

~~602/No. 22/1370.1~~

Document Center of Cambodia

Soy Sen, 46 years old, a former prisoner at Kraing Tachan prison

living at [REDACTED]

26 February 2004

Interview by Mr. Chhoung Sophearith and Mr. Ea Meng-try

Sophearith: INTRODUCTION

As I already told you about my purpose of being here, I want to introduce you my work and would like to ask you some about what you experienced during the KR regime. Now I would like to give you more details about my work and project. I am from Documentation Center of Cambodia where is working on recording KR story to preserve document for young generation. Also, our work is to gathering information for KR tribunal. Those works are to support the principle of the center (memory and justice), reconciliation and rule of law in Cambodia. Our center has been cooperating with an organization, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization, in order to provide a help for those people who has traumatized in KR period. Our 2 years project is conducting work in 3 provinces, Kandal Takeo and Kampot. In Kandal and Takeo, we conduct our work in Kandal Stung and Tram kork district for they have their former security centers, mass grave, killing fields etc... People who live in the area could have been imprisoned or traumatized and it could effect their emotion now. Another province is Kampot where detected KR soldiers are living. We are not only working with victims but also former KR soldiers especially detected soldiers. KR soldiers may have been injured or traumatized by the war. I want to mention that psychological illness can happen on everybody. If you have any questions, please ask me.

Ph: Before we ask about your emotional and psychological state, I'd like you to describe your history, such as before, during, and after Pol Pot. Where did you live and what was your occupation? Why did they arrested and imprisoned you?

Sen: Yes

Ph: If you cannot remember I have other questions to ask until you can remember. Before Pol Pot where did you live?

Sen: I use to live in Tra Pang Lean Village in 1971....

Ph: What commune?

Sen: Kouss Commune. In 1972 was the Khmer Rouge period as well. In 1973 they question my background because my father was the chief district in the past. I was sent to security center. I was at the center for a few days and they made a report from the information they extracted from me. After the reported, the KR sent for my brother and sister and brought them to center 204. They had sent me to Krang Ta Chan prison in 1974.

Ph: Why did they send you to Krang Ta Chan prison?

Sen: Because my father used to be a chief of district.

Ph: A former chief of district?

Sen: When I arrived to Krang Ta Chan prison I just knew what my fate would be. At that time I was young, but they had chained my feet and hands together like I was an adult. After for being there 3 months, they had assign me to watch cows. At night I was put back in the cell and during daylight I was outside to watch the cows. After a short period of time watching cows, I was sent to the kitchen to sleep there. At the kitchen there were two other prisoners. One of them was name Ta Chiin, now he's dead. In 1975 there were a lot killings and they could not trust me, so they sent me to dig graves for corpses. There are big graves there little graves. Some graves are 2 meters in width and 4 or 5 meters in length. I don't know how deep it is, but after each group of people have been executed near the hole a layer of dirt was put on top of them and then the whole process repeats itself until the hole was full.

Ph: Do you know the name of the killer?

Sen: I do know.

Ph: What's their name?

Sen: The group of executioners have 12 people and I know all of them. The top leader's name was Ta Chane, next was Ta An, following him was Ta Pen, there were 6 others that were under Ta Pen's control.

Ph: What were the names of the 6 people?

Sen: Duch Sorn, Sim Sang, Hoeun, Choeun, Ouk, Moeun. Moeun died. After the defeat of the KR in 1979, when Moeun return to his home village near the foot of the mountain, the villagers took him and killed him because they were angry.

Ph: Did you witness any of the people you named killed people?

Sen: I witness them killing at the scene. Before they kill someone, they call them from their prison cell, and turned on the speaker very loud near the prison. For example, there were two executers, they would take out 2 prisoners at a time and tell them that they are to send them back to their hometown. When the prisoners heard that, they cheered and clapped very happily. The executers advise the prisoners that when they return home, don't rob people, work hard, and don't steal food to eat. The executioners tied the prisoners' arms in a bird like position and blindfolded them. They brought out 2 to 3 prisoners at a time to the office. In front of the office was a forest. They brought the prisoners 100 meters from the office into the forest. They asked the prisoners to kneel and advise them. After advising they took the grub-hoe and beat the prisoner from the back of the head and the body fell forward, but they used their feet to kick the body so it won't fall forward. The executioners then took out their swords and swiped the necks to make sure the prisoner was dead. Then they dragged the corps into the grave. Sometimes when the executioners are tired they ask Ta Chiin and me to help drag the bodies to the graves.

Ph: Who ask you to help?

Sen: It was not the same. Sometimes it was Sorn, and sometimes Sang or Duch or Sim.

Ph: Have Sang called for you?

Sen: Sang often called for me. He called me the most. Every one in prison was called upon. We were all prisoners and had no choice. There were 4 jail cells. From each cell at least 6 prisoners died daily.

Ph: Why did they die?

Sen: They died from starvation. The prisoners were accused of stealing coconut, potatoes, and food. Sometimes some people stole water from the water pump to

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drink. Some were accused of braking spoons and baskets, and others were accused of pretending to be sick because they didn't want to work.

Ph: Are these the type of prisoners that they kill?

Sen: They kill everyone, as long as they come into this prison. They're not going to keep them. I was able to escape when the Vietnamese came into Cambodia.

Ph: Were you ever beaten when you were in prison?

Sen: Beat, yes. They beat me on the head. One morning, Saing had me take care of the buffalos. It had rained really hard the night before, so it had knocked down the potato plant exposing its fruit. I took it and burned it to eat it. Saing had seen me and accused me of stealing the potato. He took his long gun and strikes it against my head very hard. There is no more hair growing in that area of my head.

Ph: Were there any female prisoners?

Sen: There were women, men, and children. The children were taken far away from others to a village west of the prison called Samdach Village. That's where they kill all the children. I saw them severed some children's head under a palm tree. The KR did not know that I was in the palm tree watching them while they were killing the children. Later in the evening after they severed the heads they cut up the stomach and took out the gallbladder and soaked it in alcohol. At the north end of the village, the KR produced alcohol. I don't want to remember it or talk about it because it is too painful. These memories are still fresh to me. Saing, Sorn, Sim, Duch all live near Ta Dam's house, east of here. When I think of it, it makes me very angry and I want to kill them myself because they killed my father. I saw them take my father to kill when I was collecting cow dung on the west side of the prison.

Ph: Did you personally witness it?

Sen: No, I did not witness it, but right after his execution I went to see him. In less than an hour they had transfer the body to the grave. I took my father's cloths off, washed the blood out and kept it to wear and cover myself.

Ph: What were you feeling at that time?

Sen: What I felt, like I told you before. When I see those guys that killed my father I feel as if it had happen recently.

Ph: No...I wanted to know how you felt at that time.

Sen: I was so afraid. My fear was beyond fear itself. I ask the executioners like Saing and Duch. I've asked them before.

Ph: What did you ask them?

