-500/N-0-254H-05



សូន ខាតុស ខ្មែះតូសាងវិន្និ

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion-King and Artifactors

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អុច្ចស្តីសុំសុំស្រះ១សាមញ្ញតួខតុលាភារកម្ពុជា

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

Office of the Co-Investigating Judges Bureau des Co-juges d'instruction សំណុំឡើទទ្រេឡានស្លា

Criminal Case File /Dossier pénal

1018/No: 002/14-08-2006

នេះខេត្ត នៃ ខេត្ត (Investigation/Instruction

1018/No: 002/19-09-2007

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

On the eighteenth of November, two thousand and nine, at 13:47 hours, in Tuol (ទូល) village, Chakrey (ចក្រី) commune, Phnom Preuk (ភ្នំព្រឹក) district, Battambang (បាត់ដំបង) province;

We, Thomas KUEHNEL, Investigator of the Extraordinary Chambers, being assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges, dated 8 July 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 NIL Samorn (និល សាម៉ន), as sworn Interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers;

Recorded the statements of PRAK Yut (ប្រាក់ យុត), a witness, who provided the following information regarding her personal identity:

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ឯអសារបាននិងចម្កួនត្រឹមត្រូវតាមឡាមដើម CERTIFIED COPY/COPIE CERTIFIÉE CONFORME
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MON OBJUS

The undersigned, PRAK Yut, no alias, was born in 1947 in Kbal Au (ក្បាលអូវ) village, Cheang Torng (ជាងទង) commune, Trăm Kâk (ព្រាំកក់) district, Takeo (តាកែវ) province.

She is of Khmer nationality and a farmer;

Her father, Hun (ហ៊ុន), is "deceased", and her mother, Hoeung (ហ៊្បឹង), is "deceased";

Her present address is in Tuol village, Chakrey commune, Phnom Preuk district, Battambang province;

She is married to MEUNG Vēt (ម៉ឺង វ៉េត), "alive", divorced, and is the mother of 1 child (daughter).

The witness has no criminal record.

☑ The witness declared that she can read, write and understand the Khmer language.

☑ The witness declared that she 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 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 her right against self-incrimination, in accordance with Rule 28 of the ECCC Internal Rules.

Question - Answer:

Q: Did you know about the transferring of the people from the Southwest Zone to the other Zones?

A-1: I was not sure about the transferring of the people from the Southwest Zone, but I my self was transferred from the Southwest Zone to Kampong Cham (កំពង់ចាម) province. As for the people who were transferred to the other places, I did not know clearly because that was the decision of the upper echelon. But I found out later about the transferring of the people to the other places from some people whom I met in the meeting.

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Q: You said that the transferring was the order of the upper echelon, what did that mean?

A-2: Before they transferred me from the Kampot (កំពត) province, I followed what the secretary of the Sector ordered me to do.

Q: Who ordered you?

A-3: The person who ordered me named KÂNG Chap (តិង ទាប) (dead). He was the Sector secretary.

Q: On what date?

A-4: In February 1977.

Q: At that time did they tell you to go alone or to go with other people?

A-5: At that time I took four to five of my relatives and my mother to go with me. If I left them behind, I was afraid that they would be mistreated.

Q: Before they sent you to Kampong Cham, were you the chairperson of the female mobile unit of the Chhouk (ឈ្វាត់) district?

A-6: Yes.

Q: After you had been assigned to Kampong Cham province, what happened to the 200 persons [mobile unit members]?

A-7: I left them under the management of the Chhouk district.

Q: Were those 200 persons, under your command, the new people or the old people? **A-8:** They had been recruited from the communes regardless whether they were the new people or the old people.

Q: You said they had been recruited. Was the recruitment made after an order or was it made voluntarily [by your initiative]?

A-9: To follow the order from the upper echelon.

Q: Was that the district or Sector which you referred to as upper echelon order?

A-10: The dam belonged to the district, and the Sector oversaw the district. The district ordered us to recruit people into the mobile unit. But the district was under the management of the Sector.

