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អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា

Extraordinary Chambers in the
Courts of Cambodia

ការិយាល័យសហចៅក្រមស៊ើបអង្កេត

Office of the Co-Investigating Judges

សំណុំរឿងព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ

Criminal Case File

លេខ/No: 002/14-08-2006

លេខស៊ើបអង្កេត/Investigation

លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ

ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា

ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ

Kingdom of Cambodia

Nation-Religion-King

ឯកសារទទួល

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

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់បម្លើយសាក្សី

Written Record of Witness Interview

On the twenty-first of April, two thousand and eight, at 3:45 p.m. at Kèng Prasat

កែងប្រាសាទ Village, Sâmbaur សំបួរ Subdistrict, Sâmbaur សំបួរ District, Kratie ក្រចេះ
Province,

We, SVAY Samnang ស្វាយ សំណង and Monique Sakhan, Investigators of the

Extraordinary Chambers, being assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating
Judges, dated 9 April 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,

Recorded the statements of **UK Iem អ៊ឹក អឿម**, a witness, who provided the following
information regarding his personal identity:

Translated from Khmer original: 00194474-00194480_KH

ឯកសារបានចម្លងតាមត្រឹមត្រូវតាមច្បាប់ដើម

CERTIFIED COPY/COPIE CERTIFIÉE CONFORME

ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ ត្រឹមត្រូវតាមច្បាប់ (Certified Date/Date de certification):

21 / 01 / 2009

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

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The undersigned UK Iem អ៊ឹក អៀម, no alias, male, age 73, was born on 11 December 1935 in Prêk Kroes ព្រែកក្រីស Village, Tann Hun តង់ហ៊ុន Subdistrict, Kampong Trach កំពង់ត្រាច District, Kampot កំពត Province. He is a Cambodian national. He is a senior citizen.

His father, UK Uok អ៊ឹក អ៊ឹក, is deceased, and his mother, NUP Kao គុប កោ, is deceased.

His current address is at Kèng Prasat កែងប្រាសាទ Village, Sâmbaur សំបួរ Subdistrict, Sâmbaur សំបួរ District, Kratie ក្រចេះ Province.

He was married to PUTH Saphout ពុធ សាហូត, who is living, and he is the father of six children.

He has no prior 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/she 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/her right against self-incrimination, in accordance with Rule 28 of the ECCC Internal Rules.

Questions-Answers:

Q: Where were you prior to 17 April 1975? What were you doing?

A: I was living right here, at Kèng Prasat កែងប្រាសាទ Village, Sâmbaur សំបួរ

Subdistrict, Sâmbaur សំបួរ District, Kratie ក្រចេះ Province. The Lon Nol coup was in 1970. That was when I joined the army and was in the militia; I was a soldier stationed to defend Kèng Prasat Village. I became a soldier because Comrade Chèt ច័ត came down from the Sector 505 Committee to teach. He taught that, “joining the revolutionary army was to defend the country, to help the poor people, and to eliminate the classes so that the people could live in equality.” In 1974, they pulled me out to join the district military forces. My job was deputy platoon leader, and I had 30 soldiers under my command. I had the task of defensive patrolling in Sâmbaur District and leading the soldiers to work the rice fields, farm, raise chickens, ducks, cattle, and buffaloes to supply military units. Soth សុទ្ធ was the district military chief then; he was my superior when I was in the cooperative. In approximately late 1976, I learned that they had called him by letter to

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upper echelon at the Sector; I never saw him return. He surely died, because now only his wife Chăn Try ចាន់ត្រី remains; she lives in Dâng Tung ដងទង Village, Sâmbaur District.

Q: Who was the Sector 505 Chairman?

A: Nan ណាន alias Yi យី was Sector 505 Chairman. Kâng កង was Deputy Chairman.

