



អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា
Extraordinary Chambers in the
Courts of Cambodia

ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
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Office of the Co-Investigating Judges

សំណុំរឿងព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ
Criminal Case File
លេខ/No: 002/14-08-2006

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់បម្លើយសាក្សី
Written Record of Witness Interview

លេខស៊ើបអង្កេត/Investigation
លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ

On the twenty-ninth of July, two thousand and eight, at two thirty in the afternoon, at the Prey Sâ Prison called Correction Centre I (CC-I).

We, **LIM Sokuntha (LS)** and **MIKE Dixon (MD)**, 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,

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌដង្កោ ក្រុងភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១
ទូរស័ព្ទលេខ +៨៥៥ (០)២៣ ២១៨ ៩៤១ ទូរសារលេខ +៨៥៥ (០)២៣ ២១៨ ៩៤១
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With Mr. Nil Samorn, sworn Interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers,
Recorded the statement of **CHHOUK Rin (CR) (ល្បួក រីន)**, a witness, who provided the
following information regarding his personal identity:

The undersigned, CHHOUK Rin, is 56 years old. He was born in Trapeang Chrey village,
Damnak Kantuot commune, Kampong Trach district, Kampot province. He is of Khmer
nationality, and is a prisoner at CC-I.

His father, CHHOUK Cheang (ល្បួក ជាង), is deceased, and his mother, NHET Luy (ញ៉េត
លុយ), is deceased.

His address before the arrest was Chamkar Bei (ចម្រារបី) village, Porn Tuek (ពងទឹក)
commune, Damnak Chang'aeur (ដំណាក់ចង្កើរ) district, Kep Municipality.

He is married to YEM Sao (យ៉ែម សៅ), who is alive. He is father of five children.

The witness was convicted by the Phnom Penh Court for terrorism, murder, intentional
destruction of property and illegal confinement.

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.

Questions and answers:

LS & MD: In the record of interview dated 21 May 2008, you said: “I will tell you
more at the trial, if they need me. I will explain what I know from the
period 1975-1979 during which “subsequent arrests were made”. We
would like to ask you to tell us about this now before you testify at the
trial.

CR:

I would like to say that the policy of the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK) was to purge the feudalists and the intellectuals, whom they considered as the enemy of this communist system, and those who took advantage of and exploited others. So, the CPK took revenge on those enemies. The CPK did not need Sihanouk because he represented the feudalist imperialism. The CPK carried out a inflexible policy of killing Khmer-Vietnamese citizens from Hanoi, and in 1973 and they fought the Vietcong situated on Khmer soil. A lot of things happened before 1975 to 1979. I am sorry that the ECCC law only prosecutes crimes committed in the period 1975-1979, which, in my opinion, gives no benefit to the country. Before the integration of the army of South-western zone to fight against the cadres of the eastern zone, it was true that there was a scheme and preparation to purge those internal cadres. There was a planning meeting of the standing committee which comprised Pol Pot, Nuon Chea, and Ieng Sary. The purge was caused by lack of internal trust and an accusation of a moral offense. As a result, some were arrested and sent to S-21 and some were sent to build the airbase in Kampong Chhnang. In 1975-1976, Sam Bit ordered the arrests of those in the army who had connections with Vietnam. In 1975 a number of the commanders of the battalion, and that of the regiment, were arrested and charged with “being spies of Vietnam”. So, the army was purified from the beginning. The reason why those in the army were arrested was because they were accused of helping Vietnam. They were arrested from “the strings of traitors”. The arrests were made on the order of the zone, which I think was from someone who was above Sam Bit. Some of the arrested were sent to Phnom Penh and some were taken to Kampot’s security office. The provincial army of Sam Bit led by Rin (រិន) made the arrests. He died in 1978. Some are still alive and living in Koh Sla and Samlot. They are Colonel Sok Chhean (សុខឈាន) of military region 5 from Battambang; General Ieng Phan (ឃៀងផាន) of military region 5 from Battambang; Thy (ធី) living in Kampong Tralach, Kampong Chhnang or Samlot; Kaen (កែន), former deputy chief of Kampot’s security office, currently living in Samlot. Kaen was born in Prean Thom (ព្រានធំ) village, Srae Chea (ស្រែចា) commune, Dang Tong (ដងទង់) district, Kampot. These people knew a lot about the arrests.

