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ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
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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-ECCC-OCIJ

កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់ចម្លើយសាក្សី
Written Record of Interview of Witness

On the first day of September in the year two thousand and eight, at 1345 hours at Takeo Provincial capital.,

I, SVAY Samnang ស្វាយ សំណាង, Investigator of the Extraordinary Chambers, having been assigned by the Rogatory Letter of the Co-Investigating Judges dated 26 May 2008,

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

Noting Rules 24, 28, and 60 of the Internal Rules of the Extraordinary Chambers,

With Mr., sworn interpreter of the Extraordinary Chambers,

Recorded the statement of SÂY Sèn សយ សែន, a witness, who provided the following information regarding his identity:

The undersigned SÂY Sèn សយ សែន was born in 1958 at Trapèang Pô ត្រពាំងពោធិ៍ Village, Sâmraong សំរោង Subdistrict, Trâm Kâk ត្រាំកក District, Takeo តាកែវ Province. He is of Cambodian nationality, and is a farmer and petty merchant. His father, TIT Sây ទិត្យ សយ, is deceased, and his mother, KHUT Sân យុត សន, is deceased. His current

address is Chheu Teal Ta Keap ឈើទាលតាគាប់ Village, Ângtasaom អង្គតាសោម Subdistrict, Trăm Kâk ត្រាំកាក់ District, Takeo តាកែវ Province. His wife is KHOEUN Vung ខៀន វង់, and he is the father of two 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 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 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.

Question – Answer:

Q: Where did you live and what did you do prior to 17 April 1975? A: When I grew up, I lived in Trapěang Pô ត្រពាំងពោធិ៍ Village with my grandmother. I don't remember the subdistrict and district. In 1970, when there were protests at Ângtasaom អង្គតាសោម, my grandmother went to live in the liberated zone in Trapěang Lean ត្រពាំងលាន Village, Kus គុស Subdistrict, District 105. I was approximately 13-14 years old then. The reason I went with my grandmother was because my family history was like this: From what my grandmother told me at the time, my mother had worked as a cook and servant for my father, the chief of Ângtasaom District. My father's name was TĪT Sây; at the time, they called him District Chief Sây. My mother became pregnant because of the relationship between her and my father, and I was born. For that reason, my grandmother took her back until she gave birth to me. Later my mother found another husband, and left. For this reason I had lived with my grandmother as far back as I can remember.

Question: When you lived at Trapěang Lean Village with your grandmother, what subdistrict and district was the village located in?

Answer: Kus Subdistrict, District 105, located in Sector 13 of the Southwest Zone. In 1973, they went around making the biographies of any families involved with the insiders. The insiders meant those who lived inside the Lon Nol regime. The outsiders meant those who lived in the liberated zone.

Question: What happened after the questioning for the biographies?

Answer: During September, after the questioning for the biographies, two militia members came to call me, and told me to go to the children's unit.

Question: Did you know the names of those two militia members?

Answer: I still remember. One was Moeun ម៉ឺន (deceased) and the other one was Ton តុង (deceased). Both of them died due to the fighting in the forests with Vietnamese soldiers after 1979. I learned this information when [their] relatives told me, and furthermore neither of the two was ever seen to return home. When they called me, they were armed with a carbine. Next they took me to the Trapěang Thom ត្រពាំងធំ Reeducation Office, where they were based.

Question: When did they take you there?

Answer: It was about 1 p.m. They put me in a house which held three other prisoners. At about 6 p.m. they called all of us out and tied our hands behind us, used another rope to connect us with one another, and then walked us away to Kraing Ta Chăn prison which at that time was called the Kraing Ta Chăn Reeducation Office មន្ទីរអប់រំក្រាំងតាចាន់.

Question: Who escorted you and the others away to the Kraing Ta Chăn Office? How many of them were there? Did you know their names?

Answer: Four well-armed soldiers escorted me. Among those four, I knew three. One was Kel កែល, who died of an illness. Another was Uok អុក, who died from the fighting with the Vietnamese army. I know this because some people who knew them told me in 1979. The other one, Chěng ចេង, was captured and shot to death by the people at Wat វត្តសៀង វត្តអង្គសៀង in 1979. I went there and saw that with my own eyes.

Question: At about what time did those soldiers get you to the Kraing Ta Chăn Office?

