned at one point that people were sent for re-education.

64

1 What did you think re-education meant at that time?

2 A. <According to the interrogation I actually went through,
3 neither education nor correction was mentioned. I have made an
4 assumption that after our> wrongdoings <had been recorded>, our
5 name <would have been> sent <> to the higher echelon<; and only
6 when the order from,>upper echelon <that this or that person had
7 to be executed was he or she taken away, and killed. This is just
8 my observation as I was a prisoner there myself.> Actually we
9 could see in the prison <that when there was an influx of
10 prisoners, prisoners would be taken away to go home after they>
11 had arrived for <>one <week or so. If there had been a few
12 prisoners, they would have been kept there as long as a> month or
13 <a month and a half, but by then, the bodies of those sick
14 prisoners were already be swelling.>

15 Q. You told us about the starvation and malnutrition. Perhaps I
16 misunderstood the sentence about re-education. Yes, that's all
17 from my side. Thank you.

18 MR. PRESIDENT:

19 Thank you very much. The Chamber now gives the floor to the
20 Defence Counsel for the Accused. And first, the Chamber would
21 like to give the floor to the Defence Counsel for Mr. Nuon Chea
22 to put question. Or Defence Counsel for Mr. Khieu Samphan would
23 like to take the floor first. You may now proceed.

24 [14.00.08]

25 QUESTIONING BY MS. GUISSÉ:

65

1 Yes. Good afternoon, Mr. President. Thank you for giving me the
2 floor. We have spoken to Counsel for Nuon Chea <and,> if you
3 wouldn't mind, <since we don't have many questions,> we'll start
4 <examining> the witness and then the Nuon Chea team will wrap it
5 up, if that doesn't pose a problem to you, Mr. President.

6 Q. Good afternoon, Madam. My name is Anta Guisse. I'm
7 International Co-Counsel for Mr. Khieu Samphan, and I have a few
8 <brief> questions to put to you on your testimony, <to follow up
9 on> what you <were asked> this morning. My first question has to
10 do with the <old woman> called Nha<. You talked to the
11 International Co-Prosecutor about a woman named Nha> who was a
12 cook at Krang Ta Chan. You also talked of her son. Do you
13 remember the name of her son?

14 [14.01.34]

15 MS. VONG SARUN:

16 A. Yeay Nha's sons included Khom and another son whose name I
17 cannot recall.

18 Q. Does the name Sory Sen ring a bell to you?

19 A. Yes, I recall that. I was detained in a house while he was
20 allowed to work outside the house, as he was used to drag away
21 any dead prisoner and to carry faeces and the waste of the
22 prisoners away <every morning>. And he had been detained there
23 before I arrived.

24 Q. And as part of your duties at Krang Ta Chan, did you have to
25 work with that person? I put this question to you because at the

66

1 hearing of the 25th of March 2015, and the document is E1/282.1,
2 <a little after 16.19.29,> Sory Sen stated that, at times, he
3 would accompany groups of women outside of the premises of Krang
4 Ta Chan. <So, my> question is whether you were in a group of
5 women who <would have been outside, working> outside of Krang Ta
6 Chan with Sory Sen.

7 [14.03.30]

8 A. When we were ordered to carry the human <waste> fertiliser for
9 the rice field, we were working together with him. And sometimes
10 he put the fertiliser onto the baskets, and we the women would
11 carry them over to the rice field. And during the plantation
12 season, for example, water melon or cucumber, we also worked with
13 him. He would make beds for the vegetation, and we would plant
14 them.

15 Q. Did you consider him as your command superior -- that is, your
16 boss who gave you orders? Or <were> the instructions he gave you
17 simply <> advice?

18 A. <Uncle Sen (phonetic)> was not the person who gave us orders.
19 In fact he received the orders from the chief of the prison for
20 us to do. Then he would relay the instructions or the orders to
21 us, and he would be working together with us.

22 Q. So,<> I understand that you did not consider him <to be> a
23 superior<. Is that right>?

24 A. Yes, that is correct.

25 [14.05.24]

1 Q. At the same hearing<, so still> document E1/282.1, Sory Sen
2 refers to you. And I'd like to read out to you what he said, and
3 then put <some> questions to you <>. The passage I will read is
4 shortly <before 15.36.51,> still on the 25th of March 2015. This
5 is what Sory Sen stated: "I never spoke with <Run>,but <Run> fled
6 into the forest with Ta An. I subsequently met <Run>, and she
7 told me that Ta An had given her instructions when she was with
8 him, and that she had survived." End of <the first> quote. My
9 first question, therefore, is whether you fled into the forest
10 with Ta An; yes or no?