Sen: I ask Saing, because I was curious if they were going to kill me too. They told me to stay still "If we let you live, just live. If you were going to die, we've killed you already." I asked Ta Chain, Ta Ann, and ask the top leaders. They trust me. In the morning they had me make sour palm juice. They asked prisoners if anyone knew how to make sour palm juice. I raised my hand even though I did not know how to make it. When they sent me out to make sour palm juice I had asked a grandpa who lived in the mobile unit how to make sour palm juice. "Ta, how many days do I pinch its flower before I cut its ends off?" He replied, "Pinched it for 3 days and then soak it in water. Next take a container and drain out its juice." I did what he told me to do. I never knew how to do it before. Not even knowing how to climb the palm tree. I had to learn it. Everyday I would climb the palm tree to cut its end and finally I got palm juice, just like grandpa told me I would. Ta Ann commanded me to make him sour

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palm juice and after he returned from killing people he always call on me to get him some sour palm juice. Even in the middle of the night he calls me to get the juice. Ta Ann asks the guards to unlock me from the cell so I could get them sour palm juice. Since that day, I had learn how to make sour palm juice. I learn how to make medicine as well.

Ph: what kind of medicine?

Sen: The medicine used to make alcohol. I can make the sour palm juice very strong. With one cup, you could get drunk. That was when I learn how to make sour palm juice alcohol. I used wood chips, the kind of wood the center of the ox cart wheel is made from. That type of wood is very powerful.

Ph: Is it the iron?

Sen: No it's not iron. It is a chunk of wood that is at the center of the wheel of the ox cart. Now days they use different kind of wheels for the ox cart. It was not made out of rubber or iron. Traditional ox cart was made from a tree called *chhro-ngorm*. The heartwood of that tree makes very strong alcohol.

Ph: So you escaped by....

Sen: Yes, I survived by making sour palm juice. I was separated from my father at a very young age and I told the KR that I don't know anything about the chief district. I don't know Chief District Soy (my father) I told them I was an orphan. Then the KR investigated my testimony and went to my village and asks my mother and cousins if they knew me. They lied and told the KR that I was an orphan and had no families. Therefore I was not killed and at that time the Vietnamese had invaded Cambodia, so I escaped then.

Ph: Did they rape women prisoners before they are killed?

Sen: I have seen it once, done by someone else, but for Duch, I did not see him do it. Duch use to kill the young girls in the prison. They took the dead bodies and inserted the head of M79 missiles into the girls' vaginas. They called on me to bury the bodies. Duch had asked me if I saw the M79 in the girl's vaginas. I told him I did see it and ask him why he did that. After burying the, body Duch and his comrades laugh about it.

Ph: Is Duch still alive?

Sen: Yes, still alive. He lives in Udam Sorya Commune.

Ph: Do you know what village he lives in?

Sen: I only know that it's Udam Sorya Commune. I don't know the village. Duch had raped *eah* Rath (older female) who now lives in Kbal village.

Ph: Oh, the small, short *eah* Rath over there?

Sen: Yes, that small one. She has a child currently living and working in Phnom Penh. Duch had raped her. She was in prison with me. Duch, *eah* Rath, and Grandma Ngor is still alive.

Ph: *eah* Rath and Grandma Ngor is...?

Sen: Grandma Ngor is the mother of Rath.

Ph: Oh

Sen: Rath is the daughter of Grandma Ngor. Kha and Khum were her children. They were all in the same prison with me. When I talk about it, it feels like it just had happen.

Ph: In regards to the rape, did you witness it or heard about it?

Sen: Rape during that time, you should know, the prisoners were not raped in the cell, but called to go to the office. It was never done in the prison cell. It was normal for us not to defend for other prisoners. We don't say or do anything when they beat us or beat other people. We didn't care what they did as long as we're still alive and have enough to eat. During meal time, they serve porridge with water hyacinth. They grind the water hyacinth by using a foot-powered mortar and mix it into the porridge. Sometimes they grind unpeeled potatoes; potato roots and most often potato skin were more than the potato itself. There are at least 100 or 200 prisoners and they only make 1 and half pot of porridge. In one meal they use 6 cups of rice and the rest is vegetables. The vegetables include roots, water hyacinth, potato leaves and the potato peels. All the potatoes used were grown by the prisoners, but we do not get to eat it. We only eat its skin. During the raining season the KR told us to dig potatoes that we plant on grave sites to put into the porridge. When we dig it out, the potato roots were as big as a cooler.

Ph: The potato root got as big as the 5 gallon cooler?

Sen: Yes. Each root can get as big as 10 kilograms.

Ph: 10 kg? Is that right?

Sen: It grew to be really big.

Ph: Was it planted on top of the corpse?

Sen: Yeah, we plant it on corpse. Everywhere was a grave site; it was all around the prison except the kitchen. Corpse weren't buried underneath the jail cell, but plenty of dead bodies inside the cell. The prisoners died from interrogation and not enough food. If they did not take anyone out to kill there were at least 5 or 6 people who would die in each of the prison cell. There was never a day without someone dying and everyday there were at least 20 to 30 or 50 people that enter the prison from east, west, north or south side of the prison. The numbers were never constant. From each cell they took 5 to 6 people out to kill 5 to 6 times a day. They never return the prisoners back to their village like they said they would. In 1975 the prisoners were escorted to the prisons in one straight line about 100 meters long. There were guards in the front and in the back of the line, and on each side of the line of prisoners. All the guards carried big rifles.

Ph: Where did the prisoners come from?

Sen: Most came after the defeat of the Lon Nol army and I know most of them. The head guard of the prison told me that Nop Nem and Kim Nova, who were big movie stars, came to the prison. I only heard about them, it was only then when I saw them both with my own eyes. When we got to the prison cell we were told to rest near by. In the evening, one of the executioners, name Khorn told us that the prisons were full and Angka had a different place to put people who are from afar. In short, the other places were prison branches of Kraing Ta Chan Prison. Nop Nem and Kim Nova were killed by Khorn. Later that day I saw many suitcases of Nop Nem and Kim Nova at the prison branches. That was how I knew they were killed.

Ph: Were you able to go to different prisons?

Sen: Yes, because they trust me. I was able to go everywhere. I was young. I went to the killing fields, mass grave sites, and dark cells.

Ph: What were the dark cells like?

Sen: The dark cell was a hole in the ground. Its width was 4 meters and 4 meters in length. They used a screen and barb wires to cover the hole. At the bottom of the hole there were barb wires. A prisoner is wheeled down into the hole like a bucket into a well. The prisoners were left in the dark cell for 5 or 6 days, when they are rolled back out to daylight some died.

Ph: Have you watched it done?

Sen: I saw everything. I was young then and they allowed me to go around.

Ph: How old were you?

Sen: I was 10 years old. I was captured from 1974 to 1979.

Ph: From 1974?

Sen: It was before 1975 and before the defeat of the Lon Nol army, the defeat of Phnom Penh, or the defeat of Takeo Province.

Ph: Does that mean, that everything you told us, you were able to witness?

