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ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា

Kingdom of Cambodia
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អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

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

Investigation

លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់ចម្លើយសាក្សី

Written Record of Interview of Witness

On the tenth day of September in the year two thousand and eight, at 3:05 p.m. at Thmei ថ្មី Village, Kôk Thlôk Kraom គោកធ្លកក្រោម Subdistrict, Chikrèng ជីក្រែង District, Siemreap សៀមរាប Province,

We, NGUON Im ងួន អ៊ឹម and Christian BAUDESSON, Investigators of the Extraordinary Chambers, having been assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges dated 26 May 2008,

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

Noting Rules 24, 28, and 60 of the Internal Rules of the Extraordinary Chambers,

With Mr. CHEUNG Bunleng ជឹង ប៊ុនឡេង, sworn interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers,

Recorded the statements of PĒCHUY Chipsè ប៉េជុយ ជីបសែ, a witness, who provided the following information regarding his identity:

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The undersigned PĒCHUY Chipsè ប៉េជុយ ជីបសែ was born on 10 March 1954 at Thnaot ត្នោត Village, Kampong Chen Cheung កំពង់ចិនជើង Subdistrict, Stông ស្ទឹង District, Kampong Thom កំពង់ធំ Province. He is of Cambodian nationality, and is a teacher. His father, CHHĒNG Chuy ឆេង ជុយ, is deceased, and his mother, TÈ Hiek តៃ ហៀក, is deceased. His current address is Thmei ថ្មី Village, Kôk Thlôk Kraom គោកធ្លកក្រោម Subdistrict, Chikrèng ជីក្រែង District, Siemreap សៀមរាប Province. His wife, KĂO Mēng-Y កៅ ម៉េងអឺ, is living, and he is the father of three 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 (Q) – Answer (A):

Q: Please clarify your history prior to 1975. Where did you live? What did you do?
 A: I stopped studying in 1970 and stayed at home. In 1971, I joined the Liberation Army (the Khmer Rouge forces) at Taing Kôk តាំង គោក. In 1972, I walked up the wrong road by mistake to the Pôngrô Security Office មន្ទីរសន្តិសុខព្រង and was arrested by the Khmer Rouge there. Later, they took me on to work as a clerk with them. In 1973, the security chairman was Ta Voan តាវ៉ែន; all the villagers knew Ta Voan. In 1974, many people, including women and children, were killed because they had been accused of being bandits. The prison at Pôngrô was a district prison, not a sector prison.

Q: Please clarify the events after the liberation on 17 April 1975, the evacuation of the people from Siemreap.
 A: After 17 April 1975, I saw them evacuate soldiers and former Lon Nol government officials from Siemreap Province and put them in old concrete houses at the Chikrèng Market ផ្សារជីក្រែង, where they were guarded day and night. Later they took all those people and killed them, but I do not know where they killed them. Those people were

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military officers and former Lon Nol government officials and their families who had been evacuated from Siemreap; when they transported them away to be killed, they told them that they were going to study, but in fact they transported them away and killed them. There were hundreds of those people, because transporting them away to be killed continued for many days. The security people at Pôngrô did the killing at a different location. I heard they killed them at Mkăk ម្កាក់.

Q: Please clarify about the Pôngrô Security Office. Who were the supervisors after 1975?

A: Ta Voan was still the supervisor, but later on in late 1975, Ta Voan was arrested and they put Ta Kun តាកុណ in his place.

Q: Who arrested Ta Voan?

A: Ta Sokh តាសុខ, the subsequent District Committee Secretary, arrested Ta Voan. From what I knew, Ta Sokh came from the Southwest Zone. The former Chikrèng District [Secretary] was Ta Sun តាស៊ុន. Ta Voan was one of Ta Sun's colleagues. When Ta Sokh's group arrived, they arrested Ta Sun and Ta Voan and killed them. In 1977, they arrested Ta Sokh and Ta Kun and killed them too, accusing them of betrayal.

Q: What year did you marry? Under what conditions?

A: In 1976, they forced me to marry a girl I did not love. The ceremony was held at Pôngrô Village; there were 40 couples. They told me that they were marrying me to someone I loved.

Q: Related to the security office at Pôngrô, while you lived there, what was your job?

A: From 1975 on, they gave me the job of recorder, that is, the clerk of Ta Voan, and later I was Ta Kun's clerk. I supervised the documents; they had me make the documents recording the dates of entry and release of the prisoners. Sometime I also performed manual labor.

Q: Please clarify the composition of the prisoners held at the Pôngrô Security Office. Where did they come from? What had they done wrong?

A: The prisoners I knew were people who had opposed Angkar. Others were elements suspected of being related to Vietnam. Some had been immoral.

Q: Were your fellow Khmer Rouge arrested?

A: Yes. Ta Phy តាពី, the chief of Kôk Thlôk Kraom Subdistrict, was killed because he had been immoral many times. The chief of Ta Yèk តាយ៉ែក Subdistrict, I do not know his name, was also taken and killed. Guards at the security office were also arrested for being immoral with the female prisoners.

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Q: Please describe the arrests of prisoners among the bases and bringing them to the Pôngrô Security Office. How did they arrange that?

A: First, they grabbed the prisoners and took them to be shackled. Then they registered them by asking them their names, villages, subdistricts, and what they had done wrong. Light offense prisoners were shackled by one leg. Serious offense prisoners were shackled by both legs and were chained by the neck. Light and serious offense prisoners were put in separate places, and female prisoners were also held separately.