11 A. When we were fleeing and reached Pursat<, Bak Chenhchien> I
12 was asked to make a commitment to <a fellow> prisoner <who was
13 from> Angkor Chey district, his name was <Sareth (phonetic)>, but
14 I did not agree to the proposal. And I did not know when I would
15 be able to flee from the person. And while I was travelling, and
16 while I was cooking rice, there were exchanges of gunfire and
17 that was the time that I could flee. I was fleeing along with Ta
18 An, but then we separated when we reached the thick forest. I had
19 a baby to take care, so I could not make quicker journey as Ta An
20 did. And that's how I separated from them, including Ta An.

21 [14.07.42]

22 Q. And <did you tell this story --> did you meet Sory Sen to tell
23 him under what conditions you fled, after <you ran away from>
24 Krang Ta Chan? Did you meet him after 1979<, or before,> to
25 explain to him under what circumstances you fled?

68

1 A. Three years ago, my child bought me a motorbike so I could
2 travel to Krang Ta Chan. And on the first day of the Khmer New
3 Year period, I asked <> my son-in-law to take me on the motorbike
4 to Krang Ta Chan in order to search for the name of my husband.
5 And I didn't find his name <on the list>, instead I found my
6 name. And the person there asked me to <> write down my name,
7 that I am alive and that I should write my phone number down so
8 that other survivors could contact me. And I did that based on
9 <the suggestion of> an elderly man who was looking after the
10 area. And later on, I did not go to see Sen. But Sen knew that I
11 was alive. And from what I understand, he went to Krang Ta Chan
12 and probably he was told by the elderly man there that I was
13 alive. Then he gave me a call, and he said that it was fortunate
14 that I survive. I said yes, it was lucky for me that I could have
15 died on several occasions including when I was there or when I
16 was fleeing. And we did not say anything at all in relation to Ta
17 An.

18 [14.10.02]

19 Q. And apart from that phone call you had with Sory Sen, you did
20 not meet with him again on another occasion?

21 A. No. I have not met him in person until today. And I only met
22 him via telephone call.

23 Q. Very well. I'll <now> quote the <continuation> of what he
24 said at <this> hearing of March the 25th 2015, which ties in
25 <with a> question put to you by the <International> Co-Prosecutor

1 this morning<, and I will be a little bit> more specific. This is
2 the question that was put to Sory Sen: "And did you tell this
3 investigator <informally> that you <believed> that Run had had a
4 love affair with <Ta> An during her time as a prisoner at Krang
5 Ta Chan?" And <his> answer was, "Yes." It therefore transpires
6 from <these statements> that Sory Sen was one of those who spread
7 the rumour that you had a love affair with Ta An. This morning,
8 you stated that it was out of the question <for you> to have
9 <had> a love affair with someone who was responsible for your
10 husband's death. My question to you is as follows. Do you know
11 why <this rumour was spread,> and <why Sory Sen> told <this to>
12 the investigator<>?

13 [14.11.42]

14 A. Sen gave me a phone call and asked me that question that
15 whether I fell in love with Ta An. And I said, "No, I did not."
16 But during the fire exchange, I was fleeing together with Ta An
17 to the west of the road. And we did not try to run together or
18 plan to meet together and run away. No, I did not make that plan.
19 But I fled from the gunfire exchanges. And maybe from that
20 moment, people conclude that we were together. But in fact, that
21 was not true. I was fleeing initially together with him, and then
22 we separated. <Because of the gunfire exchanges, we actually fled
23 in the same direction, but we did not remain together.>

24 Q. And my last question, which is related to what you said <a
25 bit> earlier, you stated that when you returned to Krang Ta Chan,

70

1 <they took your contact information>, and that is how Sory Sen
2 was able to contact you. My first question is the following. Did
3 other persons from Krang Ta Chan contact you, and do you know
4 whether Sory Sen contacted other persons <from> Krang Ta Chan?

5 [14.13.17]

6 A. I don't know whether he contacts other individuals. He made a
7 call to me, asking me how I was. And he said that there was a
8 rumour that I fell in love with Ta An. And I told him that it was
9 merely a rumour; that I could not fall in love with a person who
10 killed my husband. And he said, if that is the case, then that is
11 good. Because people saw me running together with Ta An to the
12 west direction. <Since we heard the gunfire exchanges on the
13 east, we had to flee to the west, and everyone fled to the west.>
14 And I told him, yes we were fleeing together in the same
15 direction. But later on, we went separate ways. And he said, that
16 would be good then. It was simply a rumour that he heard. And as
17 I said earlier, it could be because we were fleeing together, and
18 that the rumour was made about it.