Kuon គួន was the Member responsible for the military. Chèt ចែត was the Member responsible for Sâmbaur District. In 1978, all of them were arrested and replaced by soldiers from the Southwest, but I don't know their names. Ta Chèt had been arrested one year earlier, in 1977. Before 1976, Sâmpuon សំពួន, Mon ម៉ុន, and Ny នី were the District Committee; Phan ផាន was the Chairman after they were all arrested. Later, they were replaced by Voeun វ៉ៃន, Chhouk ឈូក, Văn វ៉ាន់, and Phy ភី, with Voeun as Chairman, Chhouk as Deputy, and Văn and Phy as Members.

Q: Where did they transfer you next?

A: During June or July 1976, they pulled me out to go to work in the cooperative here in Kèng Prasat Village. They had us work day and night, working the rice fields, farming, doing everything, minding cattle and buffaloes, growing vegetables. There was no free time. In those days, there were not yet any machines to mill rice; they used manpower, from 20 to 30 persons a day to thresh rice. The food was insufficient; we ate communally. Sometimes there was rice for one meal and gruel for one meal, that's all. In late 1976 and early 1977, the new people came into every cooperative, and the new people from various places became the majority. Some were new people who had been sent to Sector 505 from the East, from Kampong Cham. When the 17 April people arrived, they did not say anything. Some died from hunger. People from the East died from not having had enough to eat previously, and some died due to lack of medicines.

Q: What did they do with people who did something wrong or violated the rules?

A: Some who had done something wrong were reeducated, given instructions, and reformed. At that time, at the dam construction worksite I saw one youth in a mobile unit being arrested, beaten with a gun, and taken away, never to be seen again; I don't know the reason. That youth was arrested by three security people. Hundreds of people at the worksite all saw that incident. I did not know the youth's name, and did not know what he had done wrong. That did not happen at my location, but it did at others. I saw this.

Later on, troops from the Southwest came (soldiers from Kampot កំពត and Kampong

Speu កំពង់ស្ពឺ) and arrested all the subdistrict, district, and Sector 505 soldiers and authorities for "treason." There was fear in the cooperatives at the time, and they all fled and scattered. Later they made an announcement to call them back to work, but they did not give them full rights. Not having full rights meant that "they were considered untrustworthy." They had them work like ordinary people, working the rice fields,

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farming, and minding livestock. Then they pulled me out to go to the Watanak វត្តនៈ cooperative in Wattanak Subdistrict for one year. I did not know the name of the cooperative chairman. I only remember Ta Kham តា ខាំ, the cooperative chairman at Kèng Prasat Village. He was born at Bos Khnor បុស្ក្រ. Now he is living in Watanak Village, Watanak Subdistrict, Sâmbaur District, Kratie Province. While in the cooperative, I lived with my wife and children. I had eight children. Six were with me, and two others were adolescents whom they had put to work at worksites minding livestock. In late 1977, they accused me of "treason." I laid down and thought it over and could not think of any reasons, because I had strived to do my work and had never done anything wrong. When they arrested me, they did not come to make the arrest or do anything to startle me. District Chairman Voeun វ៉ៀន, Deputy Chairman Chhouk ឈុក, and Member Văn វ៉ាំង had a messenger bring a letter to call me. The letter said Comrade Uk Iem was invited to join in work at the District Office at 4 p.m. I was suspicious, because in the past they had called me to work in the morning, but this time, when they arrested me, they called me in the afternoon instead.

Q: What did they tell you when you arrived at the district?

A: When I arrived, Voeun announced that he was removing my rights and I was being taken out of the cooperative, and he told me to go to Kôk Kduoch with security. They did not say anything, just that it was done according to the decision of the upper echelon, "Angkar has removed your rights. Go to Kôk Kduoch." Initially, I went by myself. Later they took my wife and children. I had four children with me then (three daughters and one son). Kôk Kduoch was located on a low hill surrounded by forest in Kèng Prasat Village. There were two detention buildings. Each was divided into two rooms, one for serious offenders and one for light offenders. The prisoners were males, females, and entire families. Each building held more than ten prisoners. There was a building for the security unit barracks and there was a kitchen. The detention buildings were made of wood and had thatched roofs. Serious offenders were put in handcuffs and leg shackles. I knew this because I heard the sounds of the shackles when they let the prisoners relieve themselves. My wife and children and I were placed in a cell in the light offender building. If there were many prisoners at Kôk Kduoch, they would send them to the Prasat ប្រាសាទ worksite, which was also for holding prisoners. One of my nephews, Têm តែ, died in this prison because he was linked to Comrade Chèt. He was working in economics while Chèt was still in power. I know my nephew died because one of the security people there told me; I can't remember his name. There were three prisoners from Sâmbok Subdistrict who were taken out at night and were not seen to return, meaning they had been taken and killed. I snuck a peek and I saw them carrying weapons and leading those prisoners away; I never saw them [the prisoners] come back. About an hour later, the people who had led them away returned. I don't know where they sent them. Those three were the Sâmbok Subdistrict Cooperative Committee, from