Answer: At about 10 or 11 p.m.

Question: What did they do when you first arrived at Kraing Ta Chăn?

Answer: Upon arrival, they put me in leg shackles that very same night inside the prison.

Question: What did they do with the three others who went there with you?

Answer: They put them in shackles, like me. The method of shackling was they put a shackle ring on each ankle and there was a metal rod inserted under the legs through the shackle rings. Each shackle rod held about ten prisoners. In each detention house they held the prisoners in two rows. The next morning they shackled one hand to a metal rod placed on the chest.

Question: What did they do when you had to relieve yourself?

Answer: When we had to relieve ourselves, we did so in a coconut shell, and after relieving ourselves we handed the coconut shell to one another and its contents were poured out in a container placed inside that detention house.

Question: What did they do to you next?

Answer: They imprisoned me for six to seven days before they called me for interrogation.

Question: How many interrogators were there? What did they ask you?

Answer: There were three interrogators, and another soldier was a guard. When they interrogated, they asked me, "Did you have contact with PRUM Săn ព្រី សាន់?" I replied, "I don't know him." Then they said, "tell the truth!" I still replied, "I still do not know him." Then the interrogators had the soldier who was the guard take me back and shackle me.

Question: Do you still remember the names of the three interrogators?

Answer: I remember one named Chhēn ឆែន was the [prison] chairman, Ăn អ័ន was deputy chairman, and Duch ឌុច was the member.

Question: Do you know where Chhēn, Ăn, and Duch are now?

Answer: Ăn is dead. Chhēn is at Ănlong Vêng អង្គរវែង; I spotted his house when I went to make a living sawing wood at Ănlong Vêng. I met him and we chit-chatted but I do not know the names of the village and subdistrict. He is not using the name Chhēn anymore; he is using another name which I have forgotten. I know Duch is in Trăm Kâk ត្រាំកាក់, but do not know the names of village and subdistrict.

Question: After they put you back in shackles, what happened?

Answer: About four to five days later, they took me for interrogation again.

Question: What did they ask you during the second interrogation?

Answer: They asked, "When you were in the base area, were you the son of District Chief Sây?" I said, "No." Then Ta Chhēn went on, "Ta Sây and I are friends. You need not hide it." No matter what he said, I kept on denying that I knew him. Then he had the guard take me back and shackled me, but this time they only shackled one leg. The next morning, they let me out to work, pulling out weeds from rice seedlings, transplanting, carrying fertilizer, and later they had me take the excrement and urine of the prisoners to empty onto the rice fields. At night they shackled me; during the day they let me out to work.

Question: When you were held in the detention house, up until when they interrogated you the second time, what food did they provide to you?

Answer: They had us eat gruel. The ration was one coconut shell, which corresponded to one ladle of thin gruel to be placed in the coconut shell.

Question: During the time you were held there, did you know what they interrogated the other prisoners held there with you about?

Answer: While I was held in detention there, I knew that the other prisoners were only interrogated about the matter of PRUM Săn.

Question: What had PRUM Săn been involved in that caused them to interrogate about him?

Answer: In the beginning, he was the leader of the Front in the forest; later they said he was a traitor.

Question: Do you know if the other prisoners were tortured during interrogation?

Answer: There was serious torture.

Question: How did you know they tortured the other prisoners during interrogations?

Answer: I knew because sometimes they used me to sweep the area near the interrogation site. As for the torture I saw, they used plastic bags to suffocate the prisoners, and they beat the prisoners.

Question: As for the other three prisoners who were arrested and taken there with you, do you know if they are alive now?

Answer: All three prisoners arrested and brought with me to Kraing Ta Chăn are dead. They died from being beaten during interrogation. I saw them die about one week after the interrogation.

Question: Before 17 April 1975, while you were held prisoner at Kraing Ta Chăn, what else did they have you do aside from the work you described earlier?

Answer: Aside from the work I described, while I was held prisoner before 1975, I did not receive any other work to do.

Question: When they released you after the second interrogation, how many prisoner detention buildings did you see at Kraing Ta Chăn?

Answer: At that time, they did not use the word "building." They used the terms "the house to the west, the house to the east, the middle house." There were four houses to hold prisoners, but in general they only put prisoners in three houses, with the exception of cases when the number of prisoners increased, when they put them in another house that was to the east.

