

ឯកសារបានត្រួតពិនិត្យតាមច្បាប់
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ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ នៃការបញ្ជាក់ (Certified Date/Date de certification):

06 / 05 / 2009

មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកឯកសារ/Case File Officer/L'agent chargé
du dossier: SAUN RADA



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

សំណុំរឿងព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ

Criminal Case File

លេខ/No: 002/14-08-2006

លេខស៊ើបអង្កេត/Investigation

លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ

ឯកសារទទួល

DOCUMENT RECEIVED/DOCUMENT REÇU

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du dossier: U. CH. A. R. U. N.

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់បង្ហាញសាក្សី

Written Record of Witness Interview

On the sixth day of March in the year of two thousand and nine, at 1035 hours at Sàngken (សង្កែន) village, Saukorng (សូករង) commune, Kângmeas (កងមាស) district, Kampong Cham province.

We, Lim Sokhuntha (លីម សុកុន្តា), Investigator of the Extraordinary Chambers, being assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges, dated 05 November 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 the presence of..., as sworn Interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers;

Recorded the statements of KHOEM Sâmhuon (ខឹម សំហួន), a witness, who provided the following information regarding his personal identity:

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អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ក្រុង ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១

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Original KH: 00287533-00287541

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The undersigned **KHOEM Sâmhuon**, alias **Tauch (តូច)**, revolutionary name **Aun (អ៊ុន)**, 55 years old, was born at Sàngken village, Saukorng commune, Kângmeas district, Kampong Cham province. He is of Cambodian nationality and is a farmer. His father, Pîn (ពិន), is deceased, and his mother, Sên (សែន), is living.

Present Address: Sàngken village, Saukorng commune, Kângmeas district, Kampong Cham province. His wife, TÀL Lēng (តាក់ ឡេង), is living, and he has six 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 speak and understand other foreign 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 -Answers:

- Q:** I wonder if you could tell me your personal background prior to 1975.
- A:** You mean my background before I joined Khmer Rouge? The original reason I had to join Khmer Rouge was due to the fact that following the coup d'état in 1970 to overthrow Prince Sihanouk, he called for the people countryside on radio to join the Marquis in order to topple Lon Nol Regime. I decided to join the Marquis on 7 July 1970 following the announcement of Prince Sihanouk. I realized myself and joined Prince Sihanouk since I myself was not satisfied with LON Nol Regime, either. At that time, wherever LON Nol troops arrived, destruction would occur there.
- Q:** Where did you originally join following the announcement of Prince Sihanouk?
- A:** Originally, I joined at Ânlung Âk (អណ្តូងអក) in Saukorng commune where Ta Vieng (វ៉េង), a Cambodian from Hanoi, was a chairman and was the one who had soldiers trained. There was no precise unit there. I was the one

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អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ក្រុង ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១
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who stayed close to him. At that time, it was called the National United Front; the name Khmer Rouge did not yet exist.

Q: When did you know they officially called it the Khmer Rouge?

A: To my knowledge, during the five year of war from 1970 to 1975, I never heard it called the Khmer Rouge. Khmer Rouge however was generally heard in 1979.

Q: What were you daily duties with the name *Ta Vieng*? Please recount your following duties.

A: I accompanied *Ta Vieng* to train soldiers for three months, and then I was enlisted in the military of Kângmeas District which was stationed at Prêk Koy Rokakaong under the supervision of Phên (ផែន), commander of Battalion 16. In early 1972, I was included in the military of Region 31 of the North Zone, whose commander of Battalion 31 was Chêv (ចេវ) stationed at Traeng (ត្រើង) near Phnum Pros Phnum Srei Mountain (ភ្នំប្រសព្វស្រី), Kompong Siem (កំពង់សៀម) district, Kampong Cham province. At that time, KOY Khuon (កុយ ឃួន) *alias* Thuch (ធុច) was the secretary of the North Zone and KÈ Pork (កែ ពក) was the deputy. At that time, my daily duties were participating in fierce battlefields fighting with LON Nol troops in various occasions such as on Traeng, Prèy Totoeng (ព្រៃទទឹង), Khvet Tauch (ខ្និតតូច) until Wat Thmei (វត្តថ្មី). During the low water season in 1973, I joined the military of the North Zone and I had to join more battlefields than before where a great number of soldiers from both sides died. However, LON Nol's side resulted in more deaths. During the high water season in 1974, I joined the central military.

Q: Could you explain me what the central military was?

A: The central military was only for competent and courageous soldiers. SON Sen was the direct supervisor of the central military whose objectives were to fight in every location under SON Sen's orders. The central military which was from the North Zone consisted of three divisions namely 310, 450, and 920. I only recognize the chairman of my Division 310 whose name was Oeurn (អឿន) and whose deputy was Yăn (យ៉ាង). I was in Battalion 31 whose commander named Hăk (ហាក់) of Division 310.

