

T07-238

លេខ/No: D25/31



អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

ការិយាល័យសហចៅក្រមស៊ើបអង្កេត

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

សំណុំរឿងព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ

Criminal Case File /Dossier pénal

លេខ/No: 002/14-08-2006

Investigation

លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007

The year two thousand seven, the month of October, the 31st day, at 11:00 hours at Srè Kruo ស្រែក្រូ វិល្លា

I, SVAY Samnang ស្វាយ សំណាង, Investigator of the Extraordinary Chambers, having been assigned by Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges, dated 5 October 2007,

Having seen the Law on the Establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers, dated 27 October 2004

Having seen Rules 24, 28, and 60 of the Internal Rules of the Extraordinary Chambers

Have recorded the statements of MEAS Sokha ម៉ាស សុខា, a witness, who provided the following information regarding his personal identity:

Last name: MEAS ម៉ាស

First name: Sokha សុខា

Alias: Thlang ថ្លាង

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ រាជធានី ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១

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

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ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ

Kingdom of Cambodia

Nation Religion King

DOCUMENT RECEIVED/DOCUMENT REÇU

ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ (Date of receipt/Date de reception):

..... 10 / 09 / 2007

ម៉ោង (Time/Heure):

..... 12 : 40

មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង/Case File Officer/L'agent chargé

du dossier: SANN RADA

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់បម្លើយសាក្សី

Written Record of Interview of Witness

ឯកសារច្បាប់ចម្លងត្រឹមត្រូវតាមច្បាប់ដើម
CERTIFIED COPY/COPIE CERTIFIÉE CONFORME

ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ នៃការបញ្ជាក់ (Certified Date/Date de certification):
 10 / Sept / 2007

មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង/Case File Officer/L'agent chargé
 du dossier: UCH ARUN

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Born in 1960 at Srè Kruo ស្រែក្រូច Village, Cheang Torng ជាងទង Subdistrict, Tram Kâk

District ត្រាំកក់, Takeo តាកែវ Province.

Nationality: Cambodian

Occupation: Rice farmer

Father's name: MEAS Kun មាស គុណ (deceased)

Mother's name: HUN Kimsēng ហ៊ុន គឹមសេង alias Nhâ ញ៉ី (living)

Present residence at Srè Kruo ស្រែក្រូច Village, Cheang Torng ជាងទង Subdistrict, Tram Kâk District ត្រាំកក់, Takeo តាកែវ Province.

Wife's name: Kèo Hoeun កែវ ហឿន (living)

Children: 3

Previous crimes: None

- This person declared that he could read, write, and understand the Khmer language.
- This person declared that he could not read and write any other languages. Therefore, the original of this Written Record is written in the Khmer language.
- We advised this person that the taking of this statement is being audio or video recorded.
- This person told us that he had no relationship with the Charged Persons and Civil Parties.
- This person took an oath in accordance with the provisions of Rule 24 of the Internal Rules of the Extraordinary Chambers.
- We notified this person of the right against self-incrimination, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 28 of the Internal Rules of the Extraordinary Chambers.

Question-Answer:

SS: Where were you on 17 April 1975?

MK: I was right here, meaning in Srè Kruo ស្រែក្រូច Village, Cheang Torng ជាងទង Subdistrict, Tram Kâk District ត្រាំកក់, Takeo តាកែវ Province.

SS: What did they have you do then?

MK: They had me collect cattle manure and make canals, in a children's unit.

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SS: During what times did they have you work?

MK: They had me work from 6 in the morning until 11, and then go back to work from 1 until 5 in the afternoon before leaving. Sometimes it was until 7 at night, and sometimes until 10 at night.

SS: How was the food?

MK: There was not enough to eat. Sometime I ate gruel, sometimes one scoop of steamed rice. Neither the gruel or the rice was filling. The rice at the bottom was thick, but for the most part it was thin gruel.

SS: Was eating done separately, or what?

