

ស្រ/ន: ០២៥/១៦៧

ឯកសារទទួល
DOCUMENT RECEIVED/DOCUMENT REÇU

ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ (Date of receipt/Date de reception):
..... 12 / 02 / 2009

ម៉ោង (Time/Heure):..... 11:40

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



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

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា
Extraordinary Chambers in the
Courts of Cambodia

ឯកសារបានបញ្ជាក់ថាជាកម្រិតស្របតាមដើម
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ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ ថ្ងៃការបញ្ជាក់ (Certified Date/Date de certification):
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ការិយាល័យសហចៅក្រមស៊ើបអង្កេត
Office of the Co-Investigating Judges

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់បង្ហើយសាក្សី
Written Record of Witness Interview

សំណុំរឿងព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ/Criminal Case
លេខ/No: 002/14-08-2006
លេខស៊ើបអង្កេត/Investigation
លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ

On the seventeenth of December, two thousand and eight, at 09:10 hours, at Thnâl Kèng ថ្នល់កែង village, Pha'av ផ្កាវ subdistrict, Trápéang Prasat ក្រពាំងប្រាសាទ district, Uddor Meanchey ឧត្តរមានជ័យ province.

We, SIM Sorya, Investigator 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....., as sworn Interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers,

Recorded the statements of SĂO Sarun សៅ សារុន alias (none), a witness, who provided the following information regarding his personal identity:

The undersigned SĂO Sarun alias (none), was born on 3 March 1932 in Koh Mayeul កោះម៉ាយើល village, Peam Chimiet ពាមជីមៀត subdistrict, Koh Nhèk កោះញែក district, Mondulkiri មណ្ឌលគិរី province. He is of Cambodian nationality, and is a soldier.

His father, Nou នូ, is deceased, (his grandmother was Rodè ethnicity and his grandfather was Laos), and his mother, Prâng ប្រង, is deceased.

His current address is at Thnâl Kèng ថ្នល់កែង village, Pha'av ផ្កាវ subdistrict, Trápěang Prasat ត្រពាំងប្រាសាទ district, Uddor Meanchey ឧត្តរមានជ័យ province.

His wife Yun យ៉ុន is living and he is the father of 6 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 can read and write Phnông, Jaray and Laos 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:

Question: Please describe your background before 1970.

Answer: I was born in Koh Mayeaul in 1932. My parents were rice farmers. I learned in the literacy program and I can read and write a little [Khmer]. In 1968 the villagers from two villages, i.e. Koh Mayeaul and Peam Chimiet, entered into the forest for resistance. At that time, my immediate commander was Laing ឡាំង.

Question: Whom did you meet or join the meeting or study with?

Answer: Before 1970, I had meetings with Ta Laing, Ta Thuch តាធុច and Ta Ya តាយ៉ា at Au Leav អូរលាវ, Ratanakiri រតនគិរី land near Vietnamese border. I did not meet with other people then. Those meetings were about “forces mobilization to fight against the American emperor, the feudalists and the capitalists”. In