Question: In general, where were the prisoners held in Kraing Ta Chăn prior to 17 April 1975 taken?

Answer: In general, the prisoners who were to be taken and killed, were cuffed, and then they called out their names, telling them they were going back to the cooperative. Those

prisoners were taken away at night, at about 8 or 9 p.m. Two to five prisoners were taken away each time.

Question: How did you know they took those prisoners away for execution?

Answer: I knew because I asked a soldier named Sim ស៊ីម. He secretly told me, "They take them away to kill them. Keep your mouth shut." Also I knew because when they had me plant coconut trees, sometimes when I dug into the ground I hit upon buried bodies.

Question: Up until when were you a prisoner at Kraing Ta Chăn?

Answer: I was a prisoner there until late 1978, when the Vietnamese army attacked.

Question: So, you may have known the fates of the prisoner prior to 17 April 1975. Were they released?

Answer: From what I noted, 50 or less than 50 of the prisoners held prior to 17 April 1975 were released.

Question: As a prisoner before 17 April 1975, did you ever see them kill prisoners with your own eyes?

Answer: Aside from the prisoners I saw them beat during interrogation, some prisoners were let out to work and escaped. Some of them were shot to death, some were shot and wounded and then clubbed to death.

Question: How many times did you see prisoners shot to death?

Answer: I encountered that every once in a long while.

Question: Do you know how many security personnel worked at that office prior to 17 April 1975 while you were held prisoner at Kraing Ta Chăn? Who was the chairman?

Answer: The security unit had three leaders, the chairman, deputy chairman, and the member, and twelve soldier subordinates. I already told you the names of the chairman, deputy chairman, and the member. The twelve soldiers subordinate to them were: Uok អ៊ុក, Chhoeun ឈឿន, Moeun មឿន, Sieng សៀង, Saing សាំង, Soan សាន, Duch Touch ឌុច តូច [small Duch], Dăm ដាំ, Sim ស៊ីម, Soeung សៀង, Touch តូច, and Kel កែល. I know that now Soan is in Popel ពពេល Subdistrict, Trăm Kâk District. Dăm is in Udâmsoriya ឧត្តមសុរិយា Subdistrict, Trăm Kâk District. Duch Tauch is in Popel Subdistrict, Trăm Kâk District living near Dăm. Sim is in Trapěang Thom, Trăm Kâk District. Saing is in Trapěang Thmâ ត្រពាំងថ្ម Village, Kus Subdistrict, Trăm Kâk District.

Question: Do you know the jobs of those twelve, what their duties were?

Answer: I know that at that time those twelve were called soldiers កងទ័ព; they guarded around the Kraing Ta Chăn Office along with taking the prisoners out and bringing them back inside.

Question: Who shot to death the escapee prisoners who were trying to escape?

Answer: The ones I saw were Sieng and Moeun. In short, whoever was on duty shift when a prisoner escaped shot them.

The interview paused at 1700 hours on the same date and resumed at 0830 hours on the second day of September, the year two thousand and eight.

Question: While you were a prisoner before 17 April 1975, did you ever see anyone from upper level came to the Kraing Ta Chăn Office?

Answer: I saw the District 105 Committee [Secretary] Ta Cheum តាជឺម, the younger brother in law of Ta Mok តាម៉ុក. Ta Cheum came to the Kraing Ta Chăn Office twice monthly from what I noted. As for Ta Mok, he came as well, but only once in a long while. At that time, Ta Mok was not called Ta Mok; he was called Ta 15 តា ១៥.

Question: How did you know the person who came was Ta Cheum, the District Committee [Secretary]? How did you know Ta 15 was Ta Mok?

Answer: I knew Ta Cheum was the District Committee [Secretary] and Ta 15 was Ta Mok because a soldier named Sim, a guard at Kraing Ta Chăn, told me.

Question: After 17 April 1975, did the supervisors of the Kraing Ta Chăn Office change?

Answer: After 17 April 1975, the supervisors at the Kraing Ta Chăn office did change, with the former deputy chairman An rising to be chairman. As for the deputy chairman, that was Duch, the former member. As for the soldiers at that office, there were no changes.

Question: What about Chhên, the former chairman at Kraing Ta Chăn?