19 MS. GUISSÉ:

20 Mr. President, I have no further questions <and> my colleague,
21 Kong Sam Onn, <> doesn't have questions for the witness. Thank
22 you, Madam Witness.

23 [14.14.45]

24 MR. PRESIDENT:

25 Thank you, Counsel. The Chamber would like to hand the floor now

1 to Nuon Chea defence team to put questions to this witness. You
2 can proceed.

3 QUESTIONING BY MR. KOPPE:

4 Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, Your Honours.

5 Q. Madam Witness, can you explain to us why it was that you were
6 running with Ta An? Why was it that Ta An took you with him to
7 escape?

8 MS. VONG SARUN:

9 A. Allow me to explain. When I arrived in Pursat, I was asked to
10 make a commitment -- that is, to marry another inmate by the name
11 of <Reth (phonetic)>, but I refused. And I knew that because of
12 my refusal, I would be killed. Usually, we had to force ourselves
13 to follow the instructions of Angkar. And when the country fell,
14 I returned from Pursat. And we were travelling back with many,
15 many people. And when I reached Phnum Sruoch near Phnum Sraong
16 (phonetic) mountain, there was a gunfire exchange. It was in late
17 afternoon when I was about to cook rice, the Vietnamese soldiers
18 attacked. And we were fleeing all were fleeing towards the west
19 direction since the gunfire came from the east direction.

20 [14.16.37]

21 Q. I'm not sure if I understand your answer quite yet. My
22 question was; why it was you fled together with the prison chief.
23 The Vietnamese were coming, you could have gone any way, but why
24 did you specifically choose to flee together with the person who
25 was the prison chief?

1 A. At that time, I could not remove myself from them. I couldn't
2 find the appropriate opportunity for me to do so, as I did not
3 know about the situation or about where I should go. And when I
4 was asked to marry that man, and I heard the gunfire approaching
5 -- it was the gunfire from the Vietnamese soldiers -- then I knew
6 that I would have a chance to distance myself from the group. And
7 that was right as I said earlier. In the early evening on that
8 day, there were many of us. We were preparing to rest. There were
9 many ordinary people there including <myself, the prison chief,
10 and Reth (phonetic)> who I was asked to marry. <There were
11 obviously many ox-carts.> Then there were gunfire exchanges. And
12 the only purpose that I had at the time was <to> try to flee from
13 the area. And indeed I could flee from the gunfire scene.

14 [14.18.33]

15 Q. Were you the only prisoner from Krang Ta Chan who fled
16 together with <Ta> An or were there also other prisoners who were
17 fleeing in the company of Ta An?

18 A. There were many of us, however not all of them were Krang Ta
19 Chan prisoners. Many of them were <prisoners> from Angkor Chey
20 district including the man whom I was asked to marry. At that
21 time, there were many new faces so I could not recognise them
22 all.

23 Q. I heard you testify earlier about skeletons that you had seen.
24 Is it my understanding that you saw those skeletons after your
25 release from Krang Ta Chan, so after the Vietnamese came?

1 [14.19.43]

2 A. No, not after the liberation. It was about six months before
3 the arrival of the Vietnamese troops. And at that time, I had
4 been detained there for over two years. And at that time, Yeay
5 Nha and her relatives were allowed to return <home>. Ta Dam, Sen,
6 and <Aunty> Han (phonetic) and I were allowed to stay. And as I
7 said, Yeay Phon (phonetic) told me that my husband was killed
8 there. And it was my intention that when I could, I would go
9 there to see if I could find the skeletons of my husband. And
10 this is what I did and what I saw. And it's not a rumour. And it
11 did not happen after the country was liberated. It <had> happened
12 before <the time I fled when the Vietnamese were advancing>.

13 Q. I'm not sure if I understand your answer completely. Did you
14 say you saw skeletons after grandmother Nha was released or did I
15 not get that right?

16 [14.21.07]

17 A. Let me repeat. It was not after the liberation. It happened
18 about six months before the liberation and I was still being
19 detained there. And I was asked to tend the cows so I could find
20 the opportunity in order to go there and see by myself while
21 pretending to tend the cows. And I wanted to see whether there
22 were skeleton remains there. <When the cows were heading towards
23 the west, I was following them, but I also alerted others that
24 the cows were heading towards the west. If I had gotten caught
25 for that, I would have told them that I was trying to stop the

1 cows. Actually, I was not trying to stop the cows, but was aiming
2 to see the place.> And yes, I found the skeleton remains there,
3 and I only stayed there briefly, then I moved the cows to the
4 other part.

