

~~FRAN 109/23~~

WI no. 00603 / 2009

Document no.

ឯកសារទទួល
DOCUMENT RECEIVED/DOCUMENT REÇU

ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ (Date of receipt/date de reception):
..... 07 / SEP / 2009

ម៉ោង (Time/heure): 16:00

មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង /Case File Officer/L'agent chargé du dossier: C.A. Jay

NATIONAL GENDARMERIE

ILE DE FRANCE GENDARMERIE REGION
Paris Investigations Section

154 Boulevard DAVOUT -75020 PARIS
Tel: 01.58.80.35.53 Fax: 01.58.80.35.54

Unit Code	Interview no.	Year	Case file No.
04978	00603	2009	

ROGATORY LETTER

RECORD OF WITNESS INTERVIEW

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On Thursday, 11 June 2009 at 09:20
I the undersigned, *MDL/Chef KERMOAL David*, Judicial Police Officer of the Paris Investigations Section (75)
Noting articles 16 to 19 and 151 to 155 of the Code of Criminal Procedure;
Being then in the offices of the investigation unit in Palaiseau (91), report as follows:

Delegation: No. 001/09/046 of 31/03/2009
DUTARTRE Nathalie Senior Investigating Judges PARIS (75)
Investigations concerning: KAING Guek, NUON Chea, IENG Sary, IENG Thirith and KHIEU Samphan
For: Crimes against humanity - grave violations of the Geneva Conventions of 12/08/1949.
Purpose: See attached rogatory letter

Transmission: No. 41016 of 31/03/2009
Lieutenant Colonel GOSSET Eric commander of the Paris 75 Investigations Section,
PARIS (75)

In the presence of Bernard BRUN and NUON Pharat, investigators at the ECCC in Phnom Penh, have appearing before us the witness named hereinafter, and have informed her of the charges in relation to which her statement is sought. -----

Surname TAN EPS			First Name Wardeny Phnom Penh		
Sex F	Marital Status Married	Date of Birth 30/08/1956	Postcode and Municipal district of birth CAMBODIA	Insee	
Parents Father: TAN Eam Khieng Mother: TAN Chhay Rech Leng			Declared identity		
Address 42ter Voie des Postes			Telephone no. 01 69 01 31 28	Profession Childminder	Nationality (if foreign) French
Municipal district and Postcode LA VILLE DU BOIS (91)			Insee		

Having taken an oath to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, the witness, who was interviewed separately from and in the absence of the Charged Person, made the following statement:
I am not related by birth or marriage to any of the Charged Persons, and am I am not in their service of any of them.
I have come to your offices today at your request.
I was born on 30 August 1956 in Phnom Penh. I come from a family of eight children, including two brothers and five sisters. ---
I attended school up to *classe de troisième* [= UK 4th year, US 9th grade], and stopped going to school at age 16.

ឯកសារបានមកម្តងទៀតតាមច្បាប់
CERTIFIED COPY/COPIE CERTIFIÉE CONFORME

ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ តែការបញ្ជាក់ (Certified Date /Date de certification):
..... 08 / SEP / 2009

មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង /Case File Officer/L'agent chargé du dossier: C.A. Jay

Original FR: 00342194-00342197

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I left Cambodia in 1972 and moved to France. As there was war in Cambodia following the coup d'état launched by Lon Nol, and the pre-existing conflict among the Khmer Rouge, my parents sent me to France to continue my studies.

I attended a nun's school in Montpellier to prepare for the baccalaureat.

My brother and sister were already studying in Montpellier.

My father was a pharmacist and owned pharmaceutical laboratory. My mother took care of the home.

I spent about one year in the Montpellier area for and obtained my baccalaureat there before I come to Paris (75) for further studies.

In 1974, on the advice of a former commerce minister, Mr Chauseng and Dr IN Sokan, who were both in Paris at that time, I went to China for further studies, because this would be useful later in terms of returning to Cambodia.

I was then fond of my country, Cambodia, and like many young Cambodian students in France, I became an active member of the FUNK/GRUNK.

So in 1974, I went to Beijing, because this is where Chinese was taught. I spent nearly two years in China. Around the end of 1975, Cambodia's ambassador in Beijing, TOUCH Kham Doeun, told us that the war was over and that we all had to return to Cambodia.

There were only students were on our flight to Phnom Penh, about 17 of us. All these students were from Cambodian upper class.

Question: Can you describe how you found Phnom Penh on arrival at the airport?

Answer: On arrival at the airport, we were met by an armed young man, and he took us to Norodom Boulevard next to the Independence Monument. As we travelled across the city, I found it grim; there was virtually no one in the streets, not even dogs. The soldiers all wore black.

