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Ratanak



លេខ / No: 025/20

**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**  
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**សំណុំរឿងព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ**

**Criminal Case File/Dossier pénal**

**លេខ/No: 002/14-08-2006**

**លេខស៊ើបអង្កេត/Investigation/Instruction**

**លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ**

**Date: 17 March 2009**

**Ref: Rogatory Letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

**Expiry Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Extended until: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Investigators: Philip Caine and Svay Samnang**

**របាយការណ៍ស្តីពីការកំណត់អត្តសញ្ញាណទី**  
**កន្លែង**

**Site identification Report**  
**Rapport de situation géographique**

**ឯកសារប្រាកដតាមប្រព័ន្ធគ្រប់គ្រងឯកសារ**  
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du dossier: Ratanak

**Name of site (s):** Kraing Ta Chăn Security Centre  
**Province location:** Takeo province, Trăm Kâk district  
**GPS references:** N10 57.989 E104 35.535

**Reference to the IS:** Case File No. 002/14-08-2006, IS para. 60

**Indication of the KR sector and zone:** South West Zone, Sector 13  
**Reference to DC Cam Mapping Report:** 00068182-00068183  
00095660-00095672

**Report drafted by:** Philip Caine, Investigator

**Maps of site:** See Annexes B, C, D, E

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១  
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~~INB/ No:~~ *D/25/220*

### SITE DESCRIPTION

The former Kraing Ta Chăn Security Centre is situated 20.5 km east of the town of Takeo [Takev] as the crow flies. It is approached from Phnom Penh heading south along National Road 3. At the junction of National Road 3, Route 25 and Route 33, turn to the west along Route 33. A further 10 km after the junction turn to the south along a dirt road. It is then necessary to follow a series of dirt roads through the rice fields to the site of the former Kraing Ta Chăn Security Centre.<sup>1</sup>

Kraing Ta Chăn Security Centre is described by witnesses, SREI Thân and SÂY Sèn as a re-education centre during the Khmer Rouge period<sup>2</sup>. There is some discrepancy between witnesses as to the detailed appearance of the prison but in general it can be described as a compound containing a collection of wooden buildings used for prisoner incarceration, torture/interrogation, guards' quarters and separate dining areas for guards and prisoners. The inner compound was surrounded by a fence, entry to which was by means of two gates to the east and west sides. There was a second or middle boundary fence approximately 50 metres from the inner compound perimeter and a third or outer fence approximately 100 to 130 metres from the inner compound perimeter.

On 4 and 5 March 2009 OCIJ investigators Svay Samnang and Philip Caine conducted an examination of the site accompanied by the witness, SÂY Sèn. SÂY Sèn indicated the location of the former prison buildings, killing sites and burial areas. Photographs were taken of the significant features that he described and GPS readings at the locations of each photograph using a Garmin GPSmap 60CSx. The dimensions of the prison compound were taken by plotting the features (waypoints) identified by SÂY Sèn using the GPS and then using the associated 'Mapsource' software to measure the distance between waypoints. They are somewhat shorter than the estimates previously given by SÂY Sèn<sup>3</sup>.

The area of the inner prison compound still exists bounded in part by a low concrete wall built after 1979. No trace of the original prison buildings remain but the compound now contains a pavilion housing a Buddha shrine and a stupa containing human bones exhumed within the compound and surrounding area.<sup>4</sup>

Annex C is a plan of Kraing Ta Chăn Security Centre compiled from information provided by SÂY Sèn. The line of buildings along the north side of the compound were obscured from the interrogation house and the killing and burial sites by a plantation of cassava trees. The cassava plantation no longer exists.

SÂY Sèn indicated an area where he stated there used to be a gate giving access through the middle fence into the second compound<sup>5</sup>. Militiamen from the communes would bring new prisoners to this gate and ring on a makeshift bell (an old car wheel rim) which was a signal to the prison guards to collect the new prisoners. The militiamen were not allowed to enter inside

<sup>1</sup> Annex C

<sup>2</sup> ERN 00231672-00231676 and 00225500-00225513

<sup>3</sup> 00225500-00225513 pg. 13

<sup>4</sup> Annex E

<sup>5</sup> ERN P 00355396

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the prison compound. SÂ Y Sèn's account corroborates that of former prison guard, SREI Thân who said that he had the job of receiving the people the militias had arrested.<sup>6</sup>

Bodies were buried over a wide area both within the prison compound and in the surrounding areas. SÂ Y Sèn indicated an area which he referred to as the old dungeon prison<sup>7</sup>. He described it as simply a deep hole covered by a roof held up by four corner posts. It was used to incarcerate prisoners prior to 1975. During the early years of the Khmer Rouge regime it was filled with the bodies of executed prisoners and filled in with earth.<sup>8</sup> Next to the old dungeon prison is a killing site and burial pit<sup>9</sup>. SÂ Y Sèn believes both these areas to have been exhumed although not all the human remains were taken and more may yet be found.