LS & MD: In the previous interview, you talked about “one education site in the province”. What was that place? And where was it located?

CR: It was a part of the security office of sector 35 in Kampot, where only military prisoners were imprisoned. It was not for civilian prisoners.

LS & MD: Would you please tell us more about the evacuation of people from Kampot town? From whom did you receive such orders? And when?

CR: The army convened a meeting to talk about how to topple Lon Nol’s regime and the plan to evacuate people. The meeting about the evacuation was held about one month prior to the fall of Phnom Penh. The order was given to force all people to leave all the cities and towns. This meeting was held in Phnom Sar (ភ្នំសរ), where Kampot’s military command headquarters was located. Sek (សែក), Chief of Staff, chaired the meeting. Ta Mok, who was also present at the meeting, said: “It is not necessary to have markets or cities. All people must be evacuated to the rural areas in order to build the rural economy.” Ta Mok did not say who had made the decision on this matter. But the evacuation of the people from the cities was made for the entire country and was to take only two days. I do not remember who else participated in that meeting; but many of them who did were subsequently arrested and died. The evacuation of people began in the afternoon when we arrived in the city. The city became quiet two hours later. People no longer lived in the city. Nobody resisted. Old and young people walked along National Road 3 toward Chhouk district and some walked along Road 33 toward Kampong Trach district.

LS & MD: Please tell us, from your knowledge, about a story concerning “a purge” in the eastern zone.

CR: Before a cadre purge mission in the eastern zone, the military commanders and I were called, in mid 1977, to attend a meeting in Ta Mok’s home in Takeo. We were told that we would be sent to “cleanse” those in the eastern zone who had collaborated with the Vietnamese. The purpose of this mission was two folds: *fight the Vietnamese in Cambodia and sweep up the Vietnamese collaborators*. Attending the meetings were Sauy (ស្វយ័), commander of the south-western zone; Ren (រ៉េន), division commander; Thy Pousé, (ធីព្យសែ) commander of division 210; Ieng Phan,

commander from Takeo and Sok Chhean, commander from Kampot. The meeting was urgent and was held for one day. There were 700 soldiers from Kampot, 1,000 from Takeo and 700 to 800 from Kandal. A day after the meeting we were sent to Phnom Penh. We stayed overnight in Boeung Trabek, where division 703 headquarters was located. A day later Son Sen told us again in a meeting about the purpose of this mission and ordered all commanders to prepare a comprehensive plan. A day later we went to Svay Rieng; but we stayed in Neak Loeung for a couple of weeks. There were many meetings at the division level to prepare this scheme. Ren, Ta Mok's son-in-law, sent a telegram to me asking me to return to Phnom Penh to attend a special meeting with the top leaders who would discuss the purge of the eastern cadres. There were about 600 to 700 participants, including Meas Mut, Sok Chhean, Ieng Phan, Dy and Thy with the presence of Pol Pot, Ta Mok, Nuon Chea and Son Sen. In the meeting, Nuon Chea said: "We must purge 'the internal enemy' and 'fight the Vietnamese invaders'." The purge intensified in 1978 as told by "Revolutionary Flag No. 7". This magazine also talked about building a core force from local farmers by excluding the intellectuals.

LS & MD: In *Revolutionary Flag No. 7* published in July 1976, it says: "To build up the socialist revolution, one must get rid of the forces that oppose socialism by eliminating feudalism, capitalism, and reactionary classes". What is the meaning of 'get rid of' in this sentence?

CR: It is a document of the communist party. I attended the party congress of the Communist Party of Kampuchea and its direction. The congress, held in August 1976 in Phnom Penh, lasted for a week. The workers and the farmers were the core of the CPK. Their tendency was very narrow. The intellectuals were the enemy of the revolution. Sihanouk was also an enemy of the revolution. Even Khieu Samphan, a famous intellectual, was an enemy of the CPK also. This document was dangerous because not only the feudalists and capitalists were purged, but also the farmers who privately owned the rice fields. They were also the enemy of the CPK. The national resistance mobilized the people of all political tendencies; but this document was about building the clean people of the CPK. The Khmer Rouge leaders, Pol Pot and Nuon Chea, did not need the capitalists and the intellectuals and if the farmers were not formed to be workers it would not be consistent with the socialist revolution. The term "get rid of" in this sentence means that if we do not follow any assignment we are not their people. In a re-fashion meeting, those who did not succeed in fulfilling the assignment would be declared as enemies. Practically, when the revolution

becomes stronger all people have to spy on each other. If there is something wrong, one must get rid of it which refers to an arrest to be made by an order from the top.