Q: Between 1975 and 1977 how many mobile units were there in Sector 35?

A-11: If the dam project was that of the district, the district managed it. But if it was the Sector dam project, the Sector managed it. The district dam was built by the district mobile unit whose members had been recruited from the communes. But for the Sector dam, the mobile units from all the districts joined together to build it. For example, the Sector dam in Koh Sla (۱۳۵۰).

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Q: How were people recruited to join the mobile unit?

A-12: They recruited the important people. First, the recruits had to be qualified, and second, they should be the good people who could manage the mobile unit because there were many people, 5,000 to 6,000 persons, in the district mobile unit. So, we had to recruit good, clean, and qualified people to manage the mobile unit. The manager must be serious with work and had to follow the working schedule properly; for example, [he/she] had to ring the bell for lunch break at 11 o'clock and the bell for resuming work at 1 o'clock. [They] had to respect the working schedule clearly.

Q: Can you specify what did they have the people, other than the 200 persons under your command, do?

A-13: The people besides the 200 persons under my command were managed by the districts and communes.

Q: Did they use the 5,000 to 6,000 person mobile unit to do any other projects?

A-14: The district mobile unit built the Steung Treăng (ស្ទីងទ្រាំង) dam in Chhouk district.

The construction of that dam was completed in 3 months. After the dam work ended, they discharged the mobile unit back to their original villages and communes.

Q: What happened to people who had refused to join the mobile unit?

A-15: The people who refused to join were disciplined?

Q: What did 'were disciplined' mean?

A-16: It meant that we first brought in those, who had refused, to be reeducated. If they still did not listen to or follow us, we would detain them in order to reeducate them further.

Q: Were those people detained at the district or the Sector?

A-17: First, we took them to be reeducated in the commune for a bout one month. But if they could not be reeducated, we sent them to the re-educational center of the district.

Q: What was the center of the district called?

A-18: It was called the district re-educational center.

Q: Can you tell us what the name of that district re-educational center was?

A-19: They called it the district re-educational center, but I forgot where it was.

Q: What was the name of the chairperson of that re-educational center?

A-20: I forgot the name.

Q: After they could not be reeducated, would they be arrested and sent to anywhere? A-21: I was in the commune, and I did not know where they were sent to. They might be sent to the sector, but I did not know which Sector it was.

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Q: Can you explain about any hardships at the dam construction site?

A-22: The hardships at the dam construction site were: first, there was not sufficient rice to feed those many people; second, the support from the upper echelon was not enough and not delivered on time; and third, there were conflicts among the people within the mobile unit. I tried to solve those conflicts; and if [we found that] the persons were good, we sent them to the good place, and for the bad people, we sent them to the bad place.

Q: You said that foods were not sufficient, what was the consequence of the food insufficiency? Were any people starved?

A-23: Because foods were insufficient, the workers became emaciated, exhausted, and sick; for example, women suffered from absent menstrual periods.

Q: Were there any people dying?

A-24: Yes, there were people dying.

Q: Did the upper echelon know at that time that there were hardships and starvation at that place?

A-25: They knew.

Q: How did they know?

A-26: Because we reported to the upper echelon. The lower rank reported to the upper rank. We reported about the hardships, food shortage, and other matters that happened there.

Q: When you reported to the upper echelon, did you report to the district level or the Sector level?

A-27: To the district level and the district level reported to the Sector level.

Q: Did you report the number of the sick and dead to the upper echelon?

A-28: Yes, I reported to the upper echelon about the number of the sick people and food shortage, and also requested the assistances from the upper echelon. I also reported the number of the dead to the upper echelon.

Q: Can you explain to us about what you said earlier that when there were any conflicts, "we solved them; if they were good, we solved them good accordingly; if they were bad, we solved them bad accordingly".