We were taken to the house of Mr Kek Ki Im, and I saw Mr PEN Nouth, who happened to be there. He is a former prime minister in Prince Sihanouk's government. His wife was also with him. I did not know him personally, but I had met him in China. ---

We were not allowed to leave the house. The order came from a Khmer official. We stayed in this house for one month.

KHIEU Samphan came for one week and taught us politics. He introduced himself as KHIEU Samphan. All the students there, ten or so, attended his lessons. PEN Nouth did not attend lessons.

We knew KHIEU Samphan as an intellectual and who had been Minister of Commerce before the Lon Nol coup d'état. During the course, he told us that the revolution was not like the way it was before and that there were now only two castes, i.e. peasants and labourers. There were no more "bourgeois" in the country. He told us that victory had not descended from above, but was achieved thanks to the peasants' struggle. KHIEU Samphan told us that the country needed us to rebuild it, adding that, first, we had to go to the countryside to learn those things that we had not done before, such as how to plant rice, and experiencing what it is like to have only one bowl of rice.

We were instructed to take only the bare minimum along, including black outfits, and to wear shoes made out of used car tyres. We were given only one pair. We had to forfeit anything that represented capitalism. We were obliged to hand over our passports and all items of jewellery to the official, so that the revolution could purchase equipment for use in rebuilding the country. He told us that our jewellery no longer had any value. I should mention that I was afraid, and that we obeyed the instructions because instinct told us that that the situation in the country was not normal and that our lives were on the line.

The house felt like a prison without walls. We were not allowed to go beyond the certain bounds. Our living conditions were not bad. We had enough to eat.

After one month, we were taken by truck to Kampong Cham province – in Steng Tong district. We were split up into several groups. We shared a small straw house in groups of three. SVAY Boramy and UNG San were there. The latter was married to a Chinese man, who had remained in China, because he did not receive authorisation to travel to Cambodia. They had a young daughter. UNG San had the daughter with her. UNG San was the daughter of Prime Minister UN Hy, and the foster child of Prime Minister CHOU EN LAY. UNG Say disappeared during the Khmer Rouge regime. ---

There were thousands of us in this place. The peasants seemed to have more privileges than those who had come from cities/towns; as a matter of fact, we lived in separate quarters. We were there for one year.

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We all worked together, and several women from Phnom Penh told me that their husbands had disappeared, and they had no idea where they were, because the "*chhlop*" (militiamen) had whisked them away at night to re-educate them. In fact, at some point, the only people left were women. We never saw those men again. I never saw anyone being killed or tortured. I avoided talking too much or to asking questions, because one had to be very careful and avoid knowing too much.

Question: Were you wary about what was happening?

Answer: I could see that people were sad. There was no medicine, and there was very little available for treating people. The only medicines available were traditional medicines (*ach tonsay*, or rabbit droppings) made out of powdered plants. As for me, I had kept my malaria medicines and whenever I saw a sick peasant, I gave them some of my medicine. Yet there was a young woman, who was as a nurse in the dispensary, but she used to come and see us on her bike would give everyone an injection, but these injections caused swellings and serious illnesses. I was lucky not to have fallen sick.

After one year – I believe it was in 1976 – I left this labour cooperative and returned to Phnom Penh to attend the university of technology, along the road to the airport. When I arrived, I noticed that the people there were returnees from overseas. I was at this university for one month. We were required to perform maintenance chores. We were told not to leave the university premises. There were soldiers around and everyone used to say that it was "Angkar" who decided, but we did not know who "Angkar" was.

So after one month, we were taken to a camp in Boeng Trabek. I should mention that SVAY Boramy was still with me and there were about a thousand of us in this camp, so Angkar decided to divide us up, and we were reunited. Some among us were called up by the officials to go to *Dey Kro Hom* (red soil) in Kampong Cham province. As for me, I remained in Boeng Trabek.

While in Boeng Trabek, I used to drink warm water in the morning to fill my stomach. We were awoken at 5.30 every morning to perform "socialist work" for two hours. After that, we would go out to gather water hyacinth mixed with mud for making fertiliser. We could clearly see that this was utterly ridiculous, but we did not dare say so. ---

We would return to the camp at noon to eat. After that, we would perform "socialist work" for one hour before going back to gather water hyacinth. Each evening after the meal, we would attend a criticism/self-criticism session to cleanse our minds of our capitalist dreams and ideals. I stayed in Boeng Trabek for one year. During this period, I saw several people being driven away with "*chhlop*" escort, never to return. The camp chief was named SAVON, and under him was a man named CHOK Sarin, an intellectual, who also lived in the camp. He too disappeared. While he was deputy as the camp, no one disappeared; however, people started to disappear when he was replaced by HING Un. I should mention that SAVON – a pure-blooded Khmer – used to attend the evening meetings every now and then. He wore silk very chic outfits and treated us like slaves and spoke to us as such. He was nasty. ---