5 Q. But where was it exactly in relation to the compound where you
6 saw those skeletons? I'm not quite sure if I understand. Where
7 was it that you saw those skeletons?

8 A. It was within the compound of the Krang Ta Chan office. There
9 was <the> first fence <perimeter>, and the second inner fence
10 <perimeter> which was laid with barbed wire was closer to the
11 compound. And then there was a footpath, and to the west of the
12 footpath <I was not certain whether or not> there was a shallow
13 pit. And previously, I heard the screaming and the voice coming
14 from that area including the screaming of an infant. <I only went
15 to see the pit where I believed my husband had been killed.> And
16 later on, in the last few years when I visited Krang Ta Chan, I
17 <tried to recollect> the various locations <within the compound
18 including > the detention buildings, <the kitchen, and> the
19 interrogation house. <Then I realized that> the screaming or the
20 voices that I heard during the time, <there was> in fact < a
21 pit>. <This is what I saw after the liberation.> And as for the
22 skeleton remains, it had been gathered and placed in a stupa.

23 [14.23.39]

24 Q. That was a long answer to my question. You started the answer
25 I think that you were tending the cows. Were you tending the cows

1 inside the compound or were you tending the cows outside the
2 compound?

3 A. It was within the prison compound. I <was not tasked to> tend
4 the cows every day. However, on that day, they let the cows walk
5 free, and I was asked to tend those cows. So I knew that I could
6 have a chance to go and look in that area. And I chased the cows
7 toward that direction in order for me to make sure that there
8 were skeleton remains there.

9 Q. So where were these cows walking then, when you saw skeletons?

10 A. The cows were walking towards the west direction from our
11 sleeping quarters. And it was on the other side of the footpath.
12 And when I was there, I had a quick look and I saw the bones
13 there. And then I moved the cows back, as I was afraid that I
14 would be monitored, as I was not supposed to go into that area.

15 [14.25.28]

16 Q. How many metres was it, Madam Witness, from where you slept
17 during your period in Krang Ta Chan and the skeletons that you
18 say you saw? How far was it?

19 A. It was about a bit over 100 metres. And in fact, if someone
20 was talking from that distance, I could hear the noise, although
21 I could not hear the actual words. And in between, there was a
22 <thick> cassava plantation, and we could not actually see through
23 the plantation.

24 Q. Madam Witness, I'm going to ask you may be a difficult
25 question. Would you be able to make a distinction between the

1 things that you saw when you last visited Krang Ta Chan a few
2 years ago and the things that you saw during your period when you
3 were detained? Are you able to make that distinction?

4 [14.27.08]

5 A. During the period that I was detained there, no villager was
6 allowed to go nearby the area. And I heard other people in the
7 prison that the compound -- the area of one square kilometre was
8 not allowed to be trespassed by the villagers or ordinary people.
9 And during the regime, the area was so quiet you could not even
10 hear any bird singing. <It was a restricted area. It was a
11 detention place.> And people were not allowed to <graze their
12 cows> or to raise any pigs there. Although the location was
13 rather right in a middle of a village, people were prohibited to
14 approach the area. And after the liberation, people, <for
15 example, Ta Sieng (phonetic)> from a former village which was
16 located within the one square kilometre returned to their
17 village. <I actually approached him and had a chat with him.> And
18 I was told that at the beginning, it was extremely quiet and you
19 could only hear an owl screaming at night time. <Another lady
20 claimed that she dared not live in the place. She had to
21 dismantle the house and had it built somewhere else as she had
22 been haunted every night. To be exact, the house she had stayed
23 was the place where prisoners were tied and killed. Over time,
24 people began to return to the village and lived around the area.>
25 Q. I will try my question again because I'm not sure if I heard

1 an answer, Madam Witness. Are you able to make a distinction
2 between the things that you saw when you recently visited Krang
3 Ta Chan and the things that you experienced when you were
4 actually there? Can you make a distinction in your memory between
5 those two events?

6 [14.29.35]

7 A. During the period of my detention at Krang Ta Chan, there was
8 an interrogation area, there were detention buildings, there
9 <were> sleeping quarters for the staff and for the prison chief.
10 <There were separates buildings.> However, during my later visit,
11 I saw a stupa which was erected to store the skeleton remains <of
12 the late prisoners>. And there was a building for the monks to
13 come for rituals. And the building was donated and funded by
14 foreign aid. And then evidence and other materials <including
15 shackles> were maintained in that building as proof of what
16 happened. Also list of prisoners are also maintained in that
17 building, and that's what I have seen.