LS & MD: The magazine also talks about “class enemy and national enemy”. What do they mean? And who are these enemies?

CR: The class enemy, at that time, were the three types of farmers i.e. rich, middle and poor. The capitalists refer to the business people and feudalists as the royal people. The children of the poor farmers formed the membership of the Party. The above mentioned people were the class enemy. They were the enemy that opposed the poor. The national enemy means the same thing as the class enemy. so, after the *Flag No. 7* congress it created a strong mistrust. They saw the enemy in their people. No one knew when he or she would be arrested. So, the enemy refers to the capitalists, the feudalists and the intellectuals. The rich and middle class peasants had to be eliminated. For example, former minister of Propaganda Hu Nim suggested a possibility of printing the currency and the market opening to Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Nuon Chea. He was arrested because he gave such suggestions and because they considered him an enemy of communism. I have learned that it was Pol Pot who ordered his arrest. The decision to arrest those top cadres was made by no one else other than Pol Pot, Nuon Chea or Ta Mok.

LS & MD: What does “hidden enemy burrowing from inside” mean?

CR: According to my experience, for example, the people in the eastern zone such as Sao Phim (សៅផឹម) were the hidden enemy. Although he belonged to the CPK, he had relationship with Vietnam. The other people in the eastern zone were HENG Samrin, CHEA Sim, and HUN Sen. If they had not run they would have been arrested. If someone was not trusted, he or she would be sent to re-education and watched for a while.

LS & MD: *Revolutionary Flag No. 7* writes about: “a three-ton plan per hectare”. According to this plan, what did the CPK order the people to do? How did this plan affect the people?

CR: This plan made even young children who were going to school to take their time in cutting a sort of weed called *Tontrean Khet* which was made into fertilizer. Although I was a soldier I had to carry soil, dig canals, and build dams. This was all about agricultural works to achieve a three-ton

plan per hectare. People were exhausted as a result of overwork and malnutrition. I knew such an order was made by Pol Pot, Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary and Ta Mok. I also knew that Khieu Samphan had nothing to do with the work of the party. He should be released. Only the CPK members had the right to learn the principles of *Revolutionary Flag No. 7*.

LS & MD: A 3-ton-per-hectare plan was achieved, so why did the people and the army did not have enough to eat?

CR: I cannot answer this question. You can ask the [Khmer Rouge] leaders. But there is a slogan that read: “When you eat rice, you must think back at the time you ate wild cassavas.”

LS & MD: Do you know who wrote these policies in *Revolutionary Flag No. 7*?

CR: The persons who wrote them were those from the central committee such as Pol Pot, Nuon Chea and Ieng Sary who copied a little of the idea from the Russian Communist Party and from China. But the main ideas were theirs because as long as they agreed in the party then the principals could be adopted and implemented throughout the country.

LS & MD: Was *Revolutionary Flag* provided to you before or during the congressional meeting?

CR: The document was provided during the meeting. We were advised to keep it confidential. Only the party members could read it. The masses were not allowed to read it. The office that printed this document belonged to the office of Pol Pot. I did not know its secret code. Members of the CPK knew that Pol Pot was the party secretary.

LS & MD: In the 1976 magazine there were terms of “sweeping up bad elements”. What does the term “sweeping up” here really mean?

CR: “Sweeping up” means a lot of things. 1- Any person who is bad is not allowed to join the CPK and will be dropped from the CPK membership and watched. 2- When there is a suspicion, that person will be arrested. The term “drop” means “not allowed to join the party”. The term “smash” means “arrest and kill”. For example, people in the eastern zone were purged. The maximal purge is a thorough clean-up of the party line. The 17 April people were considered to be with the enemy, so they were segregated. The term “purifying the army” means “making the army

clean”. The function of the political commissar was to politically lead the army. This position existed only at the company level and up.

- One copy of the Written Record was provided to the witness.
End of the interview: at 4:15 p.m. on the same day.
- The Written Record was read out to the witness; the witness had no objections and signed it.
- After the Written Record was read out to the witness, the witness refused to sign it.

Witness	Interpreter	Investigators
[Thumbprint]	[Signature]	[Signatures]
CHHOUK Rin	Nil Samorn	LIM Sokuntha and MIKE Dixon