Answer: Ta Chhên was transferred to take charge of Prison 204 គុក ២០៤, and later on he was transferred to Kampong Cham កំពង់ចាម. I know this because when he came to visit Kraing Ta Chăn, he told me. But as for the transfer to Kampong Cham, he did not tell me what section he was responsible for.

Question: Do you know where Prison 204 was?

Answer: I know it was west of Trapěang Andaek ត្រពាំងអណ្តើក, called Mlou ម្លូ Village; I don't know the subdistrict, district, or sector.

Question: When you heard about Ta Mok, alias Ta 15, did you know what his job was?

Answer: I knew that he was in charge of the Southwest Zone. I learned that through military guards at Kraing Ta Chăn who told me.

Question: After 17 April 1975, what else did the chairman of the Kraing Ta Chăn Office named An do other than supervisory work?

Answer: Aside from supervisory work, I saw him interrogate prisoners once in a while. Sometimes I saw him walking and carrying a club, with a karma wrapped around his head, going into the interrogation site briefly. So if someone was not talking easily, he would hit him and come back out. Only the deputy chairman and the member interrogated frequently after 1975, and one soldier was on guard.

Question: After the change in supervision, what was the name of the other member?

Answer: Penh ពេញ was the member after the change.

Question: Do you know where Penh is living now?

Answer: He lived south of *Wat* Trapěang Thom, Trapěang Koh ត្រពាំងកោះ Village, Trapěang Thom Subdistrict, Trăm Kâk District, Takeo Province. He died of old age about two years ago.

Question: When Duch and Penh interrogated prisoners, did you see them? How did they interrogate each prisoner?

Answer: I saw Duch and Penh interrogate prisoners when I went to work not far from the interrogation site. In interrogating a prisoner, they put plastics bags over the prisoner's head and beat the prisoner, but the person doing the beating was the guard for the interrogation. I saw these events frequently.

Question: When you saw that, how far away were you from the interrogation site?

Answer: I was about ten meters from the interrogation site.

Question: What were the jobs of each of the twelve subordinates you listed?

Answer: While I was a prisoner at Kraing Ta Chăn after 1975, I knew and saw all the subordinate level soldiers had the duty of bringing in prisoners and taking the prisoners out for execution.

Question: How did you know the soldiers at the subordinate level at Kraing Ta Chăn were the ones who brought the prisoners in and who took them out and killed them?

Answer: I knew because they had ceased to consider me as being a prisoner like the others. Sometimes they used me to help guard like the soldiers who worked there, but I was unarmed, and they did not let me walk far away. Sometimes they used me to count the prisoners. Prisoners were taken and killed every single day. The method of taking and killing was, first they used me to unlock the shackle bars from the outside. Then Penh, the member, instructed the prisoners, "Now some of you are being released to return to the cooperative, and you must respect the plans of Angkar in the cooperative, and not do anything to impede Angkar, impede the wheel of history." These instructions were given at the prison gate, but they did not enter the prison because it smelled of urine

and excrement. Penh used a list to call out the names of the prisoners who were to be taken and killed to have them come out four at a time. First they took them and placed them in the interrogation site. Then they told the prisoners that they had to tie and blindfold them, using the pretext that it was so they would have no grudge against Angkar. Then they took them to the killing site. When they killed the prisoners, they used me to chop firewood and had me turn on a tape player to play music through a loudspeaker so the sounds of the prisoners' screams would not be overheard.

Question: How do you know that they tied and blindfolded the prisoners at the interrogation site before they killed them?

Answer: Because I saw it. Like I told you, they did not just use me to do the work I described; sometimes they also used me to dig pits to bury the prisoners they killed.

Question: Who else beside you dug the pit to bury the prisoners?

Answer: Aside from me, there were Ta Norn ពានន៍ and Ta Chen តាចិន. They beat Ta Norn to death at the Kraing Ta Chăn Office. His crime was being a Hanoi person. Ta Chen died of old age after 1979.

Question: You said Ta Norn was killed in the Kraing Ta Chăn prison, how do you know that?

