

ឯកសារទទួល
DOCUMENT RECEIVED/DOCUMENT REÇU

ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ (Date of receipt/Date de reception):
..... 20 / 01 / 2009

ម៉ោង (Time/Heure): 13:50

មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង/Case File Officer/L'agent chargé
du dossier: K.K. Ratanak

~~002/19-09-2007-EC~~ ១២៥/៤៨



ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ
Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation-Religion-King

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា
Extraordinary Chambers in the
Courts of Cambodia

ឯកសារច្បាប់ចម្លងត្រឹមត្រូវតាមច្បាប់
CERTIFIED COPY/COPIE CERTIFIÉE CONFORME

ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ ត្រឹមត្រូវបញ្ជាក់ (Certified Date/Date de certification):
..... 21 / 01 / 2009

មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង/Case File Officer/L'agent chargé
du dossier: K.K. Ratanak

ការិយាល័យសហចៅក្រមស៊ើបអង្កេត
Office of the Co-Investigating Judges

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់ចម្លើយសាក្សី
Written Record of Witness Interview

លេខស៊ើបអង្កេត/Investigation

លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ

On the tenth of June, two thousand and eight, at nine a.m., at the Department of Culture and Fine Arts of Pursat province,

We Chay Chandaravan and Mike Dixon, Investigators of the Extraordinary Chambers, being 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 ECCC Internal Rules,

With Mr. Nil Samorn, as sworn Interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers,

Recorded the statements of SUM Alăt [ស៊ឹម អាឡាត់], a witness, who provided the following information regarding his personal identity:

The undersigned SUM Alăt alias Chhong Lăt [ឆុង ឡាត់] in Lon Nol's army, 55 years old, was born on 11 September 1953 in Svay Luong [ស្វាយ លួង] village, Băk Noem [បាក់ នីម]

~~00242123~~ 025/48

commune, Bakan [បាកាន] district, Pursat [ពោធិ៍សាត់] province. He is of Khmer nationality, and is first deputy director of Provincial Department of Culture and Fine Arts (since 1986).

His father, Song Sum [សុង ស៊ឹម], is deceased, and his mother, Loeng Oeung [ឡឹង អឿង], is deceased.

He is married to Ly Kunthea [លី គន្ធា] and is father of 7 children. His current address is at Kanchoe Bay Dach [កញ្ជើបាយដាច] village, Viel [វិល] commune, Kandieng [កណ្តើង] district, Pursat province.

- 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.
- We provided the witness with a letter of assurance, in accordance with Rule 28(3)(b) of the ECCC Internal Rules.

Questions and answers:

Q: What did you do before 1975? Where did you live?

A: I finished my education in 1972 and I joined the infantry of Pursat provincial sub-division in the same year. At that time, I was a lower rank officer as corporal (one stripe). I worked at a provincial staff office. I participated in the battlefield in Phnom Kravanh district. It was the heaviest battlefield in 1973. Then we moved our base and took thousands of residents in Leach [លាច] area of Krâvanh district to Pursat province. In 1973, I worked in the provincial staff office again. In April 1975, my commander sent me to work in the mortar unit at the Svay Daunkeo [ស្វាយដួនកែវ] bridge battlefield. I returned to Pursat provincial town when the Khmer Rouge took control over the province.

Q: What did you do on the 17 April 1975? Where did you live?

A: In April 1975, I was removed from the mortar unit to Pursat provincial town. At that time, the Khmer Rouge took control over Pursat province. The Lon Nol's army in Pursat province received an instruction from Phnom Penh to disarm from

~~0125/28~~

Mey Sychorn [ម៉ឺ ស៊ីចន], brigadier general through an announcement on radio. When we disarmed, the Khmer Rouge continued to fire and spray towards us from both sides of the national road. The Khmer Rouge troops who fired towards us were those hidden in the jungle. They fired and sprayed at any direction to either human or animal target. I spent one day to walk from Svay Daunkeo to Trâpeang Chornng [ត្រពាំងជ័ង] in Bakan district. At 7 p.m. of the same day, the Khmer Rouge troops rounded up about 500 soldiers, residents and civil servants for meeting at Bakan district office. I did not know the name of Khmer Rouge chief who presided over that meeting. At that time, I replaced my army uniform [with civilian suit]. The content of that meeting was political indoctrination urging the residents to leave the provincial town and go to rural areas by saying that such evacuation was to avoid a bombardment by the United States of America. I fled during their meeting with a pistol and spent one night to crawl to Svay Att [ស្វាយអត់].

