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

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា
Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
Chambres Extraordinaires au sein des Tribunaux Cambodgiens

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DOCUMENT RECEIVED/DOCUMENT REÇU	
ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ (Date of receipt/Date de reception):	
..... 09 / 09 / 2009	
ម៉ោង (Time/Heure):	
..... 14 : 00	
មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង/Case File Officer/L'agent chargé du dossier:	
Uch Arun	

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

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់បម្លើយសាក្សី
Written Record of Interview of Witness
Procès-verbal d'audition de témoin

លេខស៊ើបអង្កេត/Investigation/Instruction
លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007

On the thirty first of January, two thousand and nine, at 08:30 hours, at the Moan Chè ម៉ាន់ចៃ village, Prey Nhi ប្រៃញី sub-district, Sâmpov Meas សំពៅមាស district, Pursat ពោធិសាត់ province;

We, Chay Chan Daravan ចាយ ច័ន្ទតារាវណ្ណ and Thomas KUEHNEL, Investigators of the Extraordinary Chambers, being assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges, dated 26 May 2008 (extended to 26 March 2009);

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 Samorn NIL សំម៉ន នីល, as sworn Interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers;

Original KH: 00277327-00277337

ឯកសារបានថតចម្លងត្រឹមត្រូវតាមច្បាប់ដើម	
CERTIFIED COPY/COPIE CERTIFIÉE CONFORME	
ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ នៃការបញ្ជាក់ (Certified Date /Date de certification):	
..... 10 / 09 / 2009	
មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង /Case File Officer/L'agent chargé du dossier:	
Uch Arun	

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Recorded the statements of UNG Chhät អ៊ុង ឆាត់, a witness, who provided the following information regarding his personal identity:

The undersigned, UNG Chhat, no alias, born in 1952 in In Chhea អ៊ិនឈា village, Srè Sdok ស្រែស្អុក sub-district (formerly Phtas Sdok ផ្ទះស្អុក subdistrict), Kandieng កណ្តៀង district (formerly Bakan បាកាន district), Pursat ពោធិសាត់ province.

He is of Khmer nationality, a farmer and an assistant to the commune council. His father, Mao Chhit ម៉ៅ ឈិត, is “deceased”, and his mother, Tan Buon តាន បួន, is “alive”.

His present address is in In Chhea village, Srè Sdok sub-district, Kandieng district, Pursat province.

He is married to Mitt Sèm មិត្ត សែម, “alive”, and is the father of 5 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: Prior to 1975 where did you live and what did you do?

A: In 1970 I was a monk in Preah Theat ព្រះធាតុ pagoda in In Chhea village. In 1971 I left the monkhood and got married. In that same year, 1971, the leaders of Sector 7 included Ta Sot តា សុត, Ta Chea តា ជា, and Ta Tauy តា តួយ recruited me into the army. I was in the Khmer Rouge army since 1971 until after the liberation on 17 April, 1975 at

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which time I was discharged. The Khmer Rouge army liberated Pursat province on 19 April 1975. The division commander then was Ta Khlèng តាខ្លែង. I was a platoon chief in charge of 30 troops in Ta Khlèng division. My division attacked and entered Pursat through Tuol Po Chrey ទួលពោធិ៍ច្រៀង. After we had arrived in Pursat provincial [town], my unit was assigned to guard the Pursat provincial headquarter. My unit was in charge of removing goods from the market, and another unit was in charge of evacuating people from the town. My group removed goods from the market and houses. After staying at the Pursat provincial headquarter for about 15 days, they began to transfer my unit to Mong Russey ម៉ោងប្រស្នី.

Q: After the liberation of Pursat province on 19 April 1975 what else did you do and where?

A: Before they sent me to Mong Russey, about 10 days after goods in the market had been removed, they rounded up Lon Nol លន់ នល់ soldiers and put them in the provincial headquarter compound. My unit was not assigned to round up Lon Nol soldier in the districts, but they had us guarded around the compound of the provincial headquarter. I myself was assigned to guard at the front gate of the provincial headquarter.