Q: How do you know that SON Sen was the direct commanding officer of that central military? Why was that central military established?

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អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ក្រុង ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១
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A: The central armed forces were for combating on fierce battlefields countrywide meaning that wherever there were intense combats, the central armed forces would present there. To my knowledge, the central armed forces comprised about thirteen divisions, three of which were from the North Zone, seven from the East Zone, three from the Southwest Zone, and there were also divisions from the West and Northwest Zones. In 1975, the central military attacked Phnom Penh city.

Q: When did you join attacking Phnom Penh?

A: I joined attacking Phnom Penh for about two to three months. Then, Phnom Penh collapsed on 17 April 1975. I suffered from face injuries on Prêk Phneou (ប្រែកផ្អែវ) battlefield on 16 April 1975 and I was sent to to be treated in Tuol Sophy (ទួលស្អុយ) pagoda. So, on 17 April 1975, I did not see what was happening. Half a month later, I was sent and admitted to a Phnom Penh hospital in Reusse Keo (ប្រសូកើវ). One month later when I recovered from my injuries, I was sent back to my original unit, the Division 310, stationed at Wat Phnom (វត្តភ្នំ).

Q: What happenings in Phnom Penh did you witness when you were stationed at Wat Phnom?

A: I know that the people in Phnom Penh were being evacuated. However, some had not left yet. At that time in May 1975, I knew there was an order from the senior SON Sen, the supervisor, to arrest those who were high ranking civil servants of LON Nol regime who denied leaving Phnom Penh city, and the patients who were LON Nol soldiers being treated in Preah Kêtomalea (ព្រះកេតុមាលា) hospital. I protested and refused to participate, but I knew about the happenings because I was the chairman of Company 3 of Division 310. Those who joined in arresting people told me directly that a great number of LON Nol officers and their servants were arrested from Phnom Penh and killed and thrown into a well in Tuol Kôk (ទួលគោក) area. I saw clubs with blood stains were brought back. Khăn (ខាង) – It is now unknown whether he/she is deceased or where he/she is living – who was directly involved in the killing showed me the clubs.

Q: We have read the transcripts of your interviews with the Documentation Center of Cambodia and know that you attended assemblies at the Olympic Stadium. Could you confirm the incidents?

A: In 1976, senior people of the central military were called to attend training sessions on Party politics in the Olympic Stadium. The presiding chairman

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អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ក្រុង ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១

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SON Sen gave training on military techniques and ordered the soldiers to go to work the rice fields.

Q: How many times of training sessions and assemblies did you to attend? Where? Which senior leaders did you see attending while you were in Phnom Penh?

A: I attended the assemblies at the Olympic Stadium with SON Sen twice. Besides, during the transplanting season in 1976, I once saw POL Pot with SON Sen in front of Kàb Srauv (កប់ស្រូវ) pagoda while I was transplanting seedlings. In 1976, I also saw KHIEU Samphan and IENG Sary inspecting the rice farming.

Q: How did you know those people were POL Pot, IENG Sary, or KHIEU Samphan?

A: I knew because a person who was farming with me and who was also a commander of a battalion told me.

Q: When were you sent to do farming at Kàb Srauv (កប់ស្រូវ)? Please recount the internal cleansing of Division 310.

A: I went to do farming at Kàb Srauv in 1976 in order for internal supplies of the unit. In 1977, there was internal cleansing within Division 310. Those who had traitorous networks against the Party were arrested on charges of being CIA or KGB networks. I do not know to which they were arrested. However, I know that they were taken away and they have disappeared ever since. Those arrestees were named Song (សុំ), commander of Regiment 20; Nhien (ញ៉ែន), commander of a battalion; Chet (ចិត្ត), deputy commander of a regiment; Oeum (អឿន), member of a battalion; Hăk (ហាក់), chairman of Battalion 31 who supervised me; Thēt (ថេត), commander of a company, Aun (អួន), deputy commander of a battalion, etc.

Q: How long did they have you do farming at Ânlung Kngan (អង្គក្បាន), Kàb Srauv?

A: I did mobile farming. Following the cleansing which was due to the fact that the Southwest had been aware that the East and North Zones betrayed thereby resulting many arrests, we, remaining only thirteen people, were sent to be tempered severely at Boeng Prâyab (បឹងប្រយប់), where I had to work both day and night. Three months later in early 1978, I was transferred to work at the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite.