I sneaked in and joined the mobile brigade to dig canal at Kbal Hong. Later, they moved me to live in the village with the villagers as I was considered as an elder. At that time, they had me marry by holding hands with one another and to live as a husband and wife. It was the Angkar who decided and selected your bride/groom. No one had [the right] to choose the bride on his own discretion. I was sent to live with the villagers in a solidarity group to do rice field and plantation work as plowing group in late 1978.

Later, I left the plowing group and joined a land surveying unit as a member of a 20-member unit. I worked in that group until the Vietnamese entered. I was in the same place during that period. But when I was in the mobile brigade they sent me to work in certain remote places.

Before joining a mobile brigade, there was huge gathering of residents for meeting at Svay L'hong [ស្វាយល្អុង] school at Kândieng [កណ្តឹង] district which was a military headquarter of Sector 7. At that time, they taught about both revolutionary and non-revolutionary views. Mr. Ker Kimhuot [កែ គីមហួត] alias Soth [សុត] from Kandal province. He used to be a teacher in Battambang province from 1973 through 1974 (he died in Tuol Sleng around 1977-1978). He was a Sector secretary during that period. His last successor was Ta Try [តា ទ្រី] from the East Zone but he disappeared in 1978 or during the fall of Phnom Penh in 1979.

Q: How was the situation in Pursat province when the Khmer Rouge troops took control over the entire province after 17 April 1975?

A: When the Khmer Rouge arrived, I saw the following confusing events and incidents:

~~PPN/N-① 125/48~~

- Khmer Rouge troops evacuated people from the provincial town to the countryside;
- I saw with my eyes the killing of one victim and then the corpse was kicked down from the wooden bridge while I was riding a bicycle home in Svay Luong village. I saw corpses of old, young, male, female, soldiers and civilians floating in the water of Pursat river after Khmer Rouge took control;
- Later, I saw an incident of shooting and killing base people from 1976 through 1977 during a purging period;
- There was not enough to eat and I saw many people died of starvation. Most of the victims are old people. Sometimes, before their death the victims screamed and cursed Pol Pot clique. There were 7 to 8 people died of starvation a week due to food deficiency, e.g. they used one milk can of rice to cook gruel in a large pan for 100 people. In order to full one's stomach people collected amaranthus leaves, banana trunk, cassava leaves to mix [with his or her gruel ration]. Angkar provided each of us with a small chunk of salt to eat. The event of starvation occurred from 1976 though 1977;
- By the end of 1977 or early 1978, the evacuees from Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces rebelled and complained over food deficiency. At that time, those evacuees were killed in lines after lines;
- I was assigned to do severe labor in digging a ditch at Kbal Hong. They had me dig a ditch 20 meters by 8 meters and 3.50 meters in depth. The 12 of us had to complete it within one week by using digging hoes and our labor. Two roads were constructed on both sides of the ditch. I thought that it was forced labor because we tried work days and nights to complete it as soon as possible. We tried to work very hard because we feared being executed;
- Khmer Rouge gathered the Vietnamese and transported them by boats through Tonle Sap and had them returned home. Other Vietnamese did not go back home because they had Cambodian spouses. Later in 1977 the Khmer Rouge searched for and took them away for execution;
- After 1975, Khmer Rouge also gathered and put Cham people to work in cooperatives and mobile brigades the same as Cambodians;
- From late 1975 though 1976, Khmer Rouge divided people into 18 March people. Old people or base people known as 17 April people;
- There was no religious practice at all, all Buddhist monks were also disrobed by the Khmer Rouge;
- I saw, between 1977 and 1978, one man being arrested and tied up and walked out of a plowing site to a place about one kilometer from the site. One hour later, upon his return, the militia showed and said "this is an enemy's gull bladder" and told us to work hard. I saw them hanging gall bladders for soaking in alcohol and drink among themselves.