Sen: I saw everything. There was all kind of jobs. I saw everything from 1974 to 1979 when the Vietnamese came into Cambodia, but I never saw the KR telling prisoners to kill other prisoners. I only saw them ask prisoners to drag and bury dead bodies. Ta Ann told me not to tell anyone what I witness. Ta Ann also reminded me that I've been in jail for 10 years and if they wanted me killed, I would have been dead already. He also said that I eat porridge, sleep with other prisoners, and don't have any liberty, but you were able to walk freely around the jail facilities without chains and shackles. He advise me to do what I'm responsible for well. I took care of 8 buffalos and Ta Chiin watched 16 cows.

Ph: Did you watch the cows?

Sen: There were only two people watching cows, Ta Chiin and me. Those who survived that prison was Ta Chiin, Grandma Ngor, and Grandma Rath and her family

Ph: Two people?

Sen: Two people. Grandma Rath's families were in prison. They included her husband, wife, and children. Grandma Rath's husband was killed. Her father was killed at the same time as her husband.

Ph: Are there other prisons besides Kraing Ta Chan and Ang Roka Prison?

Sen: Yes, there's one at Ang Roka and another one near Sim's house.

Ph: Where is Sim's house?

Sen: I mentioned to you earlier where Sim's house was at. It was south of Ta Mok's house.

Try: Was it around Ta Kil?

Sen: Ta Kil is another different area. Ta Kil is one, Ang Roka too, and south of Ta Sim's house is the third prison. The one near Ta Sims is the KR camp site. They're all branches of Kraing Ta Chan Prison. Overall, all the prisons in Takeo belong to Kraing Ta Chan prison.

Ph: Do you know any of the top guards from Kraing Ta Chan prison branches?

Sen: Yes I do know. At Ang Roka, Khorn controls it. Here it was Ta Kil. Near Ta Sim's house, Ta Py. Ta Py had only one leg. I know all of them.

Ph: Are any of them alive?

Sen: All of them are still alive. Like I mentioned to you before, they're here. There was a large network of them. It is hard to keep track of who's dead or still living.

Ph: No, we want to know if any of those guards are still alive.

Sen: I only know Ta Chain lives here and he use to come here once.

Ph: Have you visited all of the 3 prisons?

Sen: No. Have not gone there.

Ph:

Sen: I've only gone to Ta Kil's prison and Kraing Ta Chan prison. Just those two.

Ph: What were the conditions of the prisoner at Kraing Ta Chan prison?

Sen: Kraing Ta Chan prison?

Ph: No, Ang Roka prison?

Sen: Ang Roka Prison?

Ph: Yes.

Sen: Ang Roka Prison was where they kill people as well. After people were interrogated and question they were killed. As for Ta Kil's house, they don't kill there, but they brought the prisoners to the forest, west of here, near the foot of the mountain. They called it Tom Noup Bak and there were many hills of skeletons. Nowadays Ta Kil is called Oe Bak.

Ph: I want to ask whether you have seen any KR top leaders like Ta Mok visited the Kraing Ta Chan prisons (where you were at) from 1975 to 1979.

Sen: I only saw Ta Chheum. Ta Mok came in a car not to kill or torture, but just to observe once every 1 to 2 months. Whenever a top leader comes to visit, they put us back into the cells. The prison guards joked around me after the top leaders had left and said, "Whoever the hell wants to come here let them come." The guards pointed out for me which cars belong to which top leaders.

Ph: Did Duch come?

Sen: Duch came, he was everywhere.

Ph: Did he come there often?

Sen: No, I only met him once.

Ph: Only once?

Sen: Yes, only once. In 1975 they had killed a lot of people. Everyday was the same day. I never rested my arms. That was when he came.

Ph: Does Duch know that there were killings in that area?

Sen: I'm not sure because....

Ph: Have Duch went to see any prisoners?

Sen: No, whenever he comes, someone would rush to open his car door for him when his car arrives. All the prisoners are locked up and only a few are kept out to tend the grass.

Ph: Why did they lock all the prisoners?

Sen: They don't want the leaders to see them.

Ph: Why?

Sen: When a top leader comes to the prison, they lock us up and won't let us walk around.

Ph: Did you know why they did that?

Sen: I don't know the reason why.

Ph: Did you meet Duch in 1975?

Sen: Yes, 1975.

Ph: Duch right?

Sen: The top leader Duch, not the lower level one.

Ph: Who is Duch, the top leader?

Sen: They all call him the top Duch.

Ph: Who is the top Duch?

Sen: There are two people whose name was Duch. Lower level Duch was a guard and the top Duch control the Tuel Sleng (Duch Kraing Sla).

Ph: Oh

Sen: That's why we call him top Duch...it was what we used during those days.

Ph: Have you seen him before?

Sen: Yes, from afar. They won't let us near him because we were prisoners.

Ph: Then, who was the one who told you he was Duch?

Sen: Sim.

Ph: Sim?

Sen: Sim was a guard at the prison.

Ph: Is he dead?

Sen: Not yet. He's still alive

Ph: Where does he live?

Sen: He currently lives in Somraong Commune.

Ph: Somraong Commune?

Sen: Yes, the people who live in Somraong Commune are all related to Sim; aunt, cousins, and siblings. Sim, Sorn, Duch (lower level), and Saing.

Ph: Oh

Sen: They're all siblings. None of them were in-laws.

Ph: What kind of siblings?

Sen: All are older cousins.

Ph: Are they all biological siblings?

Sen: Not biological siblings. There were only two people who were biologically related.

Ph: What were the sibling's names?

Sen: Saing and Sorn.

Ph: Are Saing and Sorn biological brothers?

Sen: Yes, biological brothers.

Ph: Were both of them killers?

Sen: Yes they were the most vicious killers.

Ph: Were they at Kraing Ta Chan the whole time while you were there?

Sen: Yes. Those killers were always there. They didn't transfer them to anywhere else. They don't transfer them often because they trusted them. They're assigned to one place.

Ph: Did Ta Mok come there often?

Sen: Once in awhile he came. Since 1975 I saw him three times.

Ph: Why did he come?

Sen: He probably came to see the guards and his comrades. He didn't come to see the prisoners.

Ph: So he didn't come see the prisoners?

Sen: No.

Ph: Were there any top leaders that visited the prisoners?

Sen: No. They stayed at their office.

Ph: Have you ever heard those top leaders converse?

Sen: No, where I was at, was very far from where they meet.

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Ph: Did they lock you up when the top leaders came too?

Sen: The prison cell was 50 meters from their. They surrounded their office by having the prisoner plant potatoes surrounding it. So the plant covers the building completely. All you can see was the roof top of the office.

Ph: How was Kraing Ta Chan prison organized?

Sen: The prisons were ground level houses made from wood. They were 5 meters in width and 40 meters by length. Underneath the prison, 1 meter from ground level, they had buried barb wires to prevent prisoners from digging to escape the cell. The prisoners' ankles were chained and lock down in two rows and they left one aisle between the rows for walking. If an ankle chain came loose they would beat the prisoner to death.

Ph: When it came loose.....?

Sen: Whenever it came loose, they beat us until we die. They would accuse us of wanting to escape. Even when we were sleeping, we could not move. We must be still because there was always someone guarding us.

Ph: Were you chained?