18 Q. My last attempt. Madam Witness, is it possible that you saw
19 the skeletons and that you heard about the story of the skeletons
20 during your visit in Krang Ta Chan, but that you actually never
21 saw skeletons while you were detained at Krang Ta Chan?

22 A. During my detention, of course I could not see any skeleton
23 remains as people were killed and buried in pits. And <> only
24 later on when I returned to visit, people exhumed the pits and
25 bones were gathered and stored in a stupa.

1 [14.31.51]

2 Q. Thank you, Madam Witness. That clarifies things. Do you
3 remember whether it was somebody who told you about loudspeakers
4 being played while certain things would happen during Krang Ta
5 Chan? Somebody told you about the loudspeakers?

6 A. I witnessed the loudspeakers being played. I did not recall
7 who <actually spoke but it was mentioned> that prisoners were or
8 had already been re-educated and <the Angkar> allowed <them> to
9 go back home. And after this statement, <songs were played over
10 the> loudspeaker<. The songs being played could be heard all over
11 the place.> I did not know who made such statement, and I did not
12 know where the loudspeakers were installed. <I only heard the
13 voice coming from the loudspeaker.>

14 Q. Is it possible maybe that Sory Sen told you about loudspeakers
15 being played in Krang Ta Chan?

16 [14.33.38]

17 A. <I was not told of the event by just one person.> Yeay Phon
18 (phonetic) <> had been detained years before me. She knew many
19 things in the prison and other people told me about this as well.
20 We were the victims. We whispered to one another that if
21 loudspeakers were played, then it would be time for people to go
22 back home. And it was true that when loudspeakers were played, <I
23 would observe that prisoners> were <being> walked out of the
24 prison. They were not tied. <Although they had not been tied,
25 they would not have been able to> escape -- I mean the

1 <prisoners> could not make an escape even if they were untied.
2 <Having been detained there for half a month or a month or so
3 during which> very little gruel <was provided, prisoners> had no
4 energy or strength. <And they could fall easily with just a
5 little push.> I peeped through the crack of the wall. I could see
6 prisoners were not tied. <And for those who could not walk were
7 put on carts.> There were carts, <which sometimes they
8 themselves,> Pou Saem (phonetic) and <Ta> Dam <were tasked to>
9 push <the carts. Saem (phonetic) and Ta Dam were also prisoners,
10 and their> parents <had> already <been> killed, so these people,
11 Dam and Saem (phonetic), had been there for long and they were
12 used by people working in the prison.

13 Q. I am asking -- I'm trying to ask a very simple question. Did
14 Sory Sen tell you about the existence or loudspeakers? Or if not,
15 you witnessed this yourself, can you give us some more details
16 about, for instance, where those loudspeakers were, what kind of
17 music was played, etc. Can you give us some more details from
18 your own memory?

19 A. I do not know where loudspeakers were installed, but the sound
20 was <likely coming> from the house of the chief. Pol Pot's songs
21 were played. I did not remember the scripts of the song.

22 [14.36.24]

23 Q. What can you tell us about the volume of the sound that you
24 heard from the loudspeakers?

25 A. The volume was very high <that we> could <hardly hear the

80

1 screaming of those prisoners.> <Since we knew what was going, we
2 tried to pay attention to the screaming, and we could hear it.
3 However, those who did not pay attention would not hear anything>
4 except the sounds from the loudspeaker. <Because of the high
5 pitch, our inner ears were almost bursting.>

6 Q. What you're saying that the loudspeakers were only in the
7 office of Ta An; is that correct?

8 A. Yes, the sound was <coming> from that hall. And in the hall,
9 there were places for prison <personnel> to sleep in <as well>.

10 Q. But is it -- is my understanding correct that you didn't
11 actually see the speakers itself, you just heard sound coming
12 from Ta An's office; is that correct?

13 A. Yes. We could not see the <> loudspeakers <physically>. The
14 sound was from a loudspeaker, although we did not see the
15 physical appearance of the loudspeakers. I am now at this age and
16 I can understand that the sound came from the loudspeakers. And
17 we could also hear the sound over the loudspeaker while we were
18 working in the worksite. So I can clearly say for sure that the
19 sound was from loudspeakers.

20 [14.38.57]

21 Q. But you didn't actually see the loudspeakers; is my
22 understanding correct?

23 MR. PRESIDENT:

24 Please give your response to the question because you gave your
25 answer before the activation of microphone.

81

1 MS. VONG SARUN:

2 A. Yes, that is correct. I did not see the loudspeakers and I did
3 not know the place where loudspeakers were installed. The loud
4 sounds were played and we could hear at our worksites. And we
5 could assume for sure that it was the sound from loudspeakers.