Answer: I knew Ta Norn was killed in the Kraing Ta Chăn Office because Ta Norn was a prisoner whose sentence was lightened and who they put to work, like me. Sometimes he was used to get fish for the soldiers to eat. Later they had him cook food for the prisoners. One day at the cooking site, he was talking with me, telling me, "I'll probably die before you." While he was talking with me, suddenly Chēng, a soldier at Kraing Ta Chăn, came to call him. Since he had disappeared for a long time, I walked to look at the site where they killed the prisoners and I saw his body. He had been killed and placed under a *Cheu Teal* tree ដើមឈើទាល about 70 meters from the prison.

Question: When they had you dig pits to bury the bodies of the prisoners, how many pits dig you dig in one day? What were the dimensions of each pit? How many people did they hold?

Answer: In general, they had me dig one pit per day, sometimes two. The dimensions were two meters wide by about three meters long and 1 to 1.5 meters deep. Thirty or more could be placed in one pit by placing them in alternating rows stacking them along the length or the width of the pit. I know this clearly because after they killed the prisoners, they had me bury the bodies of the prisoners.

Question: Did you see the killing of the prisoners at the Kraing Ta Chăn Office with your own eyes? How could you see that?

Answer: At first, they had me guard along the fence. If anyone was coming, they had me ring a bell. In general, they had me ring a bell when the prisoners arrived at the gate, and the soldiers inside came to receive the prisoners and take them away. Those who brought the prisoners from the outside were not allowed to enter. In the very beginning, I secretly watched them kill the prisoners through the fence which was screened with

coconut fronds. The method of killing the prisoners was as follows: First, they gave instructions to the prisoners, saying, "Sit. Before you return to the cooperative, do not hold any grudge against Angkar." Then they killed them. The tool they used to kill prisoners was a digging hoe with a handle about one meter long, used to strike them at the base of the neck. When the prisoner fell over, a sword was used to cut the throat. A prisoner taken to be killed was escorted by one soldier. For example, if four prisoners were to be killed, four soldiers escorted them, and the soldier escorting each prisoner was the person who killed that prisoner.

Question: When you first saw them kill prisoners, how many meters away were you?

Answer: I was about 20 meters from the killing site.

Question: Did you see them kill prisoners frequently?

Answer: I saw it almost every day.

Question: When were most prisoners killed at Kraing Ta Chăn?

Answer: In 1975. The majority of the prisoners brought in were not shackled. They put them in the prison, and then they called them back out and killed them one at a time. The majority of the prisoners were 17 April people.

Question: How did you know they were 17 April people?

Answer: I knew they were 17 April people because soldiers working there told me; the soldiers at that time called them prisoners of war. There were movie actors that I learned about by questioning Ta Ān: NOP Nèm ណុប ណែម and KĪM Nauva គឹម ណូវ៉ា. When they were first brought in, they took NOP Nèm away first, walking him past the cassava patch. About half an hour later, they took the wife and child along behind. While they were taking NOP Nèm first, Ta Penh, Ta Chēng, Ta Ān, and Ta Phy ពារី teased NOP Nèm's wife, and Ān pinched the cheek of NOP Nèm's wife. During that time, I saw the child of NOP Nèm asking where the father had gone. Ta Ān said, "Your father has gone for a moment to meet Angkar. When your father comes back, you can all go to your homeland." NOP Nèm's child was 7 to 8 years old, a daughter. My father was also among the 17 April prisoners who were killed and put in the pit in the old dungeon. The reason I learned that he had been brought there to be killed was because Ta Chhuon តាឈួន went to the cattle tending site to tell me. He told me, "They brought your father in and put him in my house. Wait and see. Your father is wearing a trilby hat មួកសំបុក, a white T-shirt, and a Kampong Cham sarong." About half an hour after he told me, I saw they were really bringing him to Kraing Ta Chăn along with many other people. My father was the first to be taken and killed. I did not see the actual killing, but in the afternoon I went to look at the killing site, and saw his body in the old dungeon under the tamarind trees, and I removed his hat, shirt, and sarong for my use. I was terrified when I learned that my father had been killed.

The interview paused at 1130 hours and resumed at 1400 hours on the same date.

Question: How many houses were there for holding prisoners? What were the dimensions of each house?