Sen: Yes, I was chained. We couldn't stay still because there were too many bedbugs and body lice that were biting us. I probably killed millions of those bugs by just crushing the ground with the palm of my hand. It bit us so much that our skin became so numb. It wasn't just me, we all had suffered it.

Ph: Was your father the only person in your family that died during this period?

Sen: Yes, because he was chief district and that was the reason why I was imprisoned.

Ph: Were there other family members that died besides your father?

Sen: No, there was only one. My father died at the prison.

Ph: They didn't take any other of your relatives?

Sen: No. They escaped from Phnom Penh on time. They went to Battambang and Porsat province and no one knew them there. If they came to their hometown (Takeo), the KR might recognize them and capture them too.

Ph: Oh.

Sen: An older sibling was traveling to Ang Ta Saom from Phnom Penh and met a relative on the way. That relative told my sibling to return back because the KR in Takeo recognized my family. So my sibling went to Battambang.

Ph: Is your older sibling alive?

Sen: Yes, he is still alive.

Ph: How many older siblings you have?

Sen: I have 4 or 5 siblings.

Ph: Are they all alive?

Sen: Yes, one died.

Ph: How did they die?

Sen: Died from being sick.

Ph: Did he/she die post Pol Pot?

Sen: Yes, recently.

Ph: Did you have a mother during the KR period?

Sen: No, my mother was hiding during the KR period.

Ph: Your mother?

Sen: My mother went to Battambang and Prosat where no one knew her.

Ph: Did your mother die?

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Sen: She's dead.

Ph: When did she die?

Sen: After the regime.

Ph: Now I want to start asking about the events that you experience and had made you upset.

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Have you heard or seen anything during the KR period?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Have you experience starvation?

Sen: During the KR period we lacked everything and more. Are you asking about the KR period?

Ph: Yes.

Sen: We were so hungry; we ate anything we could find. We even ate unripe coconut shell and things from potato leaves to its flower ends, or ripe and unripe coconut. Coconut was the best. It last long and was the most delicious, but coconut was hard to get. We ate toads, frogs, and different kinds of lizards.

Ph: Did you eat it raw?

Sen: I roasted all of it.

Ph: What year did you lack the most food?

Sen: There were times where we starve so bad, its painful. Many people died from starvation. We were desperate and we felt no shame to steal food. We often stole potatoes, coconut, and potato leaves.

Ph: Did the prisoners died from being taken there?

Sen: Yes, and died from starvation. There was no other reason of death besides starvation.

Ph: Were you sick during your imprisonment and were there any medicines offered?

Sen: Yes, I was sick.

Ph: What year?

Sen: The beginning of 1976.

Ph: What did you have?

Sen: I had a fever that was mostly due from lack of food and nutrients. I often took roots of different plants and wood to boil. I drink it and then I was better.

Ph: Did they offer any other prisoners medicine when they were sick?

Sen: No one live. Those who didn't have medicine die. The only reason I was able to survive was that I was able to go outside to the fields. I just eat whatever was edible out in the fields, craw fishes, frogs, fishes, or crabs. I put it in my pocket and then cook it. I ate it with my porridge.

Ph: Did they let you cook your food?

Sen: No, I had to do it in secrecy.

Ph: yes

Sen: I would hide my cooking near the kitchen. They would come by and ask what I was doing in the kitchen and I just told them nothing. When they leave I would continue cooking my food.

Ph: Have they ever caught you?

Sen: Yes, they caught me, but their beating did not hurt me that much. They punish me by putting me to work.

Ph: Yes.

Sen: When they beat me, they only beat me to threaten others not to steal or did what I did.

Ph: Who beat you?

Sen: The guards beat us. The top guards don't come near us at all.

Ph: Did the top guards beat you?

Sen: The guards were Sorn, Dim, Saing, Duch, and Ouk.

Ph: The biological brothers' right?

Sen: Yes. Those were the executioners of Kraing Ta Chan prison.

Ph: Why didn't they take them to kill?

Sen: I don't know. I was young and didn't understand it.

Ph: Why did they trust that family so much? Who were they connected to?

Sen: Yes, if you do some research you will find out that most of the executioners are all related.

Ph: Yes.

Sen: Within the 3 years the brothers worked together.

Ph: Were they connected with any of the top KR leaders?

Sen: No. None of them were connected with any of the top KR leaders.

Ph: Why didn't the top KR killed the guards that were related with each other?

Sen: No, being related is not connected to the reason to why KR killed.

Ph: Are you sure there are no connections?

Sen: None.

Ph: What was your experience like in the prison cell?

Sen: Just like what I told you before everyday people

Ph: Did you lack anything?

Sen: There were too many things that we lacked. There were 4 cells, in each cell there were more than 200 prisoners. Totaling 1000 prisoners and each day they kill 1000. Then 500 to 600 new prisoners would arrive each day. Then they wait for a couple of days then they take out 1000 more people to execute.

Ph: Were the prison cell able to hold up to 1000 prisoners?

Sen: Of course there were 4 cells. There was more than enough room.

Ph: There were 4 cells?

Sen: There were two cells connected. There was one in the middle and west from the middle cell was one more.

Ph: How large are the cells?

Sen: They were 5 meters in width and 30 meters in length. The middle cell was only 20 meters in length

Ph: Was the width the same?

Sen: The width was the same. It was 5 meters. There were two rows of people in each cell and an aisle between the rows. They only trusted 1 or 2 people to transfer human feces and urine. The KR cut the top off from 30 liter containers and had the prisoners use it for body excretion.

Ph: Where do they take the container to?

Sen: There were two of us who carried it to the farm to use as fertilizers.

Ph: When were you imprisoned?

Sen: Since 1974.

Ph: All the way to 1979?

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Sen: yes.
Ph: Have you been seriously injured?
Sen: Once. They had beaten my head for stealing potatoes.
Ph: What year?
Sen: 1975
Ph: 1975?
Sen: Yes, they beat my head once. I was part of the New Citizens (describes the people they evacuated from Phnom Penh and sent them back to their hometown village on April 17).
Ph: Oh
Sen: Yes. That was when they call us New Citizens.
Ph: Have you been in the midst of any battlefields?
Sen: No.
Ph: Have you seen any battlefields?
Sen: Yes, I was standing and watching them.
Ph: Were there any shooting in the prisons?
Sen: No, they only shoot at those who were running away. After they shoot the body down they come and tell me to fetch it.
Ph: Was there shooting?
Sen: Yes, it was often. While working in the fields we were not chained, so whenever a prisoner wanted to run they could. You die either way, whether you chose to run and get shot at, or stay in the prison. Most prisoners have witness the consequences of fellow prisoners and understood their fate. That was the reason why they chose to get shot at.
Ph: Were there any who ran off?
Sen: Yes. They ran for about 10 to 20 meters until they got shot at on the back.
Ph: Oh
Sen: They called on me to drag the bodies from the fields. The corpses were buried near the fences next to the prison.
Ph: When you saw that, how did it make you feel?
Sen: I was scared. I was frightened because I didn't know when I was going to be next. I just continue to endure.
Ph: Did they advise you to think a certain way while you were in jail?
Sen: Yes, they advise us to work hard because if we work hard we could go back home.
Ph: When you said that you witnessed someone getting rape. How were they rape?
Sen: Yes, I've seen it.
Ph: With your own eyes?
Sen: Yes. They don't rape in the jail cell. They take it outside.
Ph: So you did see it?
Sen: Yes, they take away the person to their place and rape them there. Afterwards they told us everything. They did not hide it.
Ph: Are you sure you saw it or you just heard it?
Sen: No, I did not see it. I just heard it. The rape victims told me and the rapist also told me.
Ph: How did they tell you?

