

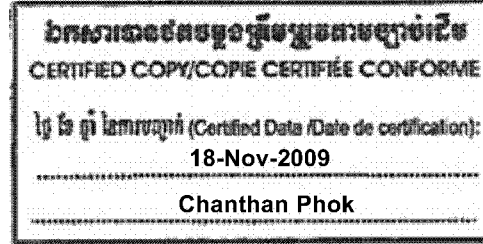
ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា

ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ

Kingdom of Cambodia  
Nation-Religion-King

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា

Extraordinary Chambers in the  
Courts of Cambodia



ការិយាល័យសហចៅក្រមស៊ើបអង្កេត

Office of the Co-Investigating Judges

Criminal Case File/Dossier penal  
No: 002/14-08-2006

លេខស៊ើបអង្កេត/Investigation/Instruction

លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់បម្លើយសាក្សី

Written Record of Witness Interview

On the twenty first of October two thousand and nine, at 10.50 a.m. at Svay Year Village, Svay Year Commune, Svay Chom District, Svay Rieng province,

We, Paolo Pastore Stocchi, Investigator of the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (the “ECCC”), being assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges, dated 24 July 2009,

Noting the Law on the Establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, dated 27 October 2004,

Noting Rules 24, 28 and 60 of the ECCC Internal Rules,

With CHHIN Nith, as sworn Interpreter of Extraordinary Chambers,

Recorded the statements of MEI Suon (មឺ ស៊ួន), a witness, who provided the following information regarding his personal identity:

Original KH: 00391852-00391861

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Mail Po Box 71, Phnom Penh Tel:+855(0)23 218914 Fax: +855(0) 23 218941.

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The undersigned MEI Suon, alias: no, born on 7 July 1936 in Svay Year (ស្វយ័យ័រ) village, Svay Year (ស្វយ័យ័រ) commune, Svay Chrum (ស្វាយជ្រំ) district, Svay Rieng (ស្វាយរៀង) province. He is of Cambodian nationality. His father, MEI Moea (មី ម៉ៅ), is deceased, and his mother, TIENG Nao (ទៀង ណៅ), is deceased. Currently, he is a farmer. His present address: Svay Year village, Svay Year commune, Svay Chrum district, Svay Rieng province. He is married to LOK Choem (ឡុក ច័ម) and is the father of 7 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 me 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.
- I notified the witness of his/her right against self-incrimination, in accordance with Rule 28 of the ECCC Internal Rules.

**Questions and answers:**

**1. Personal Information before the Khmer Rouge Regime**

Q. Were you known by any revolutionary name during the Khmer Rouge Regime?

A. I had no alias. I was known as MEI Suon (មី ស្នួន).

Q. Where does the alias TA Suon (តា ស្នួន) come from?

A. People call me TA (grandpa) Suon or sometimes brother, and I have been called TA Suon since 1970.

Q. What was your occupation in 1970 before the Khmer Rouge Regime?

A. I was a farmer in my area.

Q. Before the Khmer Rouge took power in Cambodia, did you hold any official position within your commune?

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A. No, I did not hold any position that time.  
 Q. Do you know when the Khmer Rouge took power in Cambodia?  
 A. No, I do not.

**2. Events from the start of the Khmer Rouge Regime**

Q. Do you not remember that it was in 1975?  
 A. Yes, I do remember. I heard this as well.

Q. What happened when the Khmer Rouge took power? What happened to you?  
 A. I was afraid of being dead and I worked very hard.

Q. Why were you afraid of being dead?  
 A. All rights fully belonged to other people and they could accuse and arrested us any time.

Q. You say “they”, who could accuse you any time?  
 A. People in the district level. They could send the security to take the people from here.

**3. Structure of the Local Authorities in the Witness’ Area**

Q. Were you Secretary Member of the Svay Year commune committee?  
 A. No, I was not. I was only a member of the Svay Year commune committee and the fourth person in the committee.

Q. When were you appointed?  
 A. I could not remember whether it was 1976 or 1977. I am not sure about that.

Q. Who appointed you?  
 A. The guy died already. He was from Takeo and his name was SA Mith (ស៊ី មីត្ត). He was the District Committee in charge of Sector 23 which is the Svay Rieng province, the East Sector.

Q. Who were the other members of the commune committee?  
 A. They came from other districts and they all died.

Q. Can you recall their names?  
 A. TIENG Phan (ទឿង ផាន), UM Yoem (អ៊ុំ យឹម), SOEM (សឹម), BUN Sarin (ប៊ុន សារិន), and myself.