MK: Eating was done collectively, in the cooperative.

SS: When you were in the children's unit, did they let you go visit home? For how many days at a time?

MK: While in the children's unit, they kept us far away, isolated from our families. They did not let us meet. Once every ten days we visited home for about twenty minutes. But for the most part, as for requesting to go [home], they would not let us do that. Sometime we ran off to meet our parents but did not meet them.

SS: When you came and did not meet them, did you know where they were?

MK: They were away working in the units, the teams.

SS: When you returned to the children's unit did they do anything to you?

MK: When I got back they asked where I had gone. I answered that I had snuck off to visit home, and they punished me by having me carry dirt outside working hours. That is what they did when we ran off to visit our parents.

SS: Were there any ceremonies at the pagodas then?

MK: They had disrobed the monks, and there were no pagodas and temples. The pagodas near our village were dismantled and the Buddha images were buried. There were two pagodas near my village. Moeung Char pagoda was turned into a clinic and **Âng Bäksei អង្គបក្សី** pagoda was turned into a cooperative. They only tore down the temple sanctuaries.

SS: And the schools. Did they let the children study?

MK: No! They dismantled them all.

SS: What was the name of the cooperative you lived in?

MK: The Srè Kruo Village cooperative was called the Srè Kruo cooperative.

SS: What was the name of the cooperative chairman?

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MK: The cooperative chairman was Aun Nop អ៊ូន ណុប.

SS: Do you know where Aun Nop is living today?

MK: No, I just heard them say he was at the border.

SS: Aside from the Srè Kruo cooperative where you lived, did they move you anywhere else?

MK: Let me say that I lived in this cooperative from 1975 until June 1976 when my family was arrested and taken to Kraing Ta Chăn prison. My father was arrested and taken away first.

SS: When they sent you to Kraing Ta Chăn what did they tell you?

MK: After my father had been arrested and taken away, they had me leave the children's unit to mind the cattle which my father used to be in charge of in the cooperative for use in transporting economics. When I came in from minding cattle I saw the militia walking my family, and when they saw me they called to me saying you go to live with your mother. My mother and siblings included my mother, my older sister, younger brothers and sisters and my nephew(s) and niece(s), including me there was a total of eight, along with five other villagers, four adults and one child. At first, before arriving at the Kraing Ta Chăn office they put us in the Âng Rokar អង្គរកែវ detention office for one night, and at 3 in the afternoon they sent us to the Kraing Ta Chăn office.

SS: When you reached the Kraing Ta Chăn office what did they do with you first?

MK: When we arrived they took me and my family into a building, and in that building I saw two rows of people in shackles. It was only then that I realized they had brought me to a prison. That building was about 20 meters long and five meters wide.

SS: You reached that building, and you saw two rows of prisoners in shackles, and what did they do with you then?

MK: I was still small, they did not shackle me and they did nothing with me at that time, but my older sister and mother were shackled.

SS: You saw two rows of people shackled in that building. How were they shackled? And how were your mother and older sister shackled?

MK: The people shackled in those two rows had both legs shackled, and my older sister and mother also had both legs shackled.

SS: You saw people in shackles in two rows. What did they do to shackle them in rows like that?

MK: They had a long iron bar they pushed in through the wall, and they had the prisoners place the ankle rings on by themselves and they pushed the bar through from one to the next until the end, and that was the end of one row.

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SS: How many people were shackled in that building?

MK: When I first got there, there were about thirty.

SS: When those prisons wanted to relieve themselves how did they do it, do you know?

MK: The prisoners, when they wanted to relieve themselves, they had a gourd for the prisoners to use, and they put the urine and feces into a thirty liter can. They passed the urine and feces from one to another to put into that can, and if a prisoner spilled the feces or urine they would be beaten with a bamboo club.

SS: How old were you when you were arrested?

MK: When I was arrested I was about 16 or 17.

SS: What were the prisoners held there given to eat?