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- Sen: The rape victims just told me that they raped them. That's all they told me and I didn't ask any further questions.
- Ph: What were the names of the rape victims that told you that they were rape?
- Sen: Aunt Rath, the daughter of Grandma Ngor.
- Ph: When did they tell you?
- Sen: They told me when they told me.
- Ph: Have they forced you into a cell that was isolated from others?
- Sen: No.
- Ph: Not at all?
- Sen: Yes.
- Ph: Do you know if they forced other prisoners into isolated cells?
- Sen: No one. Whenever they would put someone in the isolated cells it would be a group of prisoners tied up in a single row. If they were going to only put one person, they would put you in the dark cell. The dark cell was the dark cell I told you about earlier. The KR accused prisoners of stealing stuff and when they denied the accusations the KR would beat them until they lost conscience. The KR rolled the body down into the dark cell.
- Ph: Alone?
- Sen: Yes, they only rolled one person into the dark cell. After two hours they ask me to roll them out to take off the prisoner's bondage. Some prisoners, I saw had short breaths and some died.
- Ph: Do they only put one person at a time into the dark cell?
- Sen: Yes, one at a time. It only could fit one person. They don't keep the prisoners in there long. After one hour they usually die.
- Ph: Have you come close to death while you were in the prison?
- Sen: Yes. One time they almost beat me to death. They beat my head. I did not think that I would live, but I just continue to endure. Someone from outside the prison had covered my head wound with a beaten baby frog. If that person did not help me, I would not be here.
- Ph: Oh.
- Sen: They beat a baby frog and added salt. Then they took it and spread it on my wound.
- Ph: Who beat you on the head?
- Sen: Seang.
- Ph: Seang?
- Sen: Yes. He lives in Cheang Torng Commune.
- Ph: Is he still alive?
- Sen: He has a widow wife. They all die.
- Ph: Did he recently die?
- Sen: Yes. He died after the defeat of the KR in 1979. The people of the village took him and killed him.
- Ph: Oh.
- Sen: Moeun and Seang were killed and Ta Ann, the leader, I just heard died as well. Ta Ann's second wife is still alive. She currently lives south of Kompongtrach.
- Ph: Second wife?
- Sen: The second wife was a prisoner. If he did not take the second wife he would have been killed as well. His first wife currently lives in Cheang Torng Commune.

Ph: Are you saying that if he did not take a prisoner to be his wife, the village people would kill him?

Sen: The people would have killed any KR after 1979, but he took a prisoner to be his wife immediately. That was why he was able to survive the prosecution by the people.

Ph: Where does he wife live?

Sen: Aunt Han lives south of Chouk.

Ph: Chouk district in Kompot?

Sen: Yes, her name is Aunt Han. I don't know what village she lives in. I just know that she had the same traumatic experience of KR as I did.

Ph: Have they ever forced you to separate from your family members?

Sen: No. I did not have a wife then.

Ph: No, not a wife. Were you ever separated from your parents, brother or sisters?

Sen: No.

Ph: Not at all?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Have you witness anyone in your family die?

Sen: At Kraing Ta Chan?

Ph: Yes.

Sen: I've seen.

Ph: Who have you seen died and who killed them?

Sen: They killed families. They take them one by one to kill.

Ph: What about your family?

Sen: Not my family. They killed my older sibling and my father far away.

Ph: Did you hear about it?

Sen: Yes, I did hear it.

Ph: Did you know what year they took your father?

Sen: Yes, 1975.

Ph: Did you see his face?

Sen: Yes. After we left Phnom Penh, but they knew he was my father and won't let me meet him.

Ph: Yes.

Sen: I was put in prison with others, but they did not put my father in jail.

Ph: Yes.

Sen: They took us from Takeo and Ang Ta Saom to Kraing Ta Chan prison. Once we arrived, many prisoners that were tied up, were executed rows after rows. They did not put us in the jail cells, but brought us to the killing fields. Many prisoners that had big jobs or were chief district like my father were placed at a different prison 500 meters from the main prison. The KR would take 5 people at a time to kill. They were not imprisoned long.

Ph: At Kraing Ta Chan?

Sen: Yes. It was all at Kraing Ta Chan, I was able to see it because my father was taken first.

Ph: Oh.

Sen: Everybody knew who my father was. He was Chief Soy of the district. Anybody who was his age knew who he was.

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Ph: What was the year?

Sen: 1975.

Ph: The year 1975?

Sen: Yes. My father was killed first. I peaked through the bars from the jail cell west of the jail that my father's group was in. My father was wearing a white; short sleeve t-shirt and a cowboy hat. There was someone walking behind him and carrying his bag. He had a bag and a valise but the KR guards took from him.

Ph: Were you hiding when you saw all that?

Sen: I saw all of it. About 6 o'clock that evening I went to see my father.

Ph: After you saw him being killed, you wanted to see more?

Sen: Yes. I climb a tamarind tree that was on the west side of the prison to observe it further.

Ph: How did you see it?

Sen: When they took my father to the east side of the prison that was when I climbed the tamarind tree. I saw three people. My father, Reach Pann, and I don't know the name of the third person. They blindfolded them near the kitchen and then brought them to the killing fields and butchered their head with a grub-hoe axe.

Ph: Did you see it?

Sen: I witnessed it. In the evening I went to where they killed my father and took his father's *sarong* and shirt to use as a blanket to cover him. I saw Ta Ann took my father's hat. From that day on, Ta Ann wore it all the time.

Ph: How do you feel about your father's execution?

Sen: The KR usually killed people in secrecy during the Lon Nol period, but after 1975 they began to kill all day and night. My father was one of the first groups to be killed out in the open. After my father's death I was afraid that they would kill me and I won't know when because I was his son. I asked them many times if they are going to kill me and then they asked me in return whether I was a child of Chief Soy. I denied that I was. I was born in Kraing Ta Chan village and my grandma took care of me. I only knew her.

Ph: Did you see people executed often?

Sen: I saw many prisoners being executed everyday. In a month there were no executions for 2 or 3 days. They don't kill 2 or 3 people a day because they wait for large numbers of execution so they can fit into the graves that were dug up already. They commanded Ta Chan and me to dig up graves every morning and at noon they served us one bowl of porridge. It got us full.

Ph: Have you wonder why they kill so many people?

Sen: I was too young to know what was going on, but I did wonder why they had to kill everyday. At that time no one had the courage to ask.

Ph: Have you ever lost your way?