1971 I went to attend the meeting in Kampong Thom កំពង់ធំ province. The attendees from Mondulhiri were Laing and Mey ម៉ឺ and the senior leaders from Phnom Penh included Thuch and POL Pot ប៉ុល ពត. In that meeting, POL Pot was the one who declared the opening and closing of those sessions and Thuch was the one who gave the same presentation on policies as he did in the previous sessions. In 1972, the district chiefs included Ky គី, Svay ស្វាយ, Châm ចាំ, Lork លក and myself went to attend the meeting in Kampong Thom with POL Pot, HOU Nim ហ៊ុន នឹម, HOU Yun ហ៊ុន យុន and NUON Chea (I did not see IENG Sary, IENG Thirith and KHIEU Samphan). The attendees in that meeting were also from other provinces. In that meeting, NUON Chea was the presenter for political session on fighting against the American emperor, national liberation and the eradication of oppressive classes. About four-ten days after the 17th April 1975, I went to attend the meeting at the Cambodian-Soviet friendship school for three days. In that meeting, the presenters at the opening sessions were NUON Chea and POL Pot. POL Pot spoke the most. Both of them talked about political matters, cooperative organization, currency prohibition, market and monastery closings and stated that they would be reopened in the future. I did not see IENG Sary, IENG Thirith and KHIEU Samphan in that meeting. Hundreds of cadres from all provinces were also attending that meeting. At that time, [they] did not address the evacuation because the people had all been evacuated. During the Party's anniversary probably in September 1978, I attended the study session nationwide assembly regarding the currency printing and money circulation, allowing the people to return to the cities, the reopening of markets and [I] did not hear about reopening of monastery. In that meeting, [they] also raised the reasons that the changes occurred because Angkar had eliminated all enemies. POL Pot personally declared that policy and all other dignitaries in the opening and closing sessions sat next to each other and listened to him. The attendees in that meeting were from all over the country, including soldiers and civilians who held the ranks from battalion chiefs and district Com or higher. The persons who attended in the opening and closing sessions included POL Pot, NUON Chea, KHIEU Samphan, IENG Sary, IENG Thirith and SON Sen but NUON Chea gave more presentations than the others. Between 1975 and 1978 I attended two other meetings. One of them was held at Borey Keila បូរីកើល and another was held [at the place] between Borey Keila and Russia Federation Street. In those two meetings NUON Chea gave the presentations on economic lines (I did not hear [him mentioning] the enemy elimination). The persons who attended in the opening and closing sessions included POL Pot, KHIEU Samphan, IENG Sary and IENG Thirith.

Question: Please describe the work that you did from 1975 to 1979.

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Answer: From 1972 to 1975 I worked as Pich Chenda ពេជ្រចិន្ដា district secretary following the appointment by Ta Laing at the meeting in Koh Nhèk កោះញែក. Ta Laing said that the upper Angkar had him appoint the district secretaries, including Ky, Auraing អូររាំង district secretary; Svay, Koh Nhèk district secretary; Châm, Chbar ច្បារ district secretary; and KHĂM Phoun ខាំ ភួន, Keo Seima កែវសីមា district secretary. No one from the Center participated in those appointments. In 1975 I came to station (not in a capacity as secretary) at Orbuon Leu អូរឆ្នើម of Koh Nhèk district for one year. After the 17th April 1975, I returned to work as Pich Chenda district secretary because Mala ម៉ាឡា, male, the then Pich Chenda district secretary, did not speak Phnomng ផ្អែង and he was not so good in leading [people] to farm rice and he was also a former resident from Hanoi. He was removed and disappeared in 1977. In late 1977 or early 1978 after the death of Ta Laing, Chuon ជួន who was the Sector 105 Chairman of Commerce came by car to call me from Pich Chenda district to go to Koh Nhèk and we both flew to Phnom Penh. He said to me that Laing was beaten to death by KHĂM Phoun with a car's spring leaf and KHĂM Phoun also shot himself to death. He also told me that Angkar called [me] to go to Phnom Penh. No other passengers in that plane besides me and Ta Chuon and his messenger and mine. When we arrived in Phnom Penh, Ta Chuon and I went to POL Pot's office which was right behind the Royal Palace. Chuon and I met with POL Pot, SON Sen and NUON Chea and POL Pot talked about the Laing's story in the same manner as Chuon told me. At that time, POL Pot convinced me to work and replace Laing and at that moment I refused by saying that I was not qualified but he said that "[you] have Ta San សាន, secretary of Division 920, who can always assist [you]". Later I went to Sector 105 Commerce Office located near the river bank and Van Phâng វ៉ានផង a young staff in that office told me that [they] did not hear any gunshot. One week after the death of Laing, I saw the metal bar and bullet(s) hole(s) on the door of the room in which Laing and KHĂM Phoun died. At that time, I did not see any corpses because they were taken for burning out. Later, I received Laing's ashes from POL Pot to be returned to Mondulkiri. Chuon and I returned to Sector 105 by the same plane. Mostly, I stationed at Pich Chenda district and Chuon stationed at the Sector [office] because I was not yet voted for such appointment. Therefore, in one week I went to work at the Sector [office] only two days per week. At the nationwide assembly, during the Party anniversary perhaps in September 1978 as described above, they declared to appoint me as secretary of Sector 105. At that moment, POL Pot made the announcement and IENG Sary, IENG Thirith, KHIEU Samphan and NUON Chea were also in the chairmanship

