



**ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា**

**ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ**

**Kingdom of Cambodia**

**Nation-Religion-King**

**អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា**

**Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia**

**Chambres Extraordinaires au sein des Tribunaux Cambodgiens**

**ការិយាល័យសហចៅក្រមស៊ើបអង្កេត**

**Office of the Co-Investigating Judges**

**Bureau des Co-juges d'instruction**

**សំណុំរឿងព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ**

**Criminal Case File /Dossier pénal**

**លេខ/No: 002/14-08-2006**

**លេខស៊ើបអង្កេត/Investigation/Instruction**

**លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ**

**កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់បម្រើសាក្សី**

**Written Record of Interview of Witness**

**Procès-verbal d'audition de témoin**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> November, two thousand and nine, at 9:50 hours, at the Lumtorng Thmei (លំទងថ្មី) village, Lumtorng (លំទង) commune, Ânlung Veng (អង្គរវែង) district, Odor Mean Chey (ឧត្តរមានជ័យ) province;

We, Chay Chan Daravan (ចាយ ច័ន្ទតារាវណ្ណ) and Thomas KUEHNEL, Investigators of the Extraordinary Chambers, being assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges, dated 24 July 2009;

Noting the Law on the Establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers, dated 27 October 2004;

Noting Rules 24, 28 and 60 of the ECCC Internal Rules;

With Mr. Samorn NIL (សាម៉ែន នីល), as a sworn Interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers;

Recorded the statements of CHHOAM Sè (ឆោម សែ), a witness, who provided the following information regarding his personal identity:  
The undersigned, CHHOAM Sè, no alias, 49 years old, was born in Dei Krâhâm (ដើក្រហម) village, Prey Rumdēng (ព្រៃរំដេង) commune, Kirivong (គីរីវង់) district, Takeo (តាកែវ) province.

He is of Khmer nationality, a farmer, and the chairman of the Former Combatant Association of Ânlung Veng district;

His father, CHHOAM Sâm (ឆោម សំ), is “deceased”, and his mother, KIM Mân (គីម ម៉ន), is “deceased”.

His present address is in Lumtorng Thmei village, Lumtorng commune, Ânlung Veng district, Odor Mean Chey province.

He is married to ÂN Sopheap (អន សុភាព), “alive”, and is the father of 4 children.

The witness has no criminal record.

The witness declared that he can read, write and understand the Khmer language.

The witness declared that he cannot read or write any other languages.  
Therefore, the original of this Written Record is written in the Khmer language.

We advised the witness that an audio or video recording was being made of this Interview.

The witness told us that he is not related to either the Charged Persons or to any of the Civil Parties.

The witness took an oath, in accordance with Rule 24 of the ECCC Internal Rules.

We notified the witness of his right against self-incrimination, in accordance with Rule 28 of the ECCC Internal Rules.

**Question-Answer:**

**Q:** In your answer on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009, you clarified that besides the Au Kânsèng (អូរកន្សែង) Security Center, you knew that there were other security centers in other places, how did you know that?

**A-1:** The Au Kânsèng Security Center originally was the Center for controlling the soldier prisoners, who had a free nature, disobeyed the disciplines, and made activities

that affected the military disciplines. Later on, in 1978, there were also prisoners, who were the workers of the union and people in Sector 101, were arrested and sent to be put in this Au Kânsèng Prison. In this Rattanakiri (រតនគិរី) province there were three Sectors, including Sector 101, Sector 102, and Sector 107. So, the prisoners of Sectors 102 and Sector 107 might be detained in their respective security centers because they were not sent to the Au Kânsèng Security Center as people in Sector 101 were. This is based on [my] understanding. The upper echelon [in each Sector] did not announce the existence of the security centers in the other Sectors. It was up to [the Zone to make such announcement] because that was the administrative work of the Zone. As for me, I only knew about the military matters.

**Q:** You said in the interview on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009 that the creation of the Au Kânsèng Security Center might be the idea of the Centre and the Division levels? What led you to think that it was the initiative of the Centre and the Division levels to create the Au Kânsèng Security Center?