Sen: Yes I have. I still don't know who killed him. I'm lost almost everyday. Sometimes I have nightmares of them taking me to kill. Then I wake up frighten for awhile finally I was able to fall back to sleep. I still remember all three years.

Ph: Do you often dream about your traumatic experience most recently?

Sen: Yes, often. I think about those three years all the time now.

Ph: Have you been interrogated?

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Sen: They interrogated us whenever we were caught catching fishes, frogs, lizards/gecko and crabs to burn it so we can eat it. When we were caught they beat us and told us not to do it again.

Ph: What did they use for beating you?

Sen: A wooden bar, the handle of the rifle or knife.

Ph: Did they hit hard?

Sen: Yes, they hit hard. They hit me hard when they caught me catching crabs. I didn't have any pockets to put them in so I used a plastic bag that I tied around my neck to put all the crabs and lizards that jumped out as I was working in the rice field. When I return to the prison, I would secretly burn them in the kitchen.

Ph: What did they hit you in the head with?

Sen: They hit me with the end handle of the rifle. They beat me in the head when they caught me burning potatoes to eat.

Ph: Did you experience any event that you were close to death?

Sen: What I have experience?

Ph: Yes.

Sen: No, but I was always afraid of them killing me. I only got punish for was burning things to eat.

Ph: What experience had frightened you the most?

Sen: I was most frightened when I saw mass executions of people.

Ph: What experience was the most painful for you to share with us today?

Sen: Just thinking about all the three years especially hearing those guys name again. It makes me feel so angry. The memories are fresh. I really want to take an axe and kill all those guys. If you brought Sorn, Saing, Duch and Sim here, in front of me and ask them if they were murderers, I wonder if they would deny it. They were the killers. The top leaders just told them what to do and there were 15 other guards that guarded and stayed at the perimeter of the prison.

Ph: Were they security guards or workers in the jail?

Sen: They were called security guards but now they are called staff. There were about 15 of them.

Ph: Were they all staff?

Sen: Yes, they were all staff, but the there were only 7 executioners.

Ph: May I continue asking about your head injury?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Have you ever drowned?

Sen: In the past or now?

Ph: In the past.

Sen: In the past I didn't know how to swim.

Ph: What about now?

Sen: I still don't know how, but after my head injury, my brain has become weak.

Ph: Have you experience shortness of breath?

Sen: Yes, I have.

Ph: When did it start?

Sen: Sometimes at night or midnight too.

Ph: Did you experience it everyday?

Sen: It's not constant. Sometimes it's 3 or 4 days in a row.

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Ph: What about recently?

Sen: Yes, and more frequently. Now, I'm worn out because I'm old.

Ph: When did your head injury happen?

Sen: Since 1975.

Ph: Have you ever lost conscience?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: When did you lose conscience?

Sen: Sometimes I faint during the day and sometimes at night. Whenever I think about what happen in those three years I faint all the time. When I came out of it, I had waked up my wife and children to run before they killed us. That happens all the time.

Ph: That's not my question. I wanted to know if you ever lost consciences like fainting.

Sen: Oh, lost conscience like forgetting everything that happens. Yes, I have experience it while in Kraing Ta Chan, I don't now.

Ph: You've lost consciences before in Kraing Ta Chan?

Sen: Yes, at Kraing Ta Chan.

Ph: What year?

Sen: 1976 and 1977.

Ph: Why did you lose consciences?

Sen: I didn't have enough to eat and I had bruises all over my body that made my body so weak. Therefore my body reacted and I lost consciences.

Ph: How many times did you lose your consciences?

Sen: Too often, I can't remember.

Ph: Did you faint in 1976 and 1977?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: How many times did you faint? 2 times?

Sen: No, just often.

Ph: How long did you faint when you fainted?

Sen: Half an hour to an hour.

Ph: That question was sort of long because we wanted to make sure that we properly ask you the right questions to understand how your emotions work.

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Further more, I want to ask questions about your emotions that were connected to your experience during the KR period. The following are the symptoms that you sometimes have after experiencing hurtful or terrifying events in your life. Please think carefully and tell how much the symptoms bothered you in the past week. Do you have recurrent thoughts or memories of the most hurtful or terrifying events?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Was it little or quite a bit?

Sen: Those feelings are quiet often and when it comes it's terrifying.

Ph: Were you extremely terrified?

Sen: Yes. It was strong

Ph: What about now?

Sen: Yes, it's still there.

Ph: Do you have any feelings as though the event is happening again?

Sen: No. I don't have that.

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Ph: Did you have any of these feelings while you were in Kraing Ta Chan?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Were they similar to how you feel now?

Sen: Oh, yes. It was worst when I was at Kraing Ta Chan. Now, when I think of those stories I immediately get angry.

Ph: In the past week, did you remember anything?

Sen: Yes, quite often. When I see Saing I get upset, but then it goes away because I live near him and see him more than Duch, Sim, or Sorn. When and if I see Duch, Sim, and Sorn I get really angry.

Ph: Have you seen them recently?

Sen: If at anytime I see them now I get really angry especially Sim, Sorn and Duch. I don't get too angry when I see Saing, not as angry as if I saw those three guys. If for any reason I meet Saing, I don't speak first. I would only speak to them, if they spoke to me first because those people were killers. Currently they want to control the people, but they can't.

Ph: Do you have bad dreams?

Sen: Yes, very often.

Ph: Did you have any bad dreams lately?

Sen: Yes, I dream about it a lot. I dream of the events in jail and when they would take me out to get killed. When I think about it, I get so scared!

Ph: Did you have any dreams in the past week or two?

Sen: Not in the past few weeks, maybe once a month. I'm pretty much stable now and when I think about it, it comes back. When I'm questioned at home the memory goes away quickly afterwards, but when I was questioned at the prison the pain and the dream becomes stronger.

Ph: Have you been unable to feel emotions?

Sen: No

Ph: Have you had feeling detached or withdrawn from people?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Recently?

Sen: Yes. I don't want to meet those killers. I don't want to meet them at all, because once I meet them I feel like those experiences are all new again.

Ph: Are those feelings little or quite strong?

Sen: Very strong.

Ph: Is it very strong?

Sen: Yes. If you give me the opportunity to take revenge, I would kill the executioners. If I don't think about it the feelings are not strong, but once I start talking about it, the memory comes back instantly.

Ph: Have you had feeling jumpy or easily startled?

Sen: Yes, I startled.

Ph: What about this week?

Sen: Yes, now I don't have them. Before the last interview, I was afraid to sleep underneath the house alone. I slept in the fields. Now I can sleep alone at the house.

Ph: Why?

Sen: I was scared that they would come and kill me because they knew that I know the truth about what they did at Kraing Ta Chan. They are afraid that I might tell them everything in the interview. I'm the only one alive that knows their story.

Ph: Today, are you at all scared?

Sen: No, not recently. If you ask the executioners who know their story that is still living, they would tell you it is me, Sen.

Ph: How would you feel after we left?

Sen: After you leave, the only way the story could be heard from was me.

Ph: Are you going to be afraid and sleep in the fields again?

Sen: These days I'm not so afraid. In the past when they started to ask questions about my experience for the first time, it scared me.

