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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

ឯកសារទទួល	
DOCUMENT RECEIVED/DOCUMENT REÇU	
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ការិយាល័យសហចៅក្រមស៊ើបអង្កេត

Office of the Co-Investigating Judges
Bureau des co-juges d'instruction

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់ចម្លើយសាក្សី

Written Record of Witness Interview

សំណុំរឿងព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ

Criminal Case File/Dossier pénal

លេខ/No: 002/14-08-2006

លេខស៊ើបអង្កេត /Investigation/Instruction

លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ

The year two thousand eight, the month of March, the 6th day, at 3:30 PM at Veal វាល Village, Samraong សំរោង Subdistrict, Prey Chhor ព្រៃឈរ District, Kampong Cham កំពង់ចាម Province.

I, Svay Samnang ស្វាយ សំណាង (SS), Investigator of the Extraordinary Chambers, having been assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges dated 28 February 2008,

Having seen the Law on the Establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers, date 27 October 2004
Having seen Rules 24, 28, and 60 of the Internal Rules of the Extraordinary Chambers

Have recorded the statements of SUM Chea សុំ ជា (alias Chea ជា), a witness, who provided the following personal identity information:

Last Name: SUM សុំ

First Name: Chea ជា

Revolutionary name: Chea ជា

Born on 10 March 1953, age 54, at Boeng Nay បឹងណាយ Village, Boeng Nay បឹងណាយ Subdistrict, Prey Chhor ព្រៃឈរ District, Kampong Cham កំពង់ចាម Province.

Nationality: Cambodian

Occupation: Rice farmer

Father's name: VOI Sum វ៉ៃ សុំ (deceased)

Mother's Name: CHIM Sy ជីម ស៊ី (deceased)

Present residence at Veal វាល Village, Samraong សំរោង Subdistrict, Prey Chhor ប្រៃសណីយ៍ District, Kampong Cham កំពង់ចាម Province.

Wife's name: Prak Sam Ath ប្រាក់ សំអាត (living)

Children: 1

Previous crimes: None

- This person declared that he knows how to read, write, and understand Khmer.
- This person declared that he does not know how to read and write any other language. Therefore, the original of this report has been written in Khmer.
- We advised this person that the taking of the statement was being audio or video recorded.
- This person told us that he has no involvement with the Charged Person and Civil Parties.
- This person took an oath in accordance with the provisions of Rule 24 of the Internal Rules of the Extraordinary Chambers.
- We notified this person of the right against self-incrimination, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 28 of the Internal Rules of the Extraordinary Chambers.

Question – Answer:

SS: Before 17 April 1975, where were you [and] what were you doing?

SC: I lived with my parents who were rice farmers at Boeng Nay Village, Boeng Nay District, Prey Chhor District, Kampong Cham Province. The bombing almost every day then forced me to join the Khmer Rouge army in 1972. At the time, it was called the "Liberation Army". [I was] in the 1st Division; I can't remember the numerical designation of the regiment. The division commander was Voeung វ៉ៃង, who was the Chairman.

SS: Near the fall of Phnom Penh on 17 April 1975, where were your forces based?

SC: My forces fought at Basith បាសិត្តិ. Then they attacked into Phnom Penh through the Khmouy ខ្មឺញ entry point, and entered Phnom Penh along the Tralaok Bek ត្រឡោកបែក road, crossing the railway. I saw guns scattered along the streets, people holding white flags, and many people were walking around, filling the streets. It seemed very confused at the time. Immediately after we reached Phnom Penh, my leader suddenly had us evacuate the people out of Phnom Penh, while troops were still travelling into city.

SS: What did your commander say if any of the people refused to leave?

SC: He said to do whatever it took to make them leave. The commander who personally told me that was the battalion commander, Hak ហាក់.

SS: What did you do with the people who refused to leave?

SC: In the area where my force was evacuating the people, no one was stubborn, because at that time they had us tell the people to leave for only four or five days so we could sweep out the Lon Nol soldiers and we deceived them by saying that soon the fighting would explode and everyone would die.

SS: What area of Phnom Penh did your troops evacuate?

SC: My forces, the North Zone army, evacuated the people from Phsar Thmei ផ្សារថ្មី to Toul Kok ទួលគោក and from the Chroy Changwar ជ្រោយចង្វារ Bridge to Kilometer 9.

SS: As for other forces, did you know if when they evacuated the people they encountered people who refused? And what did they do with those people?

SC: Other soldiers pointed their guns to frighten them. If the people refused to leave, there were beatings and mistreatment. There were shootings and killings. The East Zone army was the harshest.

SS: What did you see then of the scene of the people evacuating?

SC: The state of the people then was pitiful. Some were crying. Mothers were crying; children were crying. The suffering was absolute. Some died in the big hospital (now Calmette Hospital). They put patients in push carts. Some patients without relatives just laid there and died at the hospital.

SS: How many days did it take to evacuate all the people from the city?

SC: In five days, all the people were gone from the city.

SS: Afterwards, what else did they do, after the people were gone from the city?