**A-2:** That was my understanding since the upper echelon always had a plan before they did something. When that Security Center was created, Ta Saroeun (តា សារ៉ឺន) called me from the border to that Au Kânsèng Re-education Center in order to round up the free soldiers from the different Regiments for re-education because at that time the situation within the military was disorganized, and they [the soldiers] were in the screening situation. At that time when I asked Ta Saroeun why he did not let me go back to my unit, he answered that I should not go back because he was giving a new role, which was to organize the Au Kânsèng Re-education Center. I did not attend any meeting with the upper echelon during the process of the creation of this Re-education Center. They had already made a decision about it before they called me to lead it.

**Q:** In the interview on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009, you said that the Division 801 was created during the Great Assembly of the Party in September 1975. Can you specify the purpose of that Great Assembly? What levels of leadership attended it? And did you attend it?

**A-3:** The Great Assembly was held in September 1975. The commanders of the division level down to the company level from all divisions attended it. As a company deputy commander in Division 801, I also attended. There was no civilian attending that Great Assembly, there were only soldiers. On the administration part, there were only the Zone and Sectors secretaries. The purpose of that Great Assembly was to talk about the history of the armed forces and their new work, and to announce the leadership composition of the Party Centre to the cadres. It was not the meeting about administrative work. At that time they announced the creation of the Special Zone and the merging of the Brigade 801, Brigade 703 and Brigade 605. The vanguards (the Centre armed forces) composed of 12 divisions which mobilized from place to place throughout the country. There was no change to the Zone military [organization]. After the Great Assembly, they decided to send Brigade 801 to Rattanakiri. At that time Brigade 703 and Brigade 605 also left for the provinces, but I did not know which province they went to. The secretary of the Special Zone was VORN Vot (វ៉ែន វ៉ត) [VORN Vet (វ៉ែន វ៉េត)]. Those attended that Great

Assembly included POL Pot (ប៉ុល ពត), NUON Chea (នួន ជា), CHEA Chooun (ជា ជឿន) alias Ta Mok (តាម៉ុក), SON Sen (សុន សែន), KHIEU Samphan (ខៀវ សំផន), VORN Vet, IENG Sary (អឿង សារី), IENG Thirith (អឿង ធីរិទ្ធ), HOU Nim (ហ៊ុន នឹម), and THIOUN Thioeun (ជួន ជឿន). Also attended were all Zones secretaries, namely KOY Thuon (កុយ ធួន) alias Thuch (ធុច), TAUCH Phooun (តួច ហ្វឿន), Ta Ya (តាយ៉ា), ROS Nhim (រស់ ញឹម), CHENG Ân (ចេង អន) (from the Industry Unit), SOA Phim (សៅ ភឹម), and NORNG Suon (នង សួន) alias Chey (ជ័យ). There were 21 Party Centre members attending it.

**Q:** Who gave speeches in that Great Assembly?

**A-4:** All Brigade commanders such as CHAN Chakrey (ចាន់ ចក្រី) and others spoke on stage. SON Sen, the Minister of Defense, was the person who organized the Great Assembly. He made a long speech to [the Assembly]; and the last person addressed [the Assembly] was POL Pot. KHIEU Samphan spoke just a little. The speeches were just about making comments, and I did not recall their substances.

**Q:** You said that the Au Kânsèng Security Center was created when there was an internal enemy movement and the situation in the military rank was disorganized. How did you know that there were internal enemy?

**A-5:** I knew about that because I had attended the educational meeting with the Brigade commander, Ta Saroeun. The meeting was attended by the cadres from different units within the Brigade. In the meeting Ta Saroeun spoke about our situation and enemy situation throughout the country, about the internal enemy activities, and told us to prepare plans to monitor the activities of this internal enemy. This meeting was held regularly once in every 6 months. Ta Ya, the secretary of the Northeast Zone, did not attend this meeting because it was the educational meeting for the Brigade.