Ph: Do you have difficulty concentrating?

Sen: No.

Ph: Are you sure?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Do you have difficulty sleeping?

Sen: Where, at my house?

Ph: Yes.

Sen: Some days I can, some days I can't. It depends on the day.

Ph: What about these days?

Sen: Yes. It depends on the hour of the day.

Ph: So you do have it once in a while?

Sen: Yes, once in a while.

Ph: Are you always on guard?

Sen: Not recently, but a couple of years ago I felt it all the time. Whenever someone wanted to see or talk to me, I get the feeling I should be on guard. It puts me back to when I was in Kraing Ta Chan. I know the backgrounds of the KR guards and executioners in Kraing Ta Chan prison very well; therefore I'm on guard of my life. 2 years ago the story about Saing leaked out to everybody including his mom. Saing came to me and ask me not to tell anyone about what he did in Kraing Ta Chan. Just tell others that he was a prisoner like me too. When Saing came to see me he was very polite and addressed me respectfully, but back in Kraing Ta Chan he addressed me with undignified pronouns. The other executioners never came to talk to me like Saing did. Only Saing came and told me what he wanted me to say. Saing and his family were deferential around me.

Ph: Do you have feeling irritable or having outburst of anger?

Sen: Yes, I'm always quick to get angry.

Ph: Is it recently?

Sen: Yes, I do.

Ph: Are these feelings strong?

Sen: Extremely, whenever I'm angry, that emotion always comes fast.

Try: Were you mad at them or at your wife and children?

Sen: I get angry at my wife and children and at them as well.

Try: Why did you have to be angry towards your own wife and children?

Sen: I'm just like that.

Ph: Have you avoid activities that remind you of the traumatic or hurtful events?

Sen: I extremely want to avoid activities. Yes.

Ph: Is it extreme?

Sen: Yes. I just don't want to feel it anymore.

Ph: Are these feelings recent?

Sen: I don't want to hear or see it.

Ph: Have you experience the inability to remember parts of the most traumatic or hurtful events?

Sen: There are times I couldn't remember the events.

Ph: What about recently?

Sen: No, not recently.

Ph: Do you ever feel less interested in the daily activities.

Sen: No. I don't pay much attention.

Ph: Are those feelings very little or very strong?

Sen: I have a little bit. I seem to forget the things I told you last time in the interview. It's like once I tell it out loud, it's not going to come back. Now, I never imagined that you're going to ask me the same questions again.

Ph: Have you felt like as if you don't have a future?

Sen: No, I don't feel that way.

Ph: Have you felt it or never felt that way before?

Sen: Never.

Ph: Have you felt avoiding thoughts or feelings associated with the traumatic or hurtful experience?

Sen: Yes, I have those feelings.

Ph: Do you strongly want to forget them?

Sen: Yes. I still remember it. I can't forget it.

Ph: Have you gone through any sudden emotional or physical reaction when reminded of the most hurtful or traumatic events?

Sen: No. I don't have any. Well, I do have it, but I tend to suppress those feelings.

Ph: Do you feel that people do not understand clearly what happen to you?

Sen: Yes, there is.

Ph: Are there some or a lot?

Sen: There are very little.

Ph: Do you experience difficulty performing work or daily tasks?

Sen: Yes, once in a while.

Ph: Do you feel that often or very little?

Sen: Just a little

Ph: Do you feel like blaming yourself for things that have happened?

Sen: Of course.

Ph: Is it often or little?

Sen: Just a little.

Ph: Do you have feeling guilty for having survived?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Are they strong feelings or little?

Sen: They are strong feelings.

Ph: Is it extremely strong?

Sen: Yes. Sometimes I think I've survived, and sometimes I think why I'm still alive after I have gone through a place that I should have died at.

Ph: Have you ever felt hopelessness?

Sen: Yes, once in awhile.

Ph: Have you felt ashamed of the hurtful or traumatic events that have happened to you?

Sen: Yes, and a lot of it.

Ph: Do you spend time thinking about why these events happened to you?

Sen: Yes. I do. Every one of us has gone through it.

Ph: What about recently?

Sen: Yes, I did have those thoughts recently, but it's very little.

Ph: Have you felt as if you are going crazy?

Sen: No.

Ph: Do you feel that you are the only one who suffered the events?

Sen: Yes. I have that feeling.

Ph: Have you felt that way recently?

Sen: Yes, all the time. Like I told you before, I can't forget any of this.

Ph: Is it strong?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Do you feel that others are hostile towards you?

Sen: No. I haven't had that feeling. I only felt what I expressed to you earlier.

Ph: Do you feel that you have no one to rely on?

Sen: No.

Ph: Have you had feeling of finding out or being told by other people that you have done something that you cannot remember?

Sen: Yes, but very little.

Ph: What about recently?

Sen: Of course. I'm forgetful often. I forget what I was doing something totally different after taking a break and coming back to it.

Ph: Have you had the feeling as if you are split into two people and one of you is watching and the other is doing?

Sen: Yes, I have it often.

Ph: Have you experience someone you trusted betrayed you?

Sen: No I don't have it.

Ph: Now I want to ask you questions that related to the first part of the interviews.

Sen: Yes.

Ph: These questions were ask to identify whether you had these emotions or not. Have you been suddenly scared for no reason?

Sen: Not recently.

Ph: What about before?

Sen: Before, yes.

Ph: Have you felt fearful?

Sen: It's still there.

Ph: Is it a lot or very little?

Sen: Yes, throughout the night I would wake up twice and stay up.

Ph: What about recently?

Sen: Yes, but the fearful feeling was from Kraing Ta Chan.

Ph: Is it a lot or very little?

Sen: A lot.

Ph: Have you experience faintness, dizziness, or weakness?

Sen: Yes, I recently experienced it.

Ph: Did you experience it often or very little?

Sen: It's not consistent. Sometimes it comes twice in a day.

Ph: Have you experience nervousness or shakiness inside?

Sen: Yes, I have.

Ph: Is it a lot, little, or normal?

Sen: Yes, quite a bit.

Ph: Do you often experience heart pounding or racing?

Sen: Yes. Like I told you before, since my head injury I've been weaker

Ph: Did you have it recently?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Strong or not?

Sen: It's quite a bit. I have taken some medication for it.

Ph: Have you experience any trembling?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: A little or quite a bit?

Sen: I tremble a little.

Ph: Have you felt tensed or keyed up?

Sen: No.

Ph: Little or not at all?

Sen: Little bit.

Ph: Do you have any headaches?

Sen: Very often.

Ph: Does it hurt a lot?

Sen: Yes, my head hurts and it pounds.

Try: How many times in a day?

Sen: Once every two or three days. (Patting his pocket) Here is my medicine. I just took it this morning. The headaches constantly pounds on my head and it makes me dizzy.

When I went to see the doctor they told me that it was psychological illness.

Ph: Have you had any spells of terror or panic?

Sen: Yes, I have had it before.

Ph: Have you had any recently?

Sen: Yes.

Ph: Do you feel it a lot or very little?

Sen: I have a little bit.