A-29: I would like to give the example about how to solve [problems] between the good persons and the bad persons. The good persons were those whose clothes and other things had been stolen. The bad persons were those who stole rice and other things from others, or stole foods to eat because they were hungry. The solution was that we separated them from each other. For the bad persons, we sent them to the commune so that they [commune] could reeducate them.

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Q: Can you describe how many places were there for putting the bad persons? And how many persons were there in each place?

A-30: The work site of the dam project was big, so for the bad persons, we gave them to the commune for reeducation. We put them with the regular workers. We did not detain them

Q: Can you tell us how many people had died during the period of the 3 month dam construction?

A-31: I could not estimate because there were many communes [working at the dam site]. For example, if there were 5 people dying in a commune, that commune reported to the upper echelon saying that 5 persons [were dead]. In my commune, I knew, there might be 20 persons dying from diseases.

Q: Can you tell us why did they arrest your husband?

A-32: I did not know the motive behind my husband arrest. At that time the Sector secretary called me to tell that my husband would be arrested. I did not know why they arrested my husband. I did not dare to ask for the reason either. My husband was a professor in Phnom Penh.

Q: What professor your husband was?

A-33: He used to tell me that he was from Phnom Penh, and his parents were from Phnom Penh. He told me that he used to be a school principal.

Q: Why did the Sector secretary tell you about your husband arrest before they arrested him?

A-34: I would like to tell you frankly that I was one of the high rank revolutionary because I had sacrificed everything for the revolution. I had no personal possession; and even my husband, I sacrificed him for the revolution. When they arrested him, I did not shed a tear drop. Therefore, they trusted me and considered me as a high rank revolutionary. At that time the Sector secretary, KÂNG Chap, called me to tell that my husband would be arrested. He called me from Kampong Cham to meet with him in Kampot, and told me that my husband would be arrested. He said that he was sorry and sad for me that I was a loyalist to the Revolution but happened to marry a problematic person. I also wondered why for the people who had been arrested before, they were never informed in advance. But they told me about the arrest of my husband. It was not only the Sector secretary who called me to tell about my husband arrest; even Ta Mok (§)

ម៉ុក), who was the Zone secretary, also called me to tell that my husband would be arrested. When I asked him why my husband would be arrested, Ta Mok told me that it was a long story. So, I responded that I left it up to the upper echelon if they wanted to arrest him. I did not know how to do, so I returned to Kampong Cham; but I did not tell my husband about that story. Then, in August 1977, they arrested my husband.

Q: What was the name of the Sector secretary who told you at that time? **A-35:** KÂNG Chap.

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Q: In what month did KÂNG Chap call you to tell about that?

A-36: I did not recall. I did not remember how many days or months before the arrest.

Q: Based on your understanding, where did the order come from for the arrest of your husband?

A-37: As I understood it, the order came from the Southwest Zone, but the arrest took place in Kampong Cham.

Q: Did you know who came to arrest your husband? And where was he sent to? A-38: At that time, they came to arrest him at night in the Sector 41 Office. At that time, I was in Kampong Siem (កំពង់សៀម) district, and my husband worked at the Sector 41 Office.

Q: Why you did not tell your husband that he would be arrested?

A-39: At that time I did not dare to tell him because Ta Mok warned me not to tell him. If I told my husband in advance, he would escape. So, I had to listen to the order, and followed the order of the upper echelon.

Q: You said that you were a high rank revolutionary and a loyalist to the Revolution, why did they have such a confidence on you?

A-40: Because I had sacrificed everything [for the Revolution]. I had no personal possession. I also sacrificed my husband, and I even did not cry when they arrested him.

A-41: When I listened to the reading back, I remembered that the number of the people in the district mobile unit at that time were not 5,000 to 6,000 as I told you earlier; there might be only 3,000 persons.

A-42: I would like also to correct the time of the arrest of my husband. My husband was arrested in March 1977; it was not in August 1977 as I said earlier.

☑ 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.

This interview ended at 18:15 hours on the same date.

Witness

Interpreter

Investigators

[Signature/Thumbprint]

[Signature]

[Signatures]

PRAK Yut

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