SC: After seven or eight days, they set up loudspeakers and broadcast to the Lon Nol soldiers, saying for anyone of whatever rank who had worked anywhere to go back to their duty stations although previously they had been only ordinary subordinate soldiers, they said that they were captains or majors. So they died. Some wanted to live and tried to hide things, but they were arrested anyway, because they were researched and found out through their "biographies". During this deception, saying that the soldiers would return to their duty stations, when four to ten trucks [full] were assembled, they were taken away and killed west of Prek Phnoeu ព្រែកភ្លៅ. During that killing, they revved up the trucks to make an incredibly loud noise.

SS: How did you know the soldiers were killed west of Prek Phnoeu?

SC: The reason I know that those soldiers were taken and killed west of Prek Phnoeu is that a soldier who did the killing told me. Those soldiers were killed with clubs; the killing site was about 200 meters west of Prek Phnoeu. When the bodies swelled-up and decayed, they use a tractor to scrape up soil and cover them.

SS: What was the name of the person who told you? Was he high-ranking?

SC: His name was Koeun កៀន. Previously, he held high rank, but he had been demoted because of immorality. He was the most daring among them. I still can remember they killed. I remember that they even executed Filipino people. A soldier from my unit told me that these Filipino people had been taken away to Tuol Kork to be killed. They were at a hotel near Phsar Thmei. When that group disappeared, I wondered about it and asked other soldiers, who told me this.

SS: Do you if Koeun is alive now? Where does he live?

SC: He is dead. He was taken away and killed. I know that for certain, because we were in the same unit, but I don't know what he did wrong.

SS: Then what did they have you do, and where?

SC: One evening they had an arts performance. The next morning, they had us look for hoes and took us to hoe the ground to make rice fields at Tuol Sangke តួលសង្កែ, telling us to temper ourselves, and they withdrew all of our weapons.

SS: What work did they have you do? How was the food?

SC: They had us go to work at 7 AM, rest at 11 AM, return to work at 2, and leave work at 5. They had us eat gruel. They tempered us like the civilians. Each soldier got skinny, their knees larger than their legs. Then they had us go to Baseth to dig canals and build paddy dikes. The food was insufficient; we ate only gruel, and we worked beyond our physical strength and our body was barely recognizable. We did not dare talk with one another. They outright broke us. Only the leaders had enough to eat. My personal leader was Hak ហាក់. Later he rose to regiment [level], in charge of aircraft at Pochentong, but he is dead now because he was connected to Sao Phim ស៊ីម ភីម. Those leaders were all killed. The reason I know that was because at that time they played a tape recording for us at Kampong Chhnang. In that tape recording, Sao Phim spoke and confessed to treason. Then I realized that the leaders had all been taken away and killed. At Baseth we worked day and night, and ate only thin gruel. Those who had pretended to be sick two to three times because they were exhausted were dragged away. I saw this with my own eyes. Some ran back home, but they did not escape. They were arrested, beaten and shocked with electrical wires and asked if they were KGB, CIA. I saw many, all fellow soldiers. Some had done wrong by stealing potatoes to eat, out of hunger and exhaustion. They took them, and they put them in leg shackles, in rows, with the latch bar placed under their ankles.

SS: Do you still remember the names of those held for those offenses?

SC: I have forgotten them all. They were all taken and killed. I can remember one name, Ta Hoer តាហ៊ែរ at Kampong Thom. He had done wrong by running back home. They captured him at Prek Kdam ព្រែកក្តាម, and after capture he was sent back to the unit. I saw it when he walked in, but I did not dare say anything. At Baseth, they took fellow soldiers and killed them east of Phnom Baseth, but I did not see those killings with my own eyes; I learned through hearsay, but those they took away never returned.

SS: After you worked at Baseth, did they have you go anywhere else?

SC: Later, they had me go to build the airfield in Kampong Chhnang, where the Chinese were in charge technically, but where the leaders of the site were Cambodian. I did not get to know nor do I remember the Cambodian leaders. When I first arrived, they had me cut and clear the forest and dig up tree stumps. The food there was the same, gruel; there was no rice. There were many units of workers there, and those in the individual units could not communicate with one another at all.

SS: While you worked at Kampong Chhnang, did taking people away and killing them occur, like at Baseth?

SC: In a new round of arrests, there arrested the unit leaders, and the squad leaders. Those who came to make the arrests were from the Southwest.

SS: Did you ever see senior people or any of the national leadership there?

SC: No.

SS: Throughout the Khmer Rouge regime, from 17 April 1975 until it collapsed in 1979 did you attend any political study session?

SC: Two or three times, study about communist law, Marxism-Leninism, but I don't remember the name of the instructors.

SS: Did you ever attend any commemoration ceremonies during that regime?

SC: I attended the Party anniversary ceremony at the Olympic Stadium, and they spoke about the history of the struggle of Pol Pot. Pol Pot was on stage a while for the convening, then he went back to his place; later, a tape recording was played.

SS: Did you see any other senior people on stage?

SC: I saw many of them that time, but Pol Pot stood in the middle of them; I did not recognize the others.

- One copy of this record was provided to this witness.
- After it was read aloud, the witness had no objections, and agreed to sign.

Completed at 5:00 PM on the same date.

Witness

Interpreter

Investigator

SUM Chear ស៊ី ជី

SVAY Samnang

[Thumbprint]

[Signature]

[Signature]