Ph: Do you ever feel restless, can't sit still?

Sen: Sometimes I have it, sometimes I don't.

Ph: Once in a while right?

Sen: Not that much.

Ph: Have you ever had feeling low in energy, slowed down?

Sen: Yes, I have that too. Whenever I do get it, it comes really bad.

Ph: Have you had it recently?

Sen: Yes, this morning.

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Ph: Was it bad?
Sen: Yes. Usually I don't have a lot of energy, but today I pushed myself to meet you.
Ph: Do you often blame yourself for things?
Sen: I use too.
Ph: Do you feel that often or very little?
Sen: It's pretty extreme.
Ph: What about now?
Sen: Yes.
Ph: Do you cry easily?
Sen: Yes.
Ph: What about now?
Sen: Yes, now too.
Ph: Do you cry often?
Sen: Yes. When I'm watching a movie or a show that is sad, I sit and cry while watching it.
Ph: Have you had poor or lost of appetite?
Sen: Yes.
Ph: Is it often?
Sen: Yes. I often eat once a day.
Ph: Is it extreme?
Sen: Yes. I'm not hungry nor do I crave any kind of food.
Ph: Have you had difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep?
Sen: Yes. It depends on the day.
Ph: So once in a while?
Sen: Yes.
Ph: Do you get it now?
Sen: Now, I'm okay.
Ph: Do you have a little or not at all?
Sen: Now, not at all. But on the days I do have it, I just can't go to sleep.
Ph: Do you feel hopeless about the future?
Sen: No.
Ph: Can I ask you about your personal life?
Sen: Yes. No problem.
Ph: Do you experience a loss of sexual interest or pleasure?
Sen: Yes.
Ph: Do you ever think about it or don't want to do it at all?
Sen: Neither.
Ph: Completely?
Sen: Yes, I'm too tired.
Ph: Do you get the blues?
Sen: Yes.
Ph: A lot or a little?
Sen: A little bit.
Ph: Have you had it recently?
Sen: Yes.
Ph: Do you feel lonely?

Sen: No.
Ph: Have you had any thoughts of ending your life?
Sen: No.
Ph: Have you had the feeling of being trapped or caught?
Sen: Yes.
Ph: Most recently?
Sen: Yes.
Ph: A little bit or a lot?
Sen: Quite a bit. I feel like my family and I are trapped.
Ph: Do you worry too much about things?
Sen: Of course.
Ph: A little or a lot?
Sen: A little.
Ph: Have you felt no interest in things?
Sen: No.
Ph: What about recently?
Sen: No.
Ph: Have you had the feeling that everything is an effort?
Sen: Yes.
Ph: A lot or a little?
Sen: A little, but everything I do is tuff anyways.
Ph: Have you ever felt worthless?
Sen: No. I don't ever think like that.

Side B

Ph: We finished asking about your emotional and psychological state. Meng-try is going to ask you other questions regarding the KR Tribunal and reconciliation.
Sen: Yes.
Try: We want to prosecute the KR. Do you know anything about this?
Sen: I have heard a little bit.
Try: How did you hear about it?
Sen: I heard it through the radio.
Try: If the trial happens, do you want to know and hear about it?
Sen: Yes, I want to know.
Try: Why?
Sen: I want to know why the KR had to kill 1 to 2 million people.
Try: Is that what you want to know?
Sen: Yes. That's all I want to know.
Try: When we do the trial we will only put on trial the top KR leaders.
Sen: Yes.
Try: Do you feel that by putting on trial only the top KR leaders will give you complete justice or will it satisfy you?
Ph: The question Meng-try asked, wanted to know if you think it is right to put on trial the top KR leaders or the lower level KR?
Sen: I want to trial the lower level KR and up.
Ph: Why?

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- Sen: I want to know why the killers, the people who killed others with their own hands, killed so many people or why did they kill so merciless.
- Try: What do you think of the phrase, "vindictiveness does not end by being vindictive?"
- Sen: That phrase is a good phrase. It means we should not feel revengeful to each other. But for me, I can't do that because my father was killed by the KR. Whenever I think how they kill my father, I want to take revenge.
- Try: When you feel like that, do you forget the meaning of the phrase?
- Sen: Yes. I do forget.
- Try: Are you the only one who feels this way?
- Sen: Yes.
- Try: Do you know the names of any top KR leaders?
- Sen: Yes, I only know the ones that work in Takeo province. Ta Mok, Ta Ann, Ta Chimm, and Ta Chang were the only ones I know that went in and out of Kraing Ta Chan Prison. Besides that I don't know any other leaders.
- Try: What does justice mean to you? What can the court do to the KR to make you happy?
- Sen: I cannot force myself to forget what they did to my father and family. It's not fair to me, to have to forget what they did to my family.
- Try: Will the KR trial satisfy you and give you a sense of justice or do you feel that there should be more?
- Sen: I don't know what else we should do because I don't know much about the law.
- Try: What can we do for our country to be more peaceful, healthy, and reconciliation?
- Sen: I don't know, but for me personally this is enough.
- Try: What are good and enough for you these days?
- Sen: It's good because I'm able to make sufficient income. As for the politicians, I don't know.
- Try: Have you shared with your family or neighbors about your experiences during the KR regime?
- Sen: I have told it to my children. My generation has suffered a lot. We have starved and work really hard. I am what you call, leftovers from death.
- Try: Why did you tell the children your story?
- Sen: Because I want my children to know the truth of my experience.
- Try: Besides your children, do you want other children to know about your experiences as well?
- Sen: They all should know.
- Try: Why must they know?
- Sen: Because there are mass grave yards, prisons like Kraing Ta Chan, and corpse all over Kampuchea. These are evidence that is significant to our KR history. They validate our experience; starvation, death, suffering, labor, etc. I tell my children my story all the time and I tell it to other children once in a while.
- Try: How do you want the KR history told to children; through curriculums or by word of mouth?
- Sen: Through the school is the best. There are teachers there to explain it to them and if they are taught in the schools they would believe it easier.
- Try: Do you want to add anything else?

Sen: No more additions, but I hope that government officials can come to a compromise and find a solution to create the trial quickly. If I can make sufficient income like today, I will take it.

Try: You don't want anything else?

Sen: It would be better if I can get more.

Try: What is your surname?

Sen: My name is Soy Sen.

Try: What is your age?

Sen: 43 years old.

Try: What is the name of your village?

Sen: Trapeang Thmar Village.

Try: What commune?

Sen: Kus Commune, Tramkork District, Takeo Province.

Try: How many children do you have?

Sen: I have 7 children.

Try: Do you all live together?

Sen: Two are married. 5 are still living with me.

Try: How many girls and boys?

Sen: 6 girls and 1 boy. The only son is the youngest.

Try: Phearith, do you have anything to add?

Sen: I want to know after talking to us, do you feel better that you told us your story.

Try: Yes it helps in a way, but when you leave I'll go back to feeling the same way before. When I told you my story I had talked about what others committed like Saing. If you go and talk to him and he asked you how you found out the names of the executioners, he'll know it was me. I'm afraid of that.