Q: When they assigned you to guard around the compound of the provincial headquarter, how many Lon Nol soldiers did you see?

A: I saw they were transporting them [into the compound] in about 20 vehicles, included big and small cars, as well as taxis. I didn't know where they brought them from. At the beginning I saw them dressed in the civilian clothes, and didn't know whether or not they were Lon Nol soldiers; but I heard the Khmer Rouge soldiers speaking that those were the generals of the Lon Nol military. I estimated that there were about 200 Lon Nol soldiers attending the meeting because the provincial hall was fully packed.

Q: You said they called Lon Nol soldiers to a meeting, so did you hear what the substance of that meeting was? And who presided over the meeting? And how long did that meeting last?

A: I could not hear the substance of the meeting because they held it in the provincial hall with the door firmly closed. I saw Lon Nol soldiers had a happy face when they were leaving the meeting. They were not worried. They said they were going to study and would meet with the King Father Norodom Sihanouk នរោត្តមសីហានុ. I saw Ta Sot the secretary of Sector 7, Ta Tauy the deputy secretary of Sector 7, Ta San តា សាន the committee deputy of District 21, Ta Mao តា ម៉ៅ the committee of District 21 (which is now called Kandieng district but formerly called Bakan district). I didn't know whether or not the senior leaders like POL Pot ប៉ុល ពត, NUON Chea ឆ្មុន ជា, KHIEU Samphan ខៀវ សំផន, and IENG Sary ឿង សារី attended that meeting, but even if they attended it, I

~~no/n: 0125/176~~

would not know any of them. The meeting which took place for the whole morning ended at about eleven a.m. After the meeting had ended, they [Lon Nol soldiers] rode back in their vehicles, which were crowdedly packed, to follow the Khmer Rouge cars that were leading them northward.

Q: At that time did you recognize any Lon Nol soldiers?

A: I recognized Mr. Pel ប៉ែល, an officer of Lon Nol military and the commander of the regiment stationing at the Tuol Po Chrey. He had also come to the meeting and, along with others, boarded a car to follow [the Khmer Rouge].

Q: Did you see the governor of the Pursat province [among the crowd]?

A: I knew that Mr. Yuk Hâng យុក ហង់ was the governor of Pursat province, but I didn't see him at that time because there were too many people. But I was sure he was in the crowd.

Q: Can you describe further about what you saw?

A: I saw those Lon Nol soldiers were happy. They told their relatives waiting and standing along the road that "please inform our relatives at home that we are going to study and will meet with the King Father". There were not many Khmer Rouge cars escorting the vehicles of those Lon Nol soldiers. There were just two Khmer Rouge cars, with about ten fully armed guards, leading the convoy of the Lon Nol soldiers, and there was a Jeep, with five Khmer Rouge soldiers in it, driving behind. I didn't know where they took them to. When my guarding duty was over at 11 a.m, they had me went back to my place which was near the hospital. I then asked for permission from my leader to visit my home village, In Chhean, for two days. At that time I saw those Lon Nol soldier vehicles were stopping at the Po ពោធិ village fort which was in present Srè Sdok sub-district, near Kdei Svet ក្តីស្វែត pagoda, about eight kilometers from the Tuol Po Chrey fort.

Q: What else did you see at the time you saw those stopping cars?

A: I also saw people, some of whom were still in the cars and others were sitting in group under the trees shades. I also saw Mr. Pel there. Because they saw me dressed in [the Khmer Rouge] military uniform, they shook hand with me and asked me where I was going? I told them that I was going to visit my home. When I asked them where they were going, they replied that they were going to study at the north bank of the [the Tonle Sap Lake]. But Angkar only allowed one car at a time to get in there. I saw hundreds of the Khmer Rouge troops surrounding those Lon Nol soldiers. They also set check points on site to ban people from traveling through that area. I was stopped and searched by them, but since I had permission slip, they let me went through. While I was there I saw them letting a vehicle leave that place one by one in about every twenty minutes. The Khmer Rouge would not allow the next vehicle to leave for Tuol Po Chrey unless they saw the previous one, which had transported Lon Nol soldier to Tuol Po Chrey earlier, returned. Later I saw the vehicle which had transported Lon Nol soldiers there earlier

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returned empty. There was only a driver in the vehicle in a high speed, driving pass. The vehicle didn't stop at the Po village office. When I left the checkpoint, I turned left toward the In Chhea village, and didn't go to Tuol Po Chrey.