sitting next to him. About two or three months after the death of Laing and KHĂM Phoun, I received a telegram from POL Pot calling [the cadres] to a meeting. In its content, six cadres including Ta Vieng តាវឿង, Ta Lork, Ta Kim តាកឹម, Ta Lăn តាឡាន់, Ta Sophea តាសុភា and myself were called to go to a meeting in Phnom Penh. The one who received and decoded the telegram for me was San (died after 1979). BUN Chăn ប៊ុន ចាន់ (village 105) was the telegram receiver/typist at my office. That telegram was not copied to anyone else. The six of us flew to meet with KHIEU Samphan alias Hem, SON Sen alias Khieu, NUON Chea and POL Pot at the same POL Pot's office behind the Royal Palace. We reported [to them] our activities at the Sector. We were instructed to strengthen the economy and resist against Vietnam. One day later, all of us flew back. About one or two weeks before the Vietnamese fighting and occupying Phnom Penh, I received one telegram from POL Pot (I did not see any copying to anyone), calling me, Sophea, Ta Lăn and Ta Lork to a meeting in Phnom Penh. The four of us flew (a plane with wings and runs on the ground) to meet with POL Pot, SON Sen and NUON Chea at the same POL Pot's office behind the Royal Palace. While POL Pot was talking SON Sen and NUON Chea were also sitting there and POL Pot told us to try to strengthen our forces and strategies to resist Vietnam. At that time, he did not refer to anyone as a traitor. But he said that Sophea from the military section should stay and work on the military affairs and had the three of us fly back to Koh Nhèk. Sophea disappeared forever since then.

Question: Who else did you receive telegrams from?

Answer: I received them from NUON Chea from time to time. They described about going to study in the educational/learning sessions. I never received or sent any [telegram] to KHIEU Samphan. I used to give a commerce list requesting for equipment to KHIEU Samphan personally and used to talk with him about economic matters during meals time or outside official meeting.

Question: Who else did you know?

Answer: I know Maing ម៉ាំង, my younger brother in Battalion 2, who was in charge of border affairs and later he came to replace Lêng ឡេង at Phnom Kraol ភ្នំក្រាល Dam Office. Phuong ផួង, my messenger, is currently living in Koh Nhèk. He went to Phnom Penh with me while I went there with Chuon. I did not know about the arrest of Ta Ya. I did not know about the story of Ta Chhin តាឈិន, Ta Sây តាសយ or the gasoline pipe incident. Kăm កាំ worked at K-11 ក-១១ office with Ta Sophea (is deceased), Vân វ៉ាន worked at K-11 office with Ta Sophea (is deceased). Nhăn ញ៉ាន់, former chief of the marine Division at Kampong Som, travelled to Kratie and I heard from other people that Angkar

had his group come and arrest the civilians and military at Mondulkiri but they retreated when the Vietnamese arrived. I did not know about the arrest of Kasi រតន៍. When I went to attend the Party anniversary in September 1978, POL Pot asked me to read a confession. I did not know the confessor but he/she implicated me, Ta Lăn and Maing etc. all together. I responded to him that it was not true. During that meeting, POL Pot also declared that the civilian and military cadres should stop the killing and the arrests unless a prior summon from the Center's court was obtained.

Question: What did you know about the military affairs and security management in that Sector?

Answer: The Sector Com was the one who supervised the Sector military chiefs and the Sector military chiefs supervised the security offices. After the death of Ta Laing, I knew that the Commerce cadres were arrested but I did not know [anything] about the order. I knew that Division 920 was one of the Center's Divisions that had the right to arrest both the civilians and military at the Sector [level] (for example, Ta Lêng was arrested). Therefore, Ta San from Division 920 came to the meeting with Ta Sophea and me. He personally spoke about that arrest, for example, the arrest of NET Tha. Ta San have already held the list and I could not refuse. After the assembly in 1978, Angkar instructed that anyone who has not been proved by any evidence or connection shall be released. I knew that a number of detainees were transferred to Phnom Penh but I did not know to which destinations. But it was ordered by Angkar via Ta San.

- One copy of the Written Record was provided to the witness.
The interview ended at 13:30 hours on the same day.
- 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.

Witness

Interpreter

Investigator

[Signature]

[Signature]

SĂO Sarun សៅ សារុន