I got married during my sojourn at Boeng Trabek. In fact, the marriage was arranged by CHOK Sarin, because he used to tell me that was not good to be single, because SAVON was exerting pressure and saying that I should get married. It was CHOK Sarin who chose the man I married, saying that the man was from a good family, a family of intellectuals. I knew the man from before because I had studied with him in China. His name was CHAN San Deng. His father was CHAN Youran; he had served as Cambodia's ambassador to Senegal; he also served as ambassador to China and France. He had also been ambassador/representative at the UN. ---

After one year at Boeng Trabek, a Lambretta – *chhlop* vehicle – came to fetch me, and right then, I thought that my life was over, because I had no idea where I was going. They told me that "Angkar" had called us, because my husband and his brother were with me. ---

The *chhlop* took all three of us to a house near the Japanese bridge in Phnom Penh. We stayed there for one month, doing nothing. We were provided accommodation and were well fed. The house was very close to the Mekong River, and I could go to the river. After one month, an official told us that my husband and I do not see my husband's father. The official said that we were not permitted to tell my father-in-law about our stay in Boeng Trabek camp or anything that happened there. We were taken to the Ministry of Foreign

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Affairs (B1), where we met CHAN Youran. His work at the ministry consisted in feeding rabbits and chickens, and he was sometimes asked to translate documents. ---

Question: Who was the Minister of Foreign Affairs? ---

Answer: The Minister was IENG Sary. It was "Angkar" – an official – who told me that the minister's name was IENG Sary.---

We stayed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for one month. A chief asked me if I wanted to remain at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or to work at the Khmer-Soviet hospital. I chose the hospital, because it would allow me to learn something useful in my life. I worked as an interpreter for the Chinese doctors at the hospital. The hospital director was Mr POEUN; he was married to IENG Sary's daughter, named IENG Vann alias Menh.

People died every day at the hospital. These were people from the countryside; they died because they had nothing to eat. Also, you had the ongoing war with Vietnam, and the fact that the wounded were brought to our hospital; we also had numerous cases of malaria. ---

Patients were treated by the Chinese doctors and by a handful of Cambodian doctors, but the latter were not qualified doctors; they were clueless young men. Only Mr THIONN Thouen was a qualified surgeon; he used to perform operations everyday. In fact, my husband used to work with him in the operating theatre. Dr THIONN answered to POEUN; despite carrying the title of Minister of Health, he had no power, and worked just like us. I know that the hospital came under the Ministry of Social Affairs, headed by IENG Thirith, wife of IENG Sary. I know this because I saw IENG Thirith and attended her meetings on "cleansing" people's minds. Sometimes these meetings were for me an opportunity to get some rest. ---

During these meetings – held at the faculty of medicine – IENG Thirith always carried the same message. She would urge us to work hard and to be devoted to our work and to the revolution. It was always the same thing. She would urge us to beware of the enemy, i.e. the CIA and the KGB.

Question: Did you observe any disappearances at the hospital and at Boeng Trabek camp?

Answer: No, I did not. ---

Question: Were you and your husband the only ones who were removed from Boeng Trabek camp and taken to work in Phnom Penh? ---

Answer: Yes, I believe so. But later, I heard people say that some other intellectuals – like as HING UN – had been called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ---

Question: Who arranged for your move from Boeng Trabek camp to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? ---

Answer: I believe that it was IENG Sary, and this may be due to the fact that my husband CHAN Youran was already at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Question: What became of your husband's brother? ---

Answer: My husband's brother became an interpreter for the Chinese doctors. ---

Question: When did you hear about Pol Pot for the first time? ---

Answer: I was not until after 1979, when I returned to Phnom Penh and spent some time with my family that I learned that Pol Pot and his regime had killed many people in Cambodia. I knew nothing about S-21.

On 6 December 1978, I gave birth to my daughter Danith, and on 6 January 1979, the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia; the Khmer Rouge put us on a train with everyone else, including the sick and the wounded, and took us towards the Thai border. However, we also had to walk for several months before reaching the Thai border. On the way, I bumped into Ms THUCH Sithan; she was carrying her child in her arms.

I walked in the forest for months before I decided to return to Phnom Penh, which was then under Vietnamese control. Since it was not possible to stay in Phnom Penh, we headed north towards the Thai border. After that, my family and I went to China; while in China, I worked in the embassy as a secretary, while my father-in-law was ambassador. It was not until the year 2000 that I went to France, after my husband, CHAN San Deng, had died.

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DONE in PALAISEAU, on this 11th day of June 2009 at 12:00. Having read the above statement, I declare that it is true and correct and have nothing to change, add or remove.

Witness**Judicial Police Officer**