Q: As for interrogation, did they have a separate interrogation site?

A: There was a prisoner interrogation site approximately 100 meters from the detention site. When it was time for interrogation, they walked the prisoner there from the detention site. I was the recorder along with my superiors, the interrogators. The prisoners being interrogated had the arms tied for fear they would run off. My superior Kun was the interrogator. If he was busy, he had Neath នាថ, the deputy chairman of the security office, be the interrogator.

Q: Please describe the interrogations of prisoners. What points did they interrogate on?

A: They questioned using the news they had already received from the bases. So, they brought them in and questioned specifically on that right away. If a prisoner did not answer directly on some point, they tortured. With some serious offense prisoners, they used a vise to squeeze their head until they answered.

Q: What forms of torture were used on the prisoners?

A: Other tortures were mostly beatings with clubs. I actually saw the prisoners they were beating and interrogating cry and scream. In general, Kun and Neath did not beat the prisoners, but they ordered the guards to beat the prisoners. Some prisoners could not walk when they left the interrogation site because they had been so badly beaten, and they were carried back to their places and shackled. Sometimes some prisoners were tortured until they fell unconscious or until they died. I saw them use electrical wires to beat prisoners, but they did not use electric shock during interrogations.

Q: How many times were prisoners interrogated before it was completed?

A: That varied. Some were interrogated up to three times. Others were interrogated only once. The Pôngrô Security Office was under the command of the district. Only when there were orders from the district were there any interrogations, releases, or killings.

Q: As for female prisoners, were they also tortured?

A: They tortured them, the same.

Q: Where did they send the confessions?

A: They sent all the confessions to the District Committee for decisions.

Q: Had district level written any remarks when the confessions were returned?

A: I did not see any writing on those confessions. As for the prisoners they ordered to be killed, there were cross-outs in red. As for prisoners to be released, there was nothing

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written or crossed-out; they communicated orally through the security chairman that they were to be released. The chairman of the security office personally delivered the confessions to the district.

Q: When the decisions were obtained from the district, what arrangements did the chairman of the security office make?

A: As for killing prisoners, when the notations came, they had an internal meeting to prepare and assign executioners to carry out the killings. The persons who took the prisoners and killed them were: Comrade Kăn កាន់, now called Kea កា and living at Kâkoh កកោវ Village, Kôk Thlôk Kraom Subdistrict; another one was Comrade Sây សាយ, now called Săn សាន់, living at Trapěang Trav ត្រពាំងត្រាវ Village, Kôk Thlôk Kraom Subdistrict; [and] Comrade Phôk ហ៊ុក alias Phan ផាន, living at Ta Poar Leu តាព័រលើ Village, Pôngrô Kraom ពង្រក្រាម Subdistrict. All three of them were members of the Kampuchean Communist Youth League; they carried out the killing of the prisoners. There were two others who were also perpetrators, but I cannot remember their names. Currently they are both living at Ta Poar Leu Village, Pôngrô Kraom Subdistrict.

Q: What time of day did they kill the prisoners?

A: They killed prisoners during the daytime. Each time they killed, there were about ten to twenty prisoners. They killed them at the edge of a pit that had been dug in advance in the forest. I personally saw this just one time.

Q: What method did they use to kill?

A: They used a club to hit the head of the prisoner. When the prisoner fell over, they took a knife and cut the prisoner's throat. Then they pushed the body into the pit. After the killings were completed, they covered the pit.

Q: When you saw that, how many people did they kill?

A: Approximately ten.

Q: How far was the killing site from the detention site?

A: More than one kilometer; but there were prisoners who died in their shackles from starvation.

Q: Did many prisoners die inside the prison?

A: Many prisoners, both males and females, died. Female prisoners who had no medicine also died. The number of prisoners who died varied by season; not many died in the rainy season, but the majority died in the cool season and were buried near the prison. There were deaths in the hot season, but not many.

Q: What was the food ration for the prisoners?

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A: They gave the prisoners two meals of gruel per day, one ladle of thin gruel per meal.

Q: Were prisoners released?

A: Some prisoners were released. The majority of those released were light offense prisoners, like those who had stolen potatoes or had been involved in immorality between male and female youths. These light offense prisoners were sometimes held in prison for just three months before they were released.

Q: How did they conduct the prisoner releases?

A: They called the people to a meeting in the village when they released prisoners. They held a ceremony to announce it to the people. They had a prisoner representative rise to make a resolution and they had the families of the prisoners come to take them back to their villages. While I was there, I saw them release prisoners three times. The release site was at Pôngrô Village, at the location of the present hospital.

Q: How many prisoners were routinely held at the Pôngrô Security Office?

A: There were approximately over 100 prisoners in the security office; sometimes they took prisoners away and new prisoners were brought in.

Q: Up until what year did the security office continue its operations?

A: In 1977 they abolished it, it was no more, and all prisoners were released.

Q: Why was the security office abolished?

A: That was when Ta Kun and Ta Neath were arrested and charged with betrayal. Then they abolished that security office.

One copy of the written statement was provided to this witness.

The interview ended at 5:45 p.m. on the same day.

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

Witness
[Thumbprint]
[Signature]

Interpreter
[Signature]

Investigators
[Signatures]

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