Answer: There were a total of four houses for holding prisoners: Two central houses for holding serious offense prisoners who were shackled hand and foot both day and night. Those prisoners were 17 April people. They only released them from shackles for interrogation. The house to the west held light offense prisoners on one half and serious offense prisoners in the other half. The house to the east was for holding base area prisoners and 17 April people; they were shackled both hand and foot. The prisoners had both legs shackled. The serious offense prisoners also had their hands shackled. Each house was about 7 meters wide and 30 meters long. The prisoners laid in their shackles with their heads toward the walls. Each house held two rows of prisoners. When the prisoners had to relieve themselves during the night, there was a coconut shell to relieve themselves in, and they passed it from one to another to be put in a container in each house. There was no water to wash-up with after the prisoners relieved themselves, and the prisoners did not get any water to bathe. One, two, or three prisoners died each day in each house.

Question: What were the causes of those daily prisoner deaths?

Answer: After interrogation and torture, they had me and Ta Chen help assist the prisoners back. The prisoners who had been interrogated were not allowed a food ration, and they died within a four to five day to one week period. Those prisoners died from wounds resulting from the torture, from insufficient food, and from illnesses for which there were no medicines or medics to treat. Ta Chen and I had the task of carrying away the bodies of the prisoners who died in the detention houses and burying them.

Question: In general, from where had the prisoners been arrested and sent in?

Answer: In general, the prisoners were sent in from different locations; some were from Kampong Speu កំពង់ស្ពឺ, some were from Kampot កំពត, some were from the subdistricts in District 105 and from throughout Takeo Province.

Question: What kinds of prisoners were serious offense prisoners? What kinds of prisoners were light offense prisoners?

Answer: Serious offense prisoners were the 17 April people who at that time were called the new people. The light offense prisoners were base area people. That's my understanding. Some prisoners had stolen potatoes to eat inside the Kraing Ta Chăn Office and were beaten and put in shackles. Sometimes they were beaten to death on the spot. A number of female prisoners in the Kraing Ta Chăn Office were raped and killed by the soldiers who were the guards at that office. Duch Touch was a soldier who often committed rape upon the female prisoners sent there. I knew that because when Duch Touch raped and killed, he told me to go look and bury them. Some prisoners had [M]79 ammunition inserted in their sexual organs and were unclothed. There was another case involving Duch Touch. When I was working the palm trees to make palm liquor for the soldiers at Kraing Ta Chăn, when I was watching from up in the palm tree, I saw the killing of two girls they had sent in after first killing their parents. The elder girl was about 3 years old, and was killed by Saing. The younger girl was about two years old.

Duch Touch grabbed both of her feet and swung her head into the trunk of a tamarind tree. Sim stood and watched the killing of the two girls.

Question: In general, what did they feed the prisoners at Kraing Ta Chăn and what work did they have them do?

Answer: In general, the prisoners got thin gruel, and the prisoners held in the detention houses got only the watery part. The prisoners they put to work just got some rice at the bottom [of their gruel]. There were only six to seven prisoners whom they put to work. The work included working the rice fields, carrying water, chopping wood, and growing various crops, along with cooking and distributing gruel for the prisoners held in shackles.

Question: How were male and female prisoners held?

Answer: The prisoners, males, females, young and old, were held together, but the small children who were prisoners were not shackled; they were just kept near their parents. Any child over ten was shackled.

Question: How many prisoners were sent to the Kraing Ta Chăn Office?

Answer: Prisoners were sent to the office every single day, sometimes during the day, sometimes during the night. The number of prisoners varied; sometimes there were many, sometimes there were few. I saw prisoners taken out and killed almost daily.

Question: There were two people by the name of Duch at Kraing Ta Chăn. Is our understanding correct?

Answer: There were two named Duch, Duch Thom [large] and Duch Touch [small]. Duch Thom was the deputy chairman. Duch Touch was a subordinate. Aside from his job of killing prisoners, Duch Touch had the additional job of typist making reports to be sent to upper level. Duch Touch and another named Saing were the cruellest of the twelve soldiers. Duch Thom was transferred out of the Kraing Ta Chăn Office to work in Kampong Cham during 1976. Later Penh fulfilled the duties of deputy chairman in place of Duch Thom.

Question: For all the killings of prisoners at the Kraing Ta Chăn Office, do you know if orders were received from any other upper echelons aside from the office supervisors?