6 MR. KOPPE:

7 I'm going to my next subject, Mr. President. This could be a time
8 to break.

9 MR. PRESIDENT:

10 Thank you. It is now convenient time for a short break. The
11 Chamber will take a short break from now until 3 p.m.
12 Court officer, please find a proper place for support staff of
13 TPO and witness during the short break, and have them return
14 before 3 p.m.

15 The Court is now in recess.

16 (Court recesses from 1440H to 1502H)

17 MR. PRESIDENT:

18 Please be seated. The Court is back in session.

19 And again the floor is given to Nuon Chea's defence team to
20 continue putting further questions to the witness. You can
21 proceed.

22 BY MR. KOPPE:

23 Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon again, Madam Witness. I
24 wasn't there this morning when you testified, but according to
25 notes that were made, I understand that you never actually

1 witnessed anybody being killed, being executed at Krang Ta Chan.

2 Is that correct?

3 [15.03.28]

4 MS. VONG SARUN:

5 Yes. That is correct. I only saw people involved in the killing
6 returned with bloodstains all over their body, but I did not
7 witness the killing personally. I only witnessed those people
8 coming down to the ponds to wash themselves.

9 Q. And I understand that you also never saw any dead corpses of
10 prisoners while you were detained at Krang Ta Chan. That is
11 correct. Isn't it?

12 A. Yes. That is correct.

13 Q. Yet we have heard testimony of one of your fellow prisoners
14 Sory Sen, and he gave testimony that he was involved in digging
15 pits in stripping clothes of corpses after their execution and
16 counting prisoners before they were being executed. If I tell you
17 that this is Sory Sen's testimony, what is your reaction to that?

18 A. I didn't know whether he was involved in the matter. However,
19 he was a prisoner who was allowed to stay outside the detention
20 building so, to my knowledge, he might have known about some
21 other matters that I did not know.

22 Q. I understand, Madam Witness, but it seems that witness Sory
23 Sen has testified to all kinds of actions that he was involved in
24 all kinds of dealings with just executed prisoners, recently
25 executed prisoners. So my question again is, how would it be

1 possible that you have not seen all these things that Sory Sen
2 has been doing in Krang Ta Chan?

3 [15.06.20]

4 A. I was not yet gaining the confidence from the people there.
5 During the day time I was led to work in the fields or to carry
6 <> earth mounds or to engage in the plantation of the various
7 veggies. We were prisoners and we were walked to work here or
8 there under their supervision and we could not just stop or go
9 anywhere at our own will. For that reason, I could not go
10 anywhere on my own. We were like in a herd of cattle under their
11 watch and we could not move freely and probably that is the
12 reason that I did not see any dead bodies.

13 Q. And let me now, Madam Witness, go back to the day you were
14 detained at Krang Ta Chan and more specifically, your
15 interrogation. I believe your interrogation lasted several days
16 and that you were asked questions but that you were not at any
17 time beaten by the interrogators. Is my understanding correct?

18 [15.08.02]

19 A. Yes. That is correct.

20 Q. And this morning, I believe you testified a little bit as to
21 the content of the questions that were asked to you. Can you give
22 us some more details in relation to the questions? What do you
23 remember? What was asked to you? And what was your answer giving
24 -- given to the interrogators?

25 A. I can recall the question that how my husband coached me and

1 introduced me into the KGB or <> "Yuon" spy network. And I said
2 that I myself never heard of the word KGB or the "Yuon" spy
3 network, even to up to today I don't know what it means. Then I
4 was asked about my educational background, about what my parents
5 did or my siblings did during the previous regime. And it seems
6 that they were teasing me and not be serious enough in their
7 interrogation and they said that maybe I did not give a good
8 quality injection to <> patients at the hospital. And it seems
9 that it was not a kind of question that was posed to me, but it
10 was kind of teasing to hurt my feeling. <What I remember the most
11 is that they said my husband had introduced me to the KGB or the
12 "Yuon" network of which I myself made no sense.>

13 Q. But did any of the interrogators at one point tell you they
14 believed your story that you had nothing to do with the
15 activities of your husband?

16 [15.10.22]

17 A. I cannot recall if any of them said anything to that effect.

18 Q. Do you remember your - the last day of your interrogation? Did
19 they say anything to you about punishment or about re-education
20 or was the interrogation just finished like that?