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អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ក្រុង ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១
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- Q:** Why were you sent to work at the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite?
- A:** Because they had to mobilize forces and I had to be enlisted back into Division 502 under the supervision of Lvey (លៀវ), chairman of the division.
- Q:** When you first reached the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite what did you see? What were you asked to do?
- A:** When I first arrived, I saw all the trees had been felled, and I witnessed tens of thousands of people working. At that time, they had me dig roots of trees and palm trees, and had me clean the land.
- Q:** Would you mind describing about living conditions, food ration, and work conditions and situation there?
- A:** Work at the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite was easier than at Boeng Prâyab since there were Chinese supervisors directing construction and engineering tasks. I saw approximately three hundred Chinese experts. They had me stay in a five by five meter house for twelve people where I could see all the laborers of the airport worksite living around the airport. Work began at 7 until 11 a.m, after which we had lunch break, and resumed from 1 to 5 p.m. Our food ration consisted of rice, two times per day, with fish and meat soups, and we had porridge in the morning.
- Q:** Were there any meetings? Who chaired the meetings? What were the meetings about?
- A:** Meetings were held everyday, whose chiefs of squads and groups were the organizers, and the meetings were about mutual criticism, the lazy people and the hardworking people.
- Q:** What types of actions were taken on those who had been criticized and on the lazy people who did not work under command?
- A:** Those who were lazy were to be educated and if they still failed to follow, they were called to training sessions and there would be permanent disappearance. Disappearance, I heard from an acquaintance, means they were taken to be killed. At the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite, I witnessed wrongdoers were called to training sessions. They were tied and uploaded onto trucks driven away. Reang (រាំង) and Ieng (អៀង) reminded me to try to self-temper because I was noted to be sent to Phnom Penh to Tuol Sleng, if not Prey Sâ. After that, a meeting on the Southwest was actually held to criticize me.
- Q:** Which senior leaders who visited the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite did you see?

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- A: I know only Lvey, and I saw *Ta Mok* (តាម៉ុក) visit once in a while. I saw car convoys come for the visits very often in 1978. However, I do not know whom they were. I saw SON Sen come to visit the airport worksite once in 1978. I heard Mēt (ម៉ែត) was Ta Lvey's superior.
- Q: Based on your assumption, how many people were involved in working in the airport worksite? Where were most of them from?
- A: According to the meetings, I heard that there were about 120,000 men and women mostly from the East Zone.
- Q: Do you have any ideas why more people were from the East Zone go to work at the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite?
- A: At the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite, I joined the meetings with those who were within the unit to be advised and informed that the people in the East Zone betrayed the Party and ran into Vietnam. So, they were sent to work here to be kept under surveillance.
- Q: Did you note that what types of actions were taken on the people from the East Zone?
- A: I noted that once they made an infraction, they would disappear. Infractions included being non-compliance with the set plans, being indisciplined and irresponsible in speaking, etc. Then there would be a call informing about going to training sessions, and they have disappeared ever since.
- Q: How long did you work at the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite?
- A: I worked there until Vietnamese fighting into Kompong Chhnang in a month in 1979. Having seen troublesome situations, senior people ordered us to have stuff such as rollers, soil compactors, trucks, tractors, and other stuff for airport construction burned, and to run in the direction of Ra Romeas (រ៉ាម៉ាស) direction in Tik Phos (ទឹកផុស) district.
- Q: You have told us that there was cleansing of many people from the East Zone who were working at the airport worksite. Please clarify this more clearly.
- A: When we escaped from the airport worksite, ten days later in Tuol Khpuos (ទួលខ្ពស់) village, the way to Âmleang in Kompong Speu province, they gathered and told the East Zone who together escaped from the Kompong Chhnang airport to arm Vietnamese. These people raised their hands and said that they were from the East Zone. On the same day, they were taken towards the south of Tuol Khpuos pagoda where pits had already been dug. The ones who took those people away were armed. Before they were taken away, I saw

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a tractor digging up a 15 by 15 meter pit about three meters deep. Five days later, we were removed to another village about one kilometer from Tuol Khpuos village where I saw many piles of clothes, and I asked one individual who told me that the owners of these clothes had already been killed within the compound of the pagoda in Tuol Khpuos. Five days later, we were armed to fight with Vietnam. While riding on the truck passing in the pagoda of Tuol Khpuos village, I smelled the decomposed corpses from near the Tuol Khpuos pagoda, so I assumed that the people who had been escorted there were all killed and put into the pit that I saw them dig.

Q: Do you want to add anything in relation to the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite?

A: I would like to say that patients at the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite were transported to a hospital in Kompong Chhnang province. I never saw anyone die at the Kompong Chhnang airport worksite.

Q: Do you have any suggestions for ECCC?

A: I heard that Khmer Rouge leaders have denied what they did. So, I want to know who is behind them. I would like to be a witness for ECCC if needed.

☒ The original or one copy of the Written Record was provided to the witness.

The interview was completed at 1410 hours on the same day.

☒ 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

[Thumbprint]

[Signature]

KHOEM Sâmhuon

Lim Sokhuntha

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ក្រុង ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១
ទូរស័ព្ទលេខ +៨៥៥(០)២៣ ២១៨៩១៤ ទូរសារលេខ +៨៥៥(០)២៣ ២១៨៩៤១។

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