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the southern part of Kratie Province. Sâm-ol សំអុល, a security person, was arrested for immorality. Immorality meant having a love relationship between a man and a woman. While I was held in that prison, I never saw any killings with my own eyes. I was imprisoned there until it fell in 1979. At the end, before the regime fell, they sent approximately 50 troops from the East in to be held as prisoners, but they did not die because the Vietnamese troops attacked and prison security herded the remaining prisoners away. While crossing the river, they encountered Vietnamese troops, and they all scattered and fled.

Q: While you were at Kôk Kduoch, what work did they have you do, and what did you eat?

A: They grew irrigated rice and farmed, grew potatoes, and they had the children who could not do anything stay in place. Eating was communal, and the food was insufficient. There were no rights like the ordinary people had. When going to work, guards followed along to prevent prisoners from escaping, and there were no rest breaks. No prisoners died there. At first they let us eat rice, but later they gave us gruel with salt in the mornings, and there was almost no salt to be found. The moderately sick who could still work worked as usual. If they were sick and could not work, they just gave them one or two pills to swallow, but I don't know what kind of medicine it was.

Q: In general, what had the prisoners there done wrong? Do you know?

A: Other groups had people who had been immoral, [or] for instance they had eaten something that they had been forbidden to eat, which was called betraying the collective. There were cadres, soldiers, and those linked to networks that they called "traitors." There were some whose husbands had been taken away and killed, and then they sent the wives to the Prasol worksite to live, like my nephew's wife.

Q: What was the name of the chairman of Kôk Kduoch prison?

A: Tann Saroeun តង់ សារ៉េន. Before Tann Saroeun, there was Bon បុណ្យ.

Q: Do you know where those who worked at Kôk Kduoch are living now?

A: I have no grasp on that, because sometimes they would assign "A" for one or two years, and then they would assign "B" next. As I knew it, Tann Saroeun តង់ សារ៉េន was the prison chief and his wife Kieng គីង worked in cooking. Mon ម៉ុន was in district security. Tann Saroeun is now living in Srè Khoeu ស្រែខ្មៅ Village, Sâmbaur Subdistrict, Sâmbaur District, Kratie Province, but I have heard that he has high pressure, and I don't know if he can speak.

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Q: Do you know of any surviving prisoners like yourself, and where they are living?

A: Hoeun ហៀង is now the chairman of Kèng Prasat Village. Pheak Neang ភាគ ពាង lives at Char Thnaol ចារថ្នោល Village, Sâmbaur Subdistrict. Vên Sokhauy វ៉ែន សុខ្យា is now the Deputy Governor of Kratie Province.

Q: After it fell in 1979, did you go back to Kôk Kduoch?

A: No.

Q: Can you please clarify by making a sketch of what you saw and can remember of the prison location and the detention buildings at Kôk Kduoch?

A: I wish to attach this sketch of what I recall of the prison and the detention buildings at Kôk Kduoch so that it will make it easy to understand. (Sketch attached to this written record.)

☒ 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.

☐ After the Written Record was read out to the witness, the witness refused to sign it. The interview ended at 5:30 p.m. on the same date.

Witness

UK Iem អ៊ឹក អៀម

[Thumbprint]

Investigators

Monique SAKHAN SVAY Samnang

[Signature]

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