Q: When you were riding the motorcycle there, did you hear any gun fires?

A: I didn't hear any, but two days later, while I was returning from my village and arriving at the same place where Lon Nol soldiers cars were stopping, which was near the office of Po village fort, I saw people were gathering. There, these people asked me if I knew that those Lon Nol soldiers, stopping here previously, were taken to be killed at Tuol Po Chrey. The villagers asked me if I knew about that. At that time I was very shocked, and told them that I had not known about any thing. I didn't believe that they killed people like that. When I arrived at my unit I asked my boss for an extension by telling him that my wife was sick; but, in fact, I wanted to go to check on those corpses and see if my two cousins, who were Lon Nol soldiers, were also killed there. I arrived at my home and left the motor bike there, and then I walked with two other persons, Doeun ជឿន and Nhanh ញ៉ាញ, through the forests toward [Tuol Po Chrey]. These two persons died during the three year regime. At that site, inside the [Tuol Po Chrey Fort], I saw all the dead bodies were on the ground with their heads pointing north. I saw the arms of the corpses were tied to the back and the corpses were tied up together in fifteen to twenty by a rope. Wound marks on the heads and torsos of those corpses were clearly visible, and there was a strong smell of blood at the site. The villagers told me that they [the Khmer Rouge] spent the whole day shooting those Lon Nol soldiers, starting [from the morning] to the evening.

Q: Can you tell us what Tuol Po Chrey was?

A: It was a fort of Lon Nol soldiers with four round-circles of fences. Later I saw my two cousins were still alive at the Po village fort because they didn't get on the vehicles with others.

Q: At Tuol Po Chrey, did you see any back packs or uniforms of the Lon Nol soldiers?

A: I saw the corpses were only in civilian clothes. There was no uniform or back pack. I didn't examine the bullets left over at Tuol Po Chrey. Those corpses were left swollen on the ground. Three days later, there were two Sony bulldozers leaving Pursat [provincial town]; but I didn't know at that time where they were going to until later I heard people saying that they had gone to drag earth to cover the corpses at Tuol Po Chrey. Some corpses were dragged into a pond nearby and some were buried on site. About two months later I was discharged from the army and returned to live in In Chhean village. About one year later I went to fish at Tuol Po Chrey. At that time there was no more smell but I saw bones were still remaining on the ground. There has not been so far any exhumation of the pond which they dragged the corpses into. That pond is about three meters deep.

Q: Besides what you saw then, do you know any former Khmer Rouge soldiers, who participated in that operation, are still alive?

A: There was none because Ta Sot and Ta San were later killed. As I know it, Ta Tauly, Ta San, Ta Sot, and Ta Mao personally participated in this operation. Ta San and Ta

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Mao, who were the district committees, committed suicide by shooting themselves dead after they saw the Southwest Zone people arriving to arrest and kill soldiers under their command.

Q: Where were the [Khmer Rouge] soldiers who carried out the killing of those Lon Nol soldiers from?

A: My unit in the 26 Battalion was not involved with this operation. As I knew it, those were troops of Battalion 201 from Sector 7 and the Zone troops of Battalion 24 who carried out this operation.

Q: Do you know any of those troops who are still alive?

A: No, they all died, and I don't know if any of them are still alive.

Q: Do you know Ta Kin តា គិន?

A: Preap Kin worked in the propaganda unit, luring people to join the revolution. He was in civilian section. He died in Phnom Preuk ភ្នំព្រឹក.

Q: What about Hēng ហេង?

A: Hēng worked in the economic unit. I think he didn't know anything. I think he is now also in Phnom Preuk.

Q: Can Ta Run តា រុន know about the event of killing of the Lon Nol soldiers at Tuol Po Chrey?