21 A. After the conclusion of the interrogation, they said that I
22 would be instructed to work hard and that I would die anyway. So
23 I thought that my life would end in Krang Ta Chan prison,
24 however, luckily -- luckily enough I survived after the
25 liberation. So the new regime was kind of my second birth or my

1 second parents as I recall clearly that they would allow me to
2 work until I died. And you could imagine that I was -- I just
3 delivered my baby and I was asked to engage in heavy work in
4 carrying earth and I myself still suffer from <a fallen uterus>
5 that I received during the time. <Although I have been to Vietnam
6 for the treatment of my problem, I still suffer from it. This is
7 the chronic illness left to me by the regime. I was not beaten,
8 but I was exposed to hard labour work.>

9 [15.12.07]

10 Q. Do you know anything about the interrogation of your
11 colleague, your former colleague, Han? Did she tell you what went
12 on during her interrogation?

13 A. When Han <returned from being> interrogated, I was not allowed
14 to -- to <> sleep next to her. We were separated and we were not
15 allowed to communicate amongst ourselves.

16 Q. But after the interrogation was finished and you were detained
17 at Krang Ta Chan, did you have an opportunity to speak to Han?

18 A. After we both were interrogated, we were detained in the
19 building for several more days. Then we were let out to work
20 outside like other previous inmates. So, Han and I were the
21 latest prisoners who were detained. Then we were allowed to carry
22 earth mound or to carry human waste fertiliser or to engage in
23 the rice transplantation. They would use us the way they pleased.

24 Q. Did you ever speak to Han about her interrogation and whether
25 she was like -- unlike you beaten?

1 [15.14.21]

2 A. Han was also not beaten. However, about six months after
3 <working closely with each other>, and I became closer to Han, I
4 asked her about the interrogation and she said she was asked
5 about Ta <Saet (phonetic)>, the surgeon and <she was a medic,
6 and> what instructions Ta <Saet> (phonetic) <had given> to her.
7 <She said she did not know.> Later on Han got married with a man
8 in Trapeang Kol (phonetic) and left <there to go with her
9 husband. Actually, Han should not have been linked to the issue.>
10 Han actually left the Hospital <M-22> for several years<. So she
11 should not have been linked to the issue at all.>

12 Q. But was -- was Han released at the same day as you? Or did you
13 - did she escape at the same day as you?

14 A. Han had left earlier than me when she escaped along with other
15 people and along the route she came across her husband and I did
16 not know the background of her husband or whether her husband
17 knew the prison chief. But when she met him, she <was allowed to
18 go> with <her husband> .

19 [15.16.22]

20 Q. Did you have an opportunity to flee together with Han?

21 A. No, I did not, and the reason that I did not have the
22 opportunity to do so is that I could not find any of my relatives
23 and those people who were fleeing were prisoners from various <>
24 districts whom I did not know. And only when the gunfire were
25 exchanged <could> I <> find <the> opportunity to flee.

1 Q. Do you remember how many prisoners fled together with Han
2 before you?

3 A. Prisoners who were allowed to return home <first> included the
4 family of Yeay Nha, then
5 <Aunty> Phon (phonetic) and a <girl> by the name of <Voeun>
6 (phonetic) who was about 15 or 16 years old<, while> Ta Dam, <Pou
7 Saem (phonetic)> , Han and I were the last. <I made an assumption
8 that they were probably planning to keep Pou Saem (phonetic)> and
9 <Ta Dam> for <their> service <that's why they were not released.
10 But> for Han and I, <they had no plan to release us> because we
11 were the last <> people <> detained <there>.

12 Q. So I'm not quite sure that I understand everything, but how
13 many prisoners left the prison in light of the coming Vietnamese
14 troops? How many prisoners were still there who left the prison
15 just before the Vietnamese came?

16 A. Prisoners were told <by the prison personnel> that they would
17 be transferred to another location<, while> in fact, no one was
18 <spared>. <All of them were taken away and killed except> Han
19 and I.

20 [15.19.25]

21 Q. I'm a bit confused, Madam Witness. Did you say now -- are you
22 saying now that you didn't escape but everybody was transferred
23 out in light of the coming Vietnamese? What is exact - what is it
24 exactly that happened in the -- in the week or the two weeks
25 before the Vietnamese arrived? Did people escape or were people

1 taken away?

2 A. Before the arrival of the Vietnamese, they did not send <>
3 anyone out. In fact, they held a meeting and we were told that we
4 would be relocated and for those who were to be relocated, they
5 would be taken at night time<. We> were put in a different
6 detention building. <I slept in one building, while those who
7 were to be relocated slept in another building. We did not sleep
8 that night, but> I did not know whether those people who <had
9 been> told to be relocated <were actually> sent elsewhere or
10 <were> sent to be killed <>. And <> the <next> morning when I was
11 asked to fetch the water from the pond for cooking rice, I saw a
12 <silk> scarf <caught in the thorny bush> so I concluded that
13 those people who were taken out at night were actually killed<.I
14 saw the silk scarf of my friend caught in the thorny bush in
15 which it inferred that my friend was resisting to follow them.
16 And they could have dragged each other back and forth that the
17 scarf finally got caught in the thorny bush by the road.>

18 [15.21.24]

19 And allow me to continue. And, of course, when we were relocated,
20 I did not see any of the previous people or prisoners who <had
21 been> told to be relocated and that made me believe that those
22 people had been killed as I saw none of them when I was taken out
23 with them.