**Q:** You said the prisoners were the combatants, who were arrested from different units in the Brigade 801 and brought to Au Kânsèng Security Center. And they were mostly implicated in the confessions [of others] from Phnom Penh. Can you clarify what those confessions were and how they were sent to your Center? Where were the confessions-implications sent from? How did you know about that?

**A-6:** The confessions-implications were from Phnom Penh, meaning that they were the confessions of the prisoners who had been interrogated in Phnom Penh. [In them] they implicated soldiers in 3 new battalions, which were newly integrated into the Brigade 801. In those confessions they implicated 4 or 5 soldiers in Brigade 801. I also read and saw the confessions from Phnom Penh. There were 3 to 4 confessions. Those confessions were annotated with the red ink pen, saying that [the prisoners] were networks of the agents; therefore, these names or those names must be examined and their backgrounds and activities must be clarified. The annotations were written on the confessions from

Phnom Penh. Those confessions were not sent to my Au Kânsèng Security Center directly. They were first sent to Ta SAU Saroeun, then forwarded to the units of those prisoners so that they could arrest them and sent them to the Au Kânsèng Security Center. The confessions were also sent along with the prisoners to the Au Kânsèng Security Center. I knew that they were the confessions from Phnom Penh through the Brigade and Ta Saroeun messenger who delivered the confessions to [me]. Sometimes Ta Saroeun called me to meet with him. There, he instructed me to examine the people who had been implicated carefully. If, after being examined, we found that the prisoners had no real [connection], we re-educated them and released them. As for the prisoners who were found to have a real [connection], we detained them in the cell. I did not recall who the confessions I had received belonged to.

**Q:** Did you know KEO Saroeun (កែវ សារឿន)?

**A-7:** KEO Saroeun was the commander of the Regiment 81 under Brigade 801. He was the 3<sup>rd</sup> person in the committee of the Brigade 801. He disappeared in 1977 after he had been called to Phnom Penh. He has disappeared ever since. I knew about [his transfer] because they held a meeting to announce that he was transferred to Phnom Penh.

**Q:** What was Ta Rèn (តា រ៉ែន) role at that time?

**A-8:** Ta Rèn was the commander of Regiment 83 in Brigade 801. Later they transferred him to work as the assistant to the General Staff in Phnom Penh for a period. After that he returned to become the [deputy] commander of the Brigade 801. At that time they speculated that Ta Rèn was sent back to be further monitored. Ta Rèn was not arrested. He was the deputy commander of the Brigade until [the time] fleeing the Yuon.

**Q:** As we know it, some witnesses told us that a person named No (ណូ), who was an interrogator from Phnom Penh, came to work in the Au Kânsèng Security Center. Was that story true?

**A-9:** That story was true. He came in late 1978. First, he came to meet with Ta Saroeun, and then SAU Saroeun sent him to work in my Center. [Saroeun] told me to let No join the work with Chhang (ឆាង) in order to track down the activity background of the prisoners who had been implicated in the confessions from Phnom Penh. I was the chairman of the Au Kânsèng Center, so I helped to facilitate their work; but I did not participate in the interrogation work although I was overall in charge. I received the report and supervised the questions and confessions of the prisoners who had been interrogated by Chhang and No. No had the permission letter from Phnom Penh, but I did not recall which unit he was from. He might be from the General Staff unit in Phnom Penh. He came with the confession document. No came to work in Au Kânsèng Security Center for about two months and went back. He came to collect the information and interrogate the prisoners who had been implicated in the confessions from Phnom Penh. As I could recall it, this No participated in the interrogation of 4 prisoners who were the high rank officers of Brigade 801.

**This interview paused at 11:45 hours on the same date.  
This interview resumed at 14:05 hours on the same date.**

**Q:** Did you remember a person named NGIN Vann (ឃីន វ៉ាន់) who was the commander of the Battalion 9 of Brigade 801.

**A-10:** There was no Vann in the Brigade [Battalion] 9 of the Brigade 801. But there was a female soldier named Vann in the Battalion 804.

**Q:** Can you describe the story of Vann?

**A-11:** I did not grasp it well; but this female soldier was the commander of the Battalion 804 who made the assault into Phnom Penh with me. During the time we were entering Phnom Penh that woman attacked and entered through the same target with me. I never saw her confession.

