

Rice fields outside Krauch village, on alongside the canal from Toek Chha leading to the Sector 41 Security Office

Pao Li, 56

17 November 2006

Interviewed by Steve Heder

Craig Etcheson has photograph.

Born in:

Krasang Ta Mâng village

Krauch subdistrict

Prey Chhor district

Kampung Cham province

This was the Sector Security Office. The Chairman of the Office was Söp, who was in charge until the Southwest Zoners came. The Com of the Sector was Täng, who was under Sreng. Both remained until the Southwest Zoners came, and then Täng disappeared and Sreng fled, at the same time as Naradipo, who was at Toek Chha. There were no other Royals there, but a lot of his retainers.

Täng was replaced by somebody from the Southwest Zone. In this period, there were more killings than before. There were more deaths from starvation and from execution. Many were executed because they were too malnourished to work, and were accused of being traitors for not fulfilling work quotas.

When the Southwest Zoners came, they replaced cadres all the way down to the subdistrict level.

In the Pol Pot period, Krauch subdistricts was incorporated into Boeng Nai. The first subdistrict chairman was Khôn. When the Southwest Zoners came, it was Kân. He was then replaced by Kâp, also from the Southwest Zone.

Khôn was executed before the Southwest Zoners came. Kân was transferred and replaced by Kâp, who fled, and whose whereabouts I do not know.

This was Prey Chhor district, but I don't remember the names of the cadres.

As for those who were taken away and killed in the Southwest Zone period, I can't tell you who exactly took them away, but I can say that it was all done within the Khmer Rouge hierarchy.

In the Kâp period, there was somebody named Nim who was appointed Chairman of the Krasang Ta Mâng cooperative. Nim came from Boeng Nai and was someone appointed by Kâp. Nim was, however, arrested and killed by Kâp. I saw Kâp's courier summon Nim away, but I don't know where Nim went.

Nim was the one who selected who would be arrested in the village. At least 30 people were arrested in the three villages of Krasang Ta Mâng, Krauch and Samrong (Samraong). Nim is the one who took them away. This was in 1977-78. 1977-78 was when the Southwest Zoners came. Things were much worse when the Southwest Zoners come, in terms of starvation and execution.

On the day when the Vietnamese came, there were bodies all over the paddy fields. This also happened just before the Vietnamese came. I went to see what was there because I went to get paddy and saw the bodies of people freshly killed. I saw three or four bodies on the day I went. Other villagers also went.

The Vietnamese arrived after 7 January 1979, maybe three days afterwards, because the Vietnamese arrived here after liberating Phnom Penh.

I went at night, and that's why I didn't see very much.

Lim San, my older sister's husband, was arrested 15 days before the Vietnamese arrived, and was killed at Prey Toteung, after having been held for maybe ten days. He was hauled before a meeting at the *khum* and accused of being a morals violator, something of which he was indeed guilty, of a morals violation.

Pao Chên is my older sister's name. She is in Krasang Ta Mâng.