24 Q. I'm not sure if I understand everything you are saying, but I
25 will - I will move on to another subject, Madam Witness. It was

1 your time at Hospital 22, I think you briefly spoke about that
2 this morning. Can you describe a bit more detail your activities
3 in Hospital 22?

4 A. I was an ordinary medical staff, and I would do what I was
5 instructed and the doctor would examine the patients and then we
6 would be told which injection to give to the patients and we
7 simply did the injection. <That was what I did during the shift,
8 I was instructed to give patients injection. As for the shift
9 during which I had to clean wounds, I was instructed on> how to
10 wrap the bandage after doing the cleaning. So, simply I followed
11 what I was told and that was mainly my duties at Hospital <M-22>
12 and I was on various roster, for example, this week I would do
13 the wound dressing and next week I would do the injection and the
14 week after I would go to find vegetable for cooking.

15 [15.23.30]

16 Q. Do you remember - no, let me rephrase. Was there any
17 difference between patients who came in or was everybody who had
18 a medical issue treated in the same way?

19 A. As for the treatment, the cadres would be put separately from
20 the combatants, and in the record book, we would just follow what
21 was written down there, for example, which injection to give to a
22 particular patient, we would just do that injection.

23 Q. You're talking about combatants. But I was asking -- but my
24 intention was to ask you about people who were working in the
25 cooperatives. When they were coming in into the hospital, were

1 they are treated the same?

2 [15.24.52]

3 A. I worked in a military hospital and the hospital was not for
4 the treatment of people, ordinary villagers I mean, or the people
5 from the cooperative.

6 Q. So you never treated anybody who was a normal villager. Is
7 that correct?

8 A. During the war period, I mainly stayed in the forest, and only
9 after the liberation <did> I <come> to work in the district.
10 While <working> in the forest, I never saw any ordinary --
11 ordinary villagers who were sick and <brought in for treatment
12 there. Allow> me to stress <that> the hospital that I worked for
13 was a military hospital.

14 Q. Did you ever become a member of the Communist Party of
15 Kampuchea? Were you ever a member of the Khmer Rouge?

16 A. No, I wasn't because of my background as my father was a
17 former soldier during the Sangkum Reastr Niyum regime.

18 Q. My last questions to you, Madam Witness, I see that next to
19 you is sitting the representative of TPO. Is she sitting there
20 because you requested her assistance?

21 [15.26.56]

22 A. I request her support because I had hypertension and I have a
23 problem with my heart as well. So I'm afraid that when I am over
24 excited it might be a life risking situation. So for that reason
25 I request the support from the organisation. <I do not know from

1 which organization she comes.>

2 Q. In the - in recent years, have you experienced any mental
3 problems?

4 A. No, I have not. If I <had > any mental problem, then I would
5 not <have been able> to teach students.

6 MR. KOPPE:

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 MR. PRESIDENT:

9 Thank you. Today's hearing is now concluded. Although we have an
10 extra half an hour, we don't have any reserve witness. The
11 Chamber will adjourn today and resume tomorrow -- that is
12 Tuesday, 19 May 2015, starting from <9 a.m.>.

13 Tomorrow we will hear testimony from witness, 2-TCW-836. And
14 Madam Vong Sarun, the Chamber is grateful of your presence and
15 testimony as a witness during this full day and your testimony
16 may contribute to ascertaining the truth in this case. Your
17 testimony is now concluded and <> your presence here <> is no
18 longer necessary and you may return to wherever you wish to go,
19 and the Chamber wishes you bon voyage.

20 [15.29.30]

21 And the Chamber would also like to thank the TPO staff -- that
22 is, Madam Chhay Marideth, for your support.

23 And Court officer, in collaboration with WESU, please make the
24 necessary arrangements for Madam Vong Sarun to return to her
25 place of residence or wherever she wishes to go to.

1 Security personnel, you are instructed to take the two Accused
2 back to the detention facility, and have them returned to attend
3 the proceedings tomorrow before <9 a.m.>

4 The Court is now adjourned.

5 (Court adjourns at 1530H)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25