The southern most boundary of the inner compound is formed by a line of trees<sup>10</sup>. SÂ Y Sèn stated that he was ordered to plant coconut trees in a line on top of the graves of dead prisoners. Many of the coconut trees have died or been removed but SÂ Y Sèn believes that the remains of the prisoners lie undisturbed.

At the eastern end of the line trees, at the edge of another large killing site and grave pit, fragments of bone and clothing can be seen on the surface.<sup>11</sup> At the eastern end of the compound there is a large pit measuring approximately 30 x 20 metres and approximately 2 metres deep. SÂ Y Sèn stated that during 1976 this area was used as a killing and burial site.<sup>12</sup> During 1977 to 78 the available space inside the prison compound was full of the bodies of prisoners and from then on they had to use areas outside the compound as execution and burial sites. SÂ Y Sèn estimated that from 1976 to 78, between 10 and 40 prisoners were executed at Kraing Ta Chăn every week.

SÂ Y Sèn indicated a rice field immediately to the south of the prison compound where he said that he buried the bodies of two or three prisoners who had died of disease or starvation. He believed that these bodies remain undisturbed.<sup>13</sup>

SÂ Y Sèn stated that he was ordered to dig graves on a daily basis. The prison guards would inform him in the morning how many prisoners were to be executed that day and he would dig the appropriate size of grave. The prisoners were taken to the spot and executed later in the day and the bodies covered with earth. The graves were only 1 to 1.5 metres deep and after a day or two the bodies would begin to swell causing the earth to open up. When the smell became too bad, the chief of the prison, Ta Ân would order SÂ Y Sèn to cover the bodies again and dig new graves in a different location. SÂ Y Sèn indicated a number of locations where he buried large numbers of bodies of executed prisoners.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>6</sup> 00231672-00231676 pg. 3

<sup>7</sup> 00225500-00225513 pg. 10

<sup>8</sup> ERN P 00355382

<sup>9</sup> ERN P 00355383

<sup>10</sup> ERN P 00355384

<sup>11</sup> ERN P 00355386, P 00355387

<sup>12</sup> ERN P 00355388, P 00355389

<sup>13</sup> ERN P 00355390

<sup>14</sup> ERN P 00355392, P 00355393, P 00355397

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SÂY Sèn indicated the location where he witnessed prison guards Duch Tauch and Saing murder two young girls by swinging them by the feet and dashing their heads against the trunk of a palm tree<sup>15</sup>. He said the bodies of the two girls were buried near the base of the palm tree and he believed them to remain undisturbed.

SÂY Sèn indicated a house to the west of the compound which he stated was built on top of an execution and burial site.<sup>16</sup> Investigators spoke with the householder, SAK Aorn who stated that the house was built in the 1990s but that in 1982 the local authority had exhumed the site. 30 bodies were recovered from one grave and 90 from another.


**Conclusion**

It appears that the largest burial sites associated with Kraing Ta Chăn Security Centre have been disturbed by people in search of gold from the bodies or through exhumations conducted by the authorities. There remain however, some areas where human remains still lie undisturbed and which could be directly associated with individual crimes e.g. the two young girls murdered by prison guards.

The remote location of Kraing Ta Chăn Security Centre would present difficulties for an exhumation team to approach, particularly during the wet season, but it would have the advantage of not arousing too much local interest making site security somewhat easier.

**REFERENCE TO WITNESSES**

<u>Witness</u>	<u>Relevant evidence</u>	<u>ERN (English)</u>
SÂY Sèn	Former prisoner at KTC. Describes the layout of the prison. Describes conditions. Witnessed torture and executions. Buried the bodies of victims.	00225500-00225513
SREI Thán alias Duch	Former prison guard. Described the layout of the prison.	00231672-00231676
MEAS Sokha	Former prisoner. Described the layout of the detention house at KTC and conditions. Witnessed torture and executions.	00223493-00223502
HUN Kimsēng	Former prisoner. Described the layout of the detention house at KTC and conditions. Witnessed torture and executions.	00223486-00223492
IEP Duch	The witness was sent by the KR to inspect conditions at KTC. He describes the layout and conditions. He witnessed torture and interrogations.	00223472-00223482

Signed: .....

Philip Caine, Investigator, OCIJ

<sup>15</sup> 00225500-00225513 pg. 11, ERN P 00355394, P 00355395

<sup>16</sup> ERN P 00355398