

ឯកសារបកប្រែ

TRANSLATION/TRADUCTION

ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ (Date): 30-Dec-2014, 10:00

CMS/CFO: Ly Bunloun

Documentation Centre of Cambodia

First interview

UL Hoeun (អ៊ុល ហៀន), Sex: Male, Age: 75

Place of birth: Trapeang Prey (ត្រពាំងប្រិយ័) village, Trapeang Thum Khang

Tbaung (ត្រពាំងធំខាងត្បូង) commune, Tram Kak (ត្រាំកក់) district,

Takeo (តាកែវ) province

Position during the Khmer Rouge Regime: Member of Tram Kak district

Date: 16 August 2013

Interviewer: LONG Dany (ឡុង ដានី)

01:31:21

49 pages

Dany: First we'd like to introduce ourselves once again. We both are from Phnom Penh, from the Documentation Centre of Cambodia. Generally our team conducts research to collect and compile the historical documents which are particularly relevant to events that had happened during the three-year period between 1975 and 1979.

Hoeun: I don't know events that had happened beyond the scope of the three-year period.

Dany: The documentation is initiated for the purpose of keeping the records of what had happened during those years so that the younger generations and researchers, who want to know, write about, and read the stories of that regime, can use them as references. They can have access to those materials at the Documentation Centre of Cambodia if they wish to. My name is Dany, and this is Vannak (វណ្ណកៈ). Now may I begin by asking you questions about your personal accounts? Can you share them with us?

Hoeun: Yes, I can. I will tell you all the truth nothing but the truth. It won't exaggerate when sharing with all those accounts.

Dany: May I know your name?

Hoeun: My name is UL Hoeun.

Dany: Is your name spelled with an "O"?

Hoeun: It's spelled with "U" and "L".

Dany: I take that your full name is UL Hoeun.

Hoeun: I now live in Trapeang Prey village.

Dany: How old are you now?

Hoeun: I am seventy-five years old.

Dany: Where is your place of birth?

Hoeun: Trapeang Prey village, Trapeang Thum Khang Tbaung commune. My commune was still geographically large after it was spilt into two communes.

Dany: What district were you born in?

Hoeun: I was born in Tram Kak district.

Dany: Is it in Takeo province?

Hoeun: Yes, it is.

Dany: In what village are you living?

Hoeun: Do you mean now?

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- Dany: Yes, I do.
- Hoeun: I am living in Ta Sanh Cheung (តាសាញជើង) village.
- Dany: What is the name of the commune you are living in?
- Hoeun: Ta Sanh commune, Samlot (សំឡូត) district, Battambang (បាត់ដំបង) province.
- Dany: What is your wife's name?
- Hoeun: CHEA Ny (ជា នី).
- Dany: How old is she?
- Hoeun: She is six years younger than I am. Now that I am 75 years old she is about...
- Dany: Is she six years younger than you are?
- Hoeun: Yes, she is.
- Dany: So is that correct to say you are seventy-five years old and your wife is sixty-nine years old?
- Hoeun: Yes, I think so.
- Dany: Is she sixty-nine years old?
- Hoeun: Yes, she is.
- Dany: Where is her place of birth?
- Hoeun: We were born in the same village and commune.
- Dany: Were you born in the same village and commune?
- Hoeun: Yes, we were.
- Dany: How many children do you have?
- Hoeun: I have seven children. One of whom was diseased while he went into the jungle.
- Dany: How many of them are sons and daughters?
- Hoeun: Two of them are daughters and four are sons.
- Dany: So altogether you have six children. Is that right?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. That does not include the one who died.
- Dany: Was the one who died your son or daughter?
- Hoeun: He was my son.
- Dany: What is your father's name?
- Hoeun: His name is Èk (ឯក).
- Dany: What is his full name?
- Hoeun: His full name is UL Èk. I share his surname.
- Dany: When did he pass away?
- Hoeun: He passed away in 1977 in the hospital in Phnom Penh. I don't remember the name of that hospital.
- Dany: Did he pass away in Phnom Penh in 1977?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. But I couldn't find his body as it was buried without my knowledge.
- Dany: What is your mother's name?
- Hoeun: My mother's name was NĀM Hâng (ណាំ ហង់). She was Vietnamese. Because she was Vietnamese she had been persecuted. My younger sibling was imprisoned.
- Dany: When did your mother pass away?
- Hoeun: She passed away in 1987.
- Dany: Was she Vietnamese?
- Hoeun: Yes, she was.