Q: After Khmer Rouge taking full control over the province after 17 April 1975, what did they do to Lon Nol's soldiers and civil servants?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 125/468

- A: At that time, Soth, Sector secretary called General Prum Lihuon, Pursat provincial governor, soldiers, civil servants and students of Lon Nol's regime to meet at the provincial office. There were about 500 attendees and it was held at about 2 p.m. on the 24th or 25th of April 1975. The content of meeting was "an invitation to receive the Angkar at Tuol Pochrey." There were Khmer Rouge soldiers guarding outside during the meeting. Khmer Rouge chiefs, including Ta Soth, were also attending. At that time, they had the Pursat provincial governor, soldiers, former civil servants and students of Lon Nol's regime get on the truck to receive Angkar. They were transported out by 13 or 15 white vehicles (trucks) manufactured in Australia. About 500 people including Mr. Prum Lihuon got into the trucks to Tuol Pochrey. As it was so crowded in the trucks they asked me to wait for the next trip. There was fairly large number of people who missed the first trip. Three days later, I knew that the Khmer Rouge took them to kill at that Tuol Pochrey. I knew that from two of the soldiers named Phat and Dor who fled the killing and sneaked to live in a village. Two weeks later, the two former soldiers were chased and arrested by the Khmer Rouge soldiers for execution.
- Q: During the Khmer Rouge period, were you aware of any security office or killing site?
- A: During the period, I knew about the existence of the following security offices:
- Prey Sloek security office also known as Kraing Tasâm located in Krakor district which was 7 or 8 kilometers from the place where I lived. It was merely a detention "prison". I did not know the chief there. Most of the detainees committed offenses, i.e. stealing vegetables and fruits to eat. I went there after 1979.
 - I have a friend who was arrested and taken to security office 07 also known as Trâpaing Chornng security office in Bakan district. He disappeared until today.
 - Security office at Tuol Tapèv in Kampong Krâbey village, Viel commune, Kandieng district. It was closed to a village where I lived just across the river. I was aware of that security office after Vietnamese liberation;
 - Charoek security office located on Charoek village, Kanchor commune, Kandieng district.
 - Atillery security office known as mortar fort office (currently, military operation sub-region of Pursat province). I know it was a security office because I saw people being detained in the cells and the military told me they were prisoners. I knew about that on a day when the Khmer Rouge soldiers called me to do barber work inside that fort. At that time, I dared not look at anything else such as handcuffs, shackles, chains etc.;
 - Pits at Tuol Kaun Ngar. It was a hill in the jungle where corpses were buried. Later, the Khmer Rouge arrested people from my plowing unit and executed and buried them there. That incident occurred in 1977 and those corpses were not buried deep into the ground. I saw the corpses' hands and feet outside of the pits.
 - From 1975 through 1979, Tuol Watpô (was an economic building for rice ration distribution). At that time, I saw people arrested and walked one

~~PP/AN: C 125/48~~

victim away. When I returned from the plowing unit I saw people tying the victims' hands. I dared not stare at that. I heard that he was accused of "being a former pilot".

- After 1979, I knew another killing site located at Rumlech village, Rumlech commune. I went there and saw a scene of killing. Nowadays, people built a monastery thereon and all bones/remains were kept there. Mr. Duong So, former chief of Rumlech commune is one of the villagers who lived there since the Khmer Rouge regime. He may know more about this.

Q: Did anyone hurt you between 1975 and 1979?

A: In late 1977 when I moved to live in the village then I realized that my name was already recorded in an execution list. One day, they wanted to test me by pretending to take me for execution alleging of "betraying the Angkar". In that moment, I told the militia that "if you found that I betrayed, no need to take me away but kill me right here." At that time, there were two militiamen approached and arrested me when I was working. They accused of being an associate of CIA network. They took me into a quiet jungle at about 6 or 7 p.m. and then they patted my shoulders and told me to run off and told me to work hard and build oneself up. Later they had me go back to work in the field as usual. They told me that "your name is in the list. You cannot do anything but to work hard". I thought, they did not kill me at that time because they were busy with killing those who were evacuated from Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces. At that moment, there were many people and they had no time to kill, I presumed.