Answer: I just know that when messengers from the Kraing Ta Chăn Office brought letters from the district for the chairman of Kraing Ta Chăn, there were red letters on the envelope. When they came in the afternoon, the prisoners were killed the next morning. The soldier named Sim told me this too. After seeing those letters, he always complained, telling me that tomorrow morning there will be work to do. The Kraing Ta Chăn Office messengers were Săk Sarin សាក់ សារិន and Oeun អឿន. Săk Sarin now lives in Kraing Ta Chăn ក្រាំងតាចាន់ Village, Kus Subdistrict, Trăm Kák District, Takeo Province, and works in Kus Subdistrict. Oeun lives in Prey Takhap ព្រៃតាខាប Village, Kus Subdistrict, Trăm Kák District, Takeo Province.

Question: After 17 April 1975, while you were a prisoner at the Kraing Ta Chăn Office, did you see any of the upper echelon come to look at the office?

Answer: I saw the District Committee [Secretary] Ta Cheum, the younger brother in law of Ta Mok, come frequently. Ta Mok came once in a long while.

Question: Do you know where Cheum is living now?

Answer: Ta Chim disappeared after the Vietnamese came. I never got any news of him.

Question: What were the dimensions of the Kraing Ta Chăn Office installation?

Answer: The Kraing Ta Chăn Office was about 500 meters in width and about 800 meters in length, and was surrounded by a triple level fence. The first fence was about ten meters from the detention houses. The second fence was about 100 meters from the prisoner detention houses. The third fence was about 600 meters from the detention house to the west. The prisoners were killed inside in the area between the second and third fences.

Question: What were the prisoner detention houses made of?

Answer: The detention houses were constructed of wood, with board walls and tile roofs, surrounded by wire mesh around the under part of the houses and on the ceilings. The sides of the walls had another level of wood boards nailed on top. The prisoners slept on plank floorboards, and underneath those floors they placed wire mesh.

Question: Do you know of any prisoners being released from the Kraing Ta Chăn Office?

Answer: Some prisoners were released. I don't remember the names of most of them. I remember just one, Muok ម៉ុក, but I don't know where he is now.

Question: When the Vietnamese came, were there any prisoners who survived?

Answer: Yes. Ta Dăm តាដាំ, and aside from him, myself, Yeay Nhâ យាយញ៉ា and her three children, along with other prisoners whose names I can't remember. Initially Ta Dăm had been a soldier at the Kraing Ta Chăn Office, like I described, but in the end he was a prisoner. He had been immoral by loving a girl in a village near the Kraing Ta Chăn Office.

Question: Were there any prisoners left alive in the detention houses when the Vietnamese came?

Answer: There were four to five prisoners alive in shackles in each prison detention house, but I don't know anything else about them, because when the Vietnamese came I and the others were sent to the forests. When the Vietnamese kept coming, they all fled. The others and I returned home later, encountered the Vietnamese soldiers, and have survived until the present.

Question: Afterwards did you ever return to the Kraing Ta Chăn Office?

Answer: I returned, like everyone else, to exhume bodies to look for gold and to hold our traditional ceremonies. The state authorities gathered up the bodies which had been

exhumed, and placed them in a former house that had been used to hold prisoners at the Kraing Ta Chăn Office. Now those bones have been collected and placed in a stupa in the Kraing Ta Chăn Office compound. At the time, the state authorities and journalists counted the bodies, and as I recall, there were more than 17,000.

Question: How did they calculate that there may have been more than 17,000?

Answer: They calculated that by counting the skulls.

Question: Were all the bodies of the victims killed at Kraing Ta Chăn exhumed, or are there more?

Answer: As far as I know, the exhumation of remains was incomplete. There are still many locations that have not been exhumed.

Question: If we wanted to find a location where the bodies have not yet been exhumed, could you find one?

Answer: Yes, I could find one. I have not forgotten. I remember everything, but now the people have built houses above some pits.

Question: Do you have anything you want to add aside from the information we have asked you?

Answer: I have nothing to add.

One copy of the written statement was provided to this witness.

The interview ended at 1730 hours on 2 September 2008.

The Written Record was read out to the witness; the witness had no objections and signed it.

Witness
[Thumbprint]

Interpreter

Investigator
[Signature]

SVAY Samnang

SÂY Sèn ស៊ី សែន