A: He is my friend. At that time he was a soldier in a company unit, but his role was to guard the province.

Q: Did Ta Sarun តា សារុន battalion participate in the operation to kill Lon Nol soldiers at Tuol Po Chrey?

A: Those participated personally were Ta Khlèng, Ta Sot and Ta San. After Ta Khlèng was arrested and transported on an airplane to Phnom Penh in 1977, Ta Kân តា កង came to take his place.

Q: Were Lon Nol soldiers tied up at the time you saw those cars were stopping at the Po village fort,

A: No one was tied up, and those people appeared happy.

Q: Were they still happy even there were Khmer Rouge troops surrounding them?

A: That was because they might have been told that those troops were guarding to ensure their safety.

This interview paused at 10:30 am.

This interview resumed at 11:00 am.

m/n: D125/176

Q: Who assigned your unit to guard the provincial hall and remove goods from the market?

A: The commander of Battalion 26, Sarim សារីម, assigned my unit to remove goods from the market and guard the provincial hall.

Q: Did they tell you any reasons [for doing that]?

A: They didn't. They only told us to guard the provincial hall and to remove goods from the market.

Q: Did they hold a meeting before they had you guarded the provincial hall and removed goods from the market?

A: They held a meeting in the provincial head quarter compound one day before, telling us not to wander around and be vigilant.

Q: Where is Ta Sarim living at present?

A: I don't know because we have been separated since the time I was transferred to Mong.

Q: When did the Lon Nol soldiers gather in the compound of the provincial headquarter?

A: They arrived at 7 a.m next day after the meeting.

Q: Were there any Khmer Rouge cars escorting the cars of Lon Nol soldiers who were coming to attend the meeting at the provincial hall?

A: No, but the Khmer Rouge leader, whom I didn't know the name, told me that if I saw many civilian cars coming, just open the gate and let them in. After all cars were in, they closed the door of the provincial hall to hold a meeting, but the gate of the provincial headquarter was not close. There were some walk-in people asking to get in to attend that meeting, but they were not allowed to be in, and that was a ban.

Q: Did you see any Lon Nol soldiers dressing in military uniform?

A: No, they dressed in civilian clothes.

Q: Were any fighting still going on at the time the Lon Nol soldiers arriving in the provincial headquarter?

A: There was no fighting, it was quiet. All Lon Nol soldiers had put down their weapons.

Q: So, there was not any fighting?

A: At that time they piled up guns in one place, and discharged Lon Nol soldiers back to their homes except the senior leaders.

Q: Did those meeting attendees wear insignia, shoes and belt to identify that they were soldiers?

A: I didn't see them wearing any thing but dressing in civilian clothes. But the Khmer Rouge leaders told me that these attendees were Lon Nol military officers with the ranks of second lieutenant, captain and up to general.

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Q: Did they carry any hand guns at that time?

A: No, they didn't.

Q: When your unit entered Pursat province did they tell you what kind of things to be removed?

A: Things to be removed were groceries sold in the market, included pan and pot, garlic, and monosodium glutamate, but there were no military materials. They ordered us to protect the transportation group, fearing that the group could be shot dead by the remaining soldiers of Lon Nol.

Q: You said that they held a closed door meeting in the provincial hall, were there any Khmer Rouge leaders, whom you don't know, attending it also?

A: There were some other persons attending it also but I didn't know them. Based on their uniforms, those attendees were the Khmer Rouge leaders because they had hand guns hanging at their waists and arrived in small cars.

Q: During the operation to round up Lon Nol soldiers to Tuol Po Chrey, how did the Khmer Rouge conduct their work?

A: I didn't know because I was only assigned to guard carefully.

Q: You told us that those who came in the provincial headquarter at that time were former Lon Nol soldiers, but besides them, were there any others civil servants such as teacher and officials of the Lon Nol regime attending it also?

A: I don't know that. I was a peasant who never knew Pursat town before, so I didn't know who were the students and who were the teachers or intellectuals.

Q: Based on your knowledge, in Pursat, where the detention offices located?