MK: One ladle of thin gruel with a few grains of rice and three thumb-sized potatoes mixed with morning glory soup and three pieces of water lily stalk.

SS: What did they do to you next?

MK: Next, after about 20 to 25 days, they released my older sister and mother from their shackles and my older sister, my mother, and I and my siblings were put to work in the prison compound. Let me explain further that when they released me, my mother and my family, we all fell over on our faces due to lack of food and overwork.

SS: And then what did they have you do? And what did they have your mother and family do?

MK: My mother made sugar palm leaf mats. She had to make one mat each day. My older sister had to go carry dirt. I went to watch over the water buffaloes. The next younger brother minded cattle, and the little ones stayed with their mother, they could not walk anywhere else.

SS: Why did they have your older sister carry dirt?

MK: My older sister carried termite mound dirt to fertilize the rice paddies.

SS: How was the food outside the detention building?

MK: They provided us more rations than they gave to the prisoners held inside the cells. They let us eat twice a day. My older sister and mother were sent back to be shackled at night.

SS: While you were held in the detention building, did you see prisoners who died from starvation or beatings?

MK: While inside there, the prisoners died one after another from beatings, bedbug bites, and starvation.

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SS: How many died at a time?

MK: Sometimes from two to three. Sometimes prisoners were taken for interrogation and they died when they were brought back.

SS: How did you know that prisoners were interrogated?

MK: When they took the prisoners out I knew it, and when they beat them and interrogated them I heard the screams.

SS: How far was the interrogation site from the detention building?

MK: About 30 meters.

SS: How do you know it was about 30 meters?

MK: After they let me out of the building, I had freedom of movement inside the prison compound, but in the afternoons they had me mind the water buffaloes and feed them.

SS: What was the size of the prison compound?

MK: The prison compound was nearly two hectares, and was surrounded by two fences. From the outer fence to the inner was about 100 meters. The area outside the fence of the prison compound was for rice farming, and was about one kilometer square.

SS: And the surrounding rice fields were worked by the prisoners, or what?

MK: The rice fields for the prison were worked by the prisoners.

SS: The prisoners who worked the rice fields, were they in shackles and chains?

MK: No! They had guards, the prison goons [slang: ឆ្មាំតុក].

SS: They were called prison goons [ឆ្មាំតុក] at that time, or what?

MK: I don't know what they called them then. But I call them prison goons now using the term we use nowadays.

SS: How long were you held there?

MK: I was held there about 23 months.

SS: While you were held there, did you see them torture or kill prisoners inside there?

MK: I did see that.

SS: How did you see that?

MK: They had me mind the water buffaloes and after a while I learned about it. When they were killing people they had my mother and my family go inside the building. As for me, they had me watch over the water buffaloes outside. Then I heard the

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loudspeaker playing. I wondered. One other thing, if they released prisoners, why did I not see those prisoners, and where did they go? And I also wondered and I thought someday I'll sneak a look and see. One day I saw good clothing stained with blood soaking in the pond nearby, and there was the blade of a sword. I assumed that those people had been killed. Later they chased me away to mind the buffaloes again. I stood and watched.

SS: That time did you hear them play the loudspeaker again?

MK: I heard it every day on the days when they killed prisoners, playing the loudspeaker.

SS: Did you sneak a look when they killed prisoners? And if you did, how did you do it?

MK: The day I climbed to a treetop to sneak a look. The prisoners being killed, most of them had their throats cut, and some were hit.

SS: What did they use to cut those people's throats? And what were they beaten with?

MK: They cut their throats with swords, and hit them with bamboo trunks and cart axles (iron cart axles).

SS: When you stood and watched, how many meters away was it?

MK: When I stood and watched it was about five meters.

SS: The time of the killings, what time was it?

MK: When I watched it was about 3 in the afternoon.

SS: When you saw the prisoners who were killed, how many were there? And how many did the killing?

MK: The number of prisoners varied, sometimes 50, sometimes 30, sometimes more than 100. The prisons were the old, the young, the lame and the blind.