Q. What was your function within the commune committee?

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A. I was asked to do the rice farming and sometimes I was in charge of economy.

Q. Was it an important function?

A. No, I did not hold any important position because I was illiterate and I just obeyed the orders of the other people.

Q. What was the function of the commune committee?

A. The commune committee was responsible for management, leading and organizing such as the building of dams and digging dikes.

Q. Who was above the commune committee?

A. The district committee was the higher authority over the commune committee and above the district commune was the Sector Committee, actually it was Sector 23.

Q. Who was the Chief of the District Committee?

A. SA Mith (សា មីត្ត) was the District Committee.

Q. How many members were there in the District Committee?

A. Five but I do not know their names

Q. What were the functions of the District Committee?

A. They were responsible for management and leading the Commune Committees.

Q. Who were the leaders of Sector 23?

A. Five members. I know only one person and his name was SAU (ស្នូ). I do not know where he was from and I never met him face to face.

Q. Is SAU alive?

A. No, he was dead. When I refer to people who died I wish to specify that those people were taken away to be killed.

Q. Where did the Sector receive orders from?

A. The Sector received orders through messengers.

Q. Who gave the messengers the task to bring orders?

A. Messengers would bring orders from Sector to District and from District to Commune. At that time, messengers were used instead of telephones like the present time.

Q. Who was above the Sector?

A. The South West Zone was above the Sector 23.

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Q. Who was the Chief of the South West Zone?

A. I do not know the names. I only heard about the zone.

Q. Do you remember any of these messengers?

A. I do not know any of them and they all died.

Q. Who was in charge of this area?

A. I do not remember the name but this person also died.

Q. Were there any security centre in this area?

A. There was a security centre, known as Svay Year Commune Security Centre.

**4. Security Centre**

Q. Does this security centre have a code number?

A. No, it did not have a code number. Prisoners were kept there.

Q. When were the prisoners kept there?

A. It was built in 1975 and was located next to the commune hall.

Q. What kinds of prisoners were kept there?

A. I was told that people with white heads, referring people who joined the YUON (Vietnamese Army).

Q. How many people were jailed there?

A. I do not know the number but it was more than ten people.

Q. What happened to these prisoners?

A. Those who were accused of being the white heads were taken there and reeducated.

Q. What does it mean by reeducation?

A. People were asked to carry soil, to build dams and do other kinds of work.

Q. You mean that these prisoners were ordered to perform forced labor?

A. Yes.

**5. “Smashing”**

Q. Talking about the other commune cadres who were taken away to be killed, when was this?

A. I do not know when but I know that they were taken away and never returned.

Q. Who took them away?

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A. The District Committee members did. Only the District Committee could decide over the Commune Committee and the commune committee could decide over villagers.

Q. You are saying that at some point people were brought to be killed, right?

A. Yes, but it was not a regular process, sometimes people were taken away at night time from this area while other times other people were taken away for execution in other areas.

Q. Were the cadres who were taken away and replaced, and if yes who replaced them?

A. I do not know who replaced them because at that time I was away on the farming site.

Q. Do you know whether the East Zone cadres were replaced by people from other zones?

A. Yes, those who replaced the East Zone cadres came from other districts. They came from districts of Romeas Hek, Chantrea, and Kampong Ror.

Q. Do you know the reason why the cadres were taken away to be killed?

A. I was doubtful by myself too. I did not know why people were taken away. I only concentrated on working.

Q. Do you think that those cadres who disappeared were believed to be Vietnamese collaborators?

A. Yes, this could be the reason for them to disappear.

Q. Did other categories of people disappear, for instance, monks?

A. Different kinds of people were taken away by the security men. People from co-operatives or people from the villages were taken away, not only cadres. Group leaders and people working at the communal kitchens were also taken away.

Q. How come that you were not taken away?

A. I was fortunate not to be selected. It was only me who could escape from death. I was not guilty. I only concentrated on working.

Q. What do you mean that you were not guilty? What did they do to you?

A. I did not make any mistakes as those who disappeared. I knew that they were investigated by the village security.

Q. Who was the head of the security in the village?

A. I do not know, but he already died. He was brought to the village from Prey Veng area.

Q. Did you co-operate to investigate those who eventually disappeared?

A. No, I did not.

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**6. Forced Transfer to the West and Related Issues**

Q. Do you remember that at some point many people were transferred to the area of Pursat Province?

A. Yes, I had some information that people from Kampong Ror were transferred to the West areas. Hundred of trucks were used to transfer the people from this area to the West.