A: After I was discharged to become an ordinary people, I didn't have the right to travel, so I didn't know many things. But I knew there were small prisons in the cooperatives with each could detain about one hundred people.

Q: Did the killing only take place once at Tuol Po Chrey on those 200 persons or there were more killing taking place there afterward?

A: I would like to confirm that the killing took place only once at Tuol Po Chrey. But later there were killing of the evacuees from Svay Rieng ស្វាយរៀង province at the sites nearby.

Q: Were there any killing of the civilians later on at Tuol Po Chrey?

A: There were killing of people later on at sites far away from Tuol Po Chrey. The corpses from those killing were not buried. After they had been killed, those corpses were left on the ground, and when the bush fire started, bones were burned up. After all bones were burned up, villagers used land at that site to grow yam.

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Q: After the big scale killing of the Lon Nol soldiers at Tuol Po Chrey, were there any other big scale killing taking place there?

A: There was no more big scale killing but the small scale ones. After all people had been forced out of the provincial town, each was asked to do a biography. If they were found to be former Lon Nol soldiers or militias, they would be taken away to be killed, but that was on a small scale. Until 1976 they created prison, and in 1977, if any one didn't fulfill their work on the rice field, he/she would be imprisoned; and when the number of prisoners increased up to one hundred, they would take them away and kill once.

Q: You said that between 1976 to 1977 they created prison for detaining people, at that time was Tuol Po Chrey used as a detention center or as any thing else?

A: Tuol Po Chrey was not used as anything else, it was left the same; and no one was allowed to get in but people could walk pass it. The detention office was created in the cooperative, for example, in my Thlea Ampil ធ្លាអំពិល cooperative, there was one detention center. In between 1977 to 1978 the killing of the cadres and the people evacuated from the East Zone began in big scale, especially those from Svay Rieng province.

Q: Can you describe what you saw happened to the East Zone people and what else did you know about those East Zone people who had been evacuated by the Khmer Rouge to Pursat province?

A: I don't recall the exact date, but in 1977 there was a presence of the blue scarf people here who were coming from the East Zone, especially from Svay Rieng province. Those people arrived here around December 1977, and about three months later they were rounded up to be killed at Veal Bak Chunchhing វាលបាក់ជញ្ជឹង. I personally knew about this story because I was in the ox-cart-transportation unit.

Q: Who ordered the transportation of the East zone people away?

A: I didn't know, but I saw the soldiers of the cooperative and the district holding a meeting, and afterward the cooperative committee told the ox-cart unit to gear up in order to transport people from Svay Rieng to cut and collect rice at Veal Bak Chunchhing. In my cooperative we gathered about thirty ox carts for transporting those people. It took three to four days to transport all those people. I joined the transportation group in the first trip. There were so many people, in thousands, I estimated. On the first day I transported those people by my self, leaving the village at 4 a.m and arriving at Veal Bak Chunchhing at 11 a.m. At that time neither I nor the people themselves knew that they were being transported to be killed. They looked as nothing happened and chatted in the cart. During that journey there were no Khmer Rouge militias or soldiers escorting the carts. But when we arrived in Veal Bak Chunchhing, we saw Khmer Rouge soldiers were already hiding in the reed bushes nearby. My group unloaded the people and their belongings nearby. The Khmer Rouge soldiers then had me backed off the cart about thirty meters away from the unloading site. Then I saw the Khmer Rouge soldiers walked people away and shot them dead at a place about one hundred meters away from where I stopped my cart earlier. I personally saw the Khmer Rouge shooting [those people] dead in the pond and on the ground of Veal Bak Chunchhing. Those people had been

~~am/n: D125/176~~

transported by the Khmer Rouge from all cooperatives to be killed in the pond of Veal Bak Chunching. Those people included children and adults, women and men. Veal Bak Chunching is about ten kilometers west of Tuol Po Chrey.

One copy of the Written Record was provided to the witness.

This interview ended at 13:05 minutes on the same date.

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

[Signature/Thumbprint]

[Signature]

[Signatures]

UNG Chhät