SS: How many times did you hide and watch?

MK: I watched twice. Later I knew that whenever I heard the loudspeaker they were killing people.

SS: You heard the loudspeaker once every how many days?

MK: One week at the longest.

SS: Do you know how many personnel worked there?

MK: About twelve, including the leaders, in total.

SS: What were the prison leaders' names, do you know?

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MK: The leader of the prison was ឃុំ អាន, living in a nearby district, but I don't know his family name.

SS: And do you know the names of others?

MK: I know them all. 1. ឃុំ អាន 2. Penh ពេញ 3. Duch ឌុច 4. Chēng ចេង 5. Moeun ម៉ៃន 6. Uok អុក 7. Duch ឌុច (another one). 8. Sim ស៊ីម. 9. Saing សាំង. 10. Săn សាន់ 11. Chhoeun ឈឿន. 12. Touch តូច

SS: Why do you know this group so clearly?

MK: Because they worked inside the prison compound.

SS: Among those, who were the ones who killed prisoners?

MK: I know! 1. ឃុំ អាន 2. Penh 3. Chēng 4. Moeun 5. Sieng សៀង. I can't remember the names of three guards because they changed shifts. And there were two [prisoner] escorts.

SS: Do you know the names of the interrogators?

MK: I know! 1. ឃុំ អាន 2. Penh 3, Chēng 4. Sieng 5, Moeun.

SS: Did you ever see them interrogate prisoners?

MK: I did.

SS: When they interrogated prisoners, what did they do?

MK: They asked, "What did you do? Were you American CIA or Yuon CIA? What rank were you during the Lon Nol era?" When they did not respond, at times they beat them unconscious. Sometimes they tortured. They covered their faces tightly with plastic bags.

SS: Did you ever see them send prisoners to Kraing Ta Chăn? How many each time? And when? They came in once every how many days?

MK: Prisoners came in every night. It's just that sometimes there were a few and sometimes many.

SS: At about what time?

MK: At about 10 at night they would arrive.

SS: Do you know how many prisoner buildings were in the prison compound? And what were they made of?

អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា មានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅ ផ្លូវជាតិលេខ៤ សង្កាត់ ចោមចៅ ខណ្ឌ ដង្កោ ក្រុង ភ្នំពេញ ប្រអប់សំបុត្រលេខ៧១

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

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MK: There were three buildings, made of wood. Some were tile roofed, some were thatch roofed.

SS: Where did those who worked there live?

MK: Those who worked there lived in small huts, two or three person huts.

SS: How were all three of those prisoner buildings built? East-West or North-South?

MK: They were all East-West. One was about 20 meters distant from the other two.

SS: Were all the prisoners held mixed together in the buildings, the men and the women?

MK: They put the men and women together.

SS: Your family held there, how many of them died and how many survived?

MK: Five died and seven survived.

SS: Do you know where those who worked there are living today?

MK: Some I know, some I don't.

SS: For which ones do you know the residences?

MK: 1. Sim is in Samrong Subdistrict in Trapęang Thmá ត្រពាំងថ្ម Village 2. Saing lives in Trapęang Lien ត្រពាំងលៀន Village of Kus គុស Subdistrict. Săn is in Chrè ជ្រៃ, Leay Baur លាយប្តូរ Subdistrict. Aside from those I don't know.

SS: After 1979 did you ever go to Kraing Ta Chăn?

MK: I went to pay respects to the soul of my father and to all the others who died.

SS: Do you have anything to add?

MK: I do! I want to speak about the difficulties here related to eating, sleeping, and moving about.

- One copy of the written statement was provided to this witness.
- After it was read aloud the witness had no objections and agreed to sign or emplace thumbprint.

This task was completed at 1:45 hours on the same date.

Witness
[Thumbprint]

Investigator

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~~២៥៦/No: D25/31~~

[Signature]
MEAS Sokha

[Signature]
SVAY Samnang