Q. Don't you remember the period when the people were transferred? Could it be 1978?

A. I do not remember the period but it could have been in 1978.

Q. What were the criteria for the people to be transferred? Who decided the transfer?

A. I assumed that these people made minor mistakes but I only assume this because I was far away from here and the Khmer Rouge leadership did not want to have many people in this area.

Q. How do you know that?

A. There were rumors that the Communist Party of Kampuchea revolution was killing Cambodians and they were replaced by Chinese people.

Q. You said that you were far away, where were you?

A. It was far from the commune. I was in Sre Veal area.

Q. How long did you remain in Sre Veal?

A. Four to five years and only before the country was liberated, I was sent back to this area.

Q. How could you be a member of the commune if you were away from the village for so many years?

A. Before I had stayed in this village but at that time I was to work away. That was in 1975.

Q. Could you please clarify this point because you have previously stated that in 1976 or 1977 you were appointed as a commune member?

A. When I was sent away to Sre Veal, I was asked to be the leader of the commune level in charge of economy.

Q. How far is it from Sre Veal to your own village?

A. It is about ten kilometres.

Q. You said that you do not know anything but in your position, you must have known things that happened here.

A. Yes, this is true.

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Q. So who organized the transfer of people from the East Zone to the West?  
A. I do not know.

**7. General Questions**

Q. Do you know a person named TIENG Vǎn (ទៀង វ៉ាន់)?  
A. I know a person called TIENG Vǎn but he already died.

Q. Who was TIENG Vǎn?  
A. He was a normal citizen who worked at the Communal Kitchen in Svay Year.

Q. Was he influential?  
A. I do not know that.

Q. When did TIENG Vǎn die?  
A. Long time ago during the Khmer Rouge Regime. He died of poisonous infection.

Q. Do you know a person called Thang (ថាង)?  
A. I do not know and I do not know which village he may live.

Q. Who was the chief of the village in Svay Year?  
A. I did not know and in any case they were really dead.

Q. Are you sure you did not know anyone?  
A. I am sure. I know a guy who lived near the pagoda who was also taken away to be killed. His name was Mǎn (ម៉ាន់) and indeed now I remember that he was the village chief.

Q. Do you know a person called CHAP Yon (ចាប់ យ៉ុន)?  
A. I do not know this name.

Q. During the Khmer Rouge Regime, did you witness any crimes?  
A. I did not.

Q. Did you hear about forced marriages?  
A. No, I do not know about that.

Q. Did you hear what happened to the wives and the relatives of LON Nol soldiers?  
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A. I do not know.

Q. Did you ever meet IENG Sary, IENG Thirith, KHIEU Samphan and NUON Chea or did they ever visit your area during the Khmer Rouge Regime?

A. No, I never met them and they never came here.

Q. As a person responsible for economy within the commune, were you responsible for the distribution of medicines and food?

A. We never distributed any medicines or food to people.

Q. How is it possible if people ate from the communal kitchen?

A. It is true but I was not involved in the food distribution.

Q. During the Khmer Rouge Regime, did your area receive medicines from the central authority in Phnom Penh?

A. No, we did not receive any medicines.

Q. How were people treated?

A. We had the locally made medicines and the medics in the village distributed them. However, I do not know the substances of these medicines.

Q. Back to the transfer of people to the West, could one of the reasons be that there was not enough food in your area?

A. Maybe this could be one of the reasons but I do not know for other areas.

Q. I have no further questions for you, do you have any questions for me?

A. I have no questions to ask.

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

End of the interview: at 1450 hours on the same day.

The Written Record was read out to the witness; the witness had no objections and signed/thumb printed it.

After the Written Record was read out to the witness, the witness refused to sign it.

End of the interview: at 2.50 p.m. on the same date.

Witness

Interpreter

Investigator

[Thumbprint]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Original KH: 00391852-00391861

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ក្រុង ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១

ទូរស័ព្ទលេខ +៨៥៥(០)២៣ ២១៨៩១៤ ទូរសារលេខ +៨៥៥(០)២៣ ២១៨៩៤១។

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, National Road 4, Choam Chao, Dangkoa Phnom Penh

Mail Po Box 71, Phnom Penh Tel:+855(0)23 218914 Fax: +855(0) 23 218941.

Chambres extraordinaires au sein des tribunaux cambodgiens, Route nationale 4, Choam Chao, Dangkoa, Phnom Penh

Boîte postale 71, Phnom Penh. Tel: +855(0)23 218914 Fax: +855(0) 23 218941.