**Q:** Could you estimate how many persons in Brigade 801 who had been arrested?

**A-12:** I could not grasp it. When they arrested and took away [cadres] from the ranks of battalion and up, I was not able to know it. That was because I was responsible for the lower ranks only, starting from the company and down.

**Q:** What brigades were the 12 brigades which were formed as the brigades of the Centre?

**A-13:** I can recall some of them but not all. They were Brigade 502 which composed of the tank and artillery units, Brigade 310 in the North Zone whose commander named Sam Oeun (សំ អឿន), Brigade 450 in the North Zone whose commander named Suong (ស្ងួង), Brigade 920 in the North Zone whose commander named Ta Chhin (តា ឈីន) and later on Ta San (តា សាន), Brigade 417 (did not recall who was the commander), and Brigade 117 which might belong to CHAN Chakrey (ចាន់ ចក្រី). There were also three brigades from the Southwest Zone, but I did not recall their numbers. There was no brigade from the Northwest Zone.

**Q:** Why did they merge Brigade 11 and Brigade 14 together?

**A-14:** It was difficult for me to make a conclusion about this. During the time they prepared forces to make the assault into Phnom Penh, Brigade 11 had many troops who were to attack through the target of Brigade 14. However, Brigade 14 did not have enough troops then, so, they took some troops from Brigade 11 [to join their unit]. But Brigade 11 was still a unit. After the liberation of Phnom Penh, Brigade 14 was dissolved to become Brigade 801. And Brigade 11 became Brigade 605.

**Q:** Did you know Khămmy (ខាំមី)?

**A-15:** I knew him. At that time he was the district secretary of Ândaung Meas (អណ្ណាមាស) district. But I did not know where he had gone to later on.

**Q:** Did you know Khăm Vieng (ខាំ វៀង)?

**A-16:** Khăm Vieng at that time was a soldier working with Ta Thoat (តា ធាត់) at the military headquarter of the Zone in Stung Treng (ស្ទឹងត្រែង).

**Q:** Did you know the security office in Au Chēng (អូរចេង) in Kaun Mom (កូនម៉ុំ) district?

**A-17:** I was not sure because I did not see it with my own eyes.

**Q:** You said that they saw your Security Center as an important place, why did you think like that?

**A-18:** After the leaders of the Northeast Zone had been removed continuously, Ta San became the secretary of the Northeast Zone. So, the prisoners who had been arrested were sent to the Au Kânsèng Security Center.

**Q:** Besides the Au Kânsèng Security Center, were there any other centers in the surrounding areas?

**A-19:** There were not any in the surrounding areas.

**Q:** How many staffs working at your Center?

**A-20:** There were 12 staffs totally, including me, working at my Center.

**Q:** Can you describe [the event in which] the Jarai people were arrested and brought into your Center?

**A-21:** First, they were brought by truck into my Security Center. There were many Jarai people, so we did not have the house to accommodate them. The soldiers, who had transported those Jarai people [into my Center], were the ones who killed them personally. My security guards did not do it. Those prisoners were taken away to be killed and buried in B [-52] craters, on the slope of Phnom Svay (ភ្នំស្វាយ) in the western part, northwest of the national road.

**Q:** How many meters from the killing pits to Au Kânsèng?

**A-22:** It was about 50 meters only.

**Q:** Other than the Great Assembly in September 1975, did you ever attend any other meetings in Phnom Penh?

**A-23:** I never attended any other meetings in Phnom Penh because I had no role to attend the meeting there.

**Q:** Do you agree if we would like to attach the map, which you drew, of the Au Kânsèng Security Center to this interview?

**A-24:** Yes, I agree.

One copy of the Written Record was provided to the witness.

The Written Record was read out to the witness; the witness had no objections and signed it.

After the Written Record was read out to the witness, the witness refused to sign it.

This interview ended at 12:05 minutes on the same date.

Witness

Interpreter

Investigators

[Signature/Thumbprint]

[Signature]

[Signatures]

CHHOAM Sè