Q: When you worked in the Khmer Rouge regime, did the guards who guarded you bear any guns?

A: They were there at all times. In addition, they guarded us and detected our spoken words. Our work started from 5 a.m. to 12 noon with about one hour break (I could [not] specify working hours because sometimes they had us do piecework). We started again from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. and broke for gruel dinner. Then I attended a meeting from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at night. The meetings were convened everyday. Its routine agenda was "criticism and self-criticism". We worked seven days a week. I lived in a communal house and all family members were separated. A husband and wife were not authorized to live together. We were not locked in or chained. But they just had militiamen to spy us at night to know whether or not the work was completed as per their plans. We were in the same status as prisoners. They had us eat gruel with banana trunks and two meals a day.

Q: Between 1975 and 1979, did you see people or anyone mistreated by Khmer Rouge soldier?

A: In 1975, besides their activities in Tuol Pochrey, I saw a man named Hêl who was in the same mobile brigade. A former policeman said while walking home that "Angkar is like sawing something into pieces". And later, it was overheard by the military then he was accused of being a CIA agent. Five soldiers took him to shoot to death at the riverside under a tamarind tree. They used AK rifles to shoot him. I saw that incident with my own eyes. In late 1977 one day at about 10 p.m.

~~000000~~ 0125/48

at night I saw people arresting Voeun who was accused of being CIA youth. They arrested him from the house and I could hear a sound of resisting against the soldiers who make the arrest. I heard Voeun shouting and cursing Pol Pot clique. Voeun's house was three houses from mine. Later, I heard a gunshot "ping ping!" and saw a grave in the next morning. It was Voeun's grave, which his relatives worship until today.

- Q: After 1979, what did you do in relation to the security office and killing site?
 A: In early 1980, I attended the education meeting in Phnom Penh. In that meeting they asked 5 representatives from each province to give presentation on how to gather evidence of Khmer Rouge's mass killings and indirect murder. A collection of testimony and story was to produce as evidential documents for educational publication. Those documents were maintained at Tuol Sleng and the Ministry of Education. I do not have any of those documents with me now.
- Q: How many victims were killed by Khmer Rouge's soldiers at Tuol Pochrey?
 A: I reported to a meeting in Phnom Penh which I attended that there were approximately 2,000 victims killed in Tuol Pochrey. My estimate based on accounts given by Mr. Seng Chhorn, former chief of Svay Luong commune, Kandieng district. He was there during the Khmer Rouge period. It also includes number of victims I personally obtained during the Khmer Rouge period when they called provincial governor, Lon Nol's soldiers, students and civil servants to receive Angkar at Tuol Pochrey.
- Q: Did you see any Khmer Rouge leader, including Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, Pol Pot, Khieu Samphan, Ieng Thirith visiting your base?
 A: I never saw anyone. I saw only Ta Soth who was a sector secretary. [I] did not know any country leader in that period and I never attended any political meeting.
- Q: Did you participate in the Pol Pot trial in 1979?
 A: I did not participate. On Tuesday the 10th of June 2008, I took the investigator from the tribunal to a place called Banteay Atillery (artillery fort) in Băk Roteah village, Prey Nhi commune, Sampov Meas district, Pursat province. I identified to the investigator by pointing to the place where Khmer Rouge detained light prisoners and two wells that I saw at my first arrival, probably on the 20th of January 1979. At that time, the two wells were full of naked corpses with marks of injuries all over the bodies. They were corpses of young and old men and women. They corpses were piled on top of each other. A pile was higher than water line. That investigator took photographs of both wells in my presence. There were three other wells and one natural pond but I did not see [any corpse] when I first arrived there in January 1979.

- 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. [Signature/Thumbprint]
 After the Written Record was read out to the witness, the witness refused to sign it.

~~125/48~~

End of the interview: at 12.00 noon on the 10th of June 2008 and a reading of modification to witness was completed at 18.00 p.m. of the date.

Witness

Interpreter

Investigators

[Signature/Thumbprint]

[Signature]

[Signatures]

SUM Alăt