

**Krauch village
Krauch subdistrict
Prey Chhor district
Kampung Cham province
17 November 2006**

Interview of Krauch village pagoda committee member by Steve Heder and Robert Petit. Interviewee declined to give his name. Craig Etcheson has photograph.

I was a base person here. Some new people were brought here, but then they were sent away for "studies" -- you know what I mean -- and this was about a year after they came.

The base and the new people had the same ration and same work assignments. However, they lived separately. They were in the same village, but not in the same houses, but the soldiers (*tahean* [i.e., ex-Khmer Republic soldiers]) were concentrated and kept under strict surveillance, in an office especially set up for them.

In the village, there was a chairman and a vice chairmen, and then the chairmen of the *kâng* and *krom*. There was also a *chhlop* chairman, but he wasn't attached to the village; he was mobile.

The work consisted of labour, with teams assigned to ploughing and transplanting, under the direction of the village chairman. In the off-season, he also organised us to do waterworks construction, canals and dams.

Nobody dared to refuse to work or even to complain about the food, because some disappeared after complaining about the food.

When the pagoda was destroyed, I was away, but I know that the pagoda was disassembled to transform it into a rice granary. The *khum* chairman ordered this, and it was carried out by the cottage industry section. This was because these guys didn't believe in religion. All the monks were disrobed, shortly after 17 April 1975.

None of the former monks are still alive.

There was a detention centre west of here, about which everybody knows and which is north of Voat Kor.

I'm not sure who was in charge, because nobody was allowed nearby.

This was the Sector 41 Security, where everybody was sent and killed. After the Vietnamese came, I went immediately to this location and saw that everybody who had been a prisoner there was killed, 50 or so. I don't know who any of them were. Many others from all the villages around here went there to get building materials and see who was dead.

Those who took people away from the village were *chhlop* accompanied by outsiders.

We were not allowed to meet in groups of more than three.