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- Dany: Was she a Vietnamese immigrant?
 Hoeun: My grandmother was from Vietnam. My mother was born in Cambodia. My grandmother spoke Khmer. She was not Vietnamese. My grandfather was a native Vietnamese. He was born in Chau Doc (ចូរដុក), also known as Krabão-Moat Chrouk (ក្របៅ-មាត់ជ្រូក) province.
- Dany: Did your mother speak Vietnamese well?
 Hoeun: Yes, she did. Because she could speak Vietnamese she had been persecuted.
- Dany: Do you speak Vietnamese?
 Hoeun: No, I don't. But my mother did.
- Dany: How many siblings do you have?
 Hoeun: I have six siblings including my first sister *Yeay* Kuch (គុជ), *Ta* Yèv (តាយ៉ែវ), *Ta* Heng (តាហេង), me, *Nhân* (ញ៉ន), *Nhyn* (ញ៉ន). The last two siblings used to live here.
- Dany: Is your first sibling Kuch?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is. Her name is *Yeay* Kuch.
- Dany: What about the second one?
 Hoeun: *Ta* Yèv is my second sibling. *Ta* Heng is the third one. The fourth one is me. The fifth one is *Nhân* (ញ៉ន). *Nhyn* is the sixth one.
- Dany: Where does *Nhân* live?
 Hoeun: Now he is living in Tram Kak. He used to run a business here.
- Dany: Is that correct that you are the fourth child in the family followed by *Nhân* and *Nhyn*?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is. *Nhyn* is my sixth sibling.
- Dany: Altogether you have six siblings. Is that correct?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: So amongst your six siblings only one is a woman and she is the eldest one. Is that correct?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: When you were young, how far did you go to school?
 Hoeun: I could manage to go all the way to Grade 7. I quit school in 1957 because I did not have any money. In that year the King visited my hometown to inaugurate a new pagoda called Wat Trapeang Thum (វត្តត្រពាំងធំ). It was compulsory that I had to get myself a set of Yuvann [យុវង្ស] Youth's uniform to receive him. I could not afford it. I felt embarrassed for not being able to afford it. So I decided to drop out of school ever since.
- Dany: Was that in 1957?
 Hoeun: I dropped out of school in 1957.
- Dany: Did you quit school in 1957 because you did not have the money to buy the uniform you're supposed to wear to receive the King who would be attending the inauguration ceremony at Trapeang Thum?
 Hoeun: Yes, I did. We were required to wear that Yuvann Youth's uniform.
- Dany: The reason you dropped out of school was due to your being embarrassed. Is that correct?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: Did you manage to finish Grade 7?

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- Hoeun: Yes, I did.
- Dany: Were you an academically smart person?
- Hoeun: Yes, I was. We were required to study French and Khmer at that time. I was better at French language than I was at Khmer. My French writing was great. I scored 10 in French writing while I could manage to score only 7 or 8 in Khmer. They had us study in French during that period.
- Dany: After you quit school what did you do?
- Hoeun: I did rice farming.
- Dany: With whom did you do rice farming?
- Hoeun: I did it with my parents for five years. Then I had to live separately from them after I got married.
- Dany: Did you do rice farming with your parents for five years?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. Then I started a business of my own with my spouse. Then we moved to live separately from them.
- Dany: In what year did you get married?
- Hoeun: I got married in 1959. It was just a year before 1960.
- Dany: In 1959 you got married with your wife. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes. It is. She is the only wife I have ever had.
- Dany: After you got married in 1959 you started your own business. You then moved to live separately from your parents. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes. It is. We started our own business and lived separately from my parents.
- Dany: Where did you live when you had to leave your parents?
- Hoeun: We didn't move far away from them. We moved to live in a house in a paddy field situated to the West of their home.
- Dany: Was it in the same village?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: After you got married and moved to live separately from your parents did you only do rice farming for a living?
- Hoeun: Yes. I did. We did rice farming. Apart from that I also went to the mountain to chop some woods to sell for some cash.
- Dany: What mountain did you go for woods?
- Hoeun: It is called Damrei Rormeal Mountain (ភ្នំដំរីរមៀល). My business was to go to cut some woods in that mountain and sell them for cash.
- Dany: Until what year did you keep doing that business of yours?
- Hoeun: I continued with that business until 1970, which was the year of the coup, during which I traded live poultry and coconuts with the Vietnamese immigrants who had come to live in the country in great number.
- Dany: Did you trade chicken with the Vietnamese?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. At that time a kilogram of chicken was sold at 15 riels. Now it's sold at 1,500 riels per kilogram.
- Dany: What did you do for a living after that?
- Hoeun: In 1973 I was made a leader of a group.
- Dany: What group were you made the leader of?
- Hoeun: I was made a leader of the group on the Khmer Rouge side.
- Dany: Where were you at that time?
- Hoeun: I was in the same village and district.
- Dany: Were you the leader of the group within that village?
- Hoeun: Yes, I was. I was the leader of Group 4.

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- Dany: Were you the leader of the group on the Khmer Rouge's side?
Hoeun: Yes. I was. That was the role I was given during the Pol Pot regime. I remained the leader of the group until 1974 when I was made the deputy chief of the village.
- Dany: Did you become the deputy chief of the village in 1974?
Hoeun: Yes, I did
Dany: By whom were you appointed?
Hoeun: I was appointed by *Ta Chim* (តាជឹម). He was the Secretary of the district.
Dany: Did *Ta Chim* appoint you?
Hoeun: Yes. He did. His full name is PREAP Chim [ព្រហ្ម ជឹម]. He appointed me. He is now known as PREAP Chim. He is no longer known as *Ta Chim*. He lost one of his arms after he got shot in that arm when he was sleeping in the hammock. He was lucky not to get killed by the shooting. Fortunately the bullet missed his torso.
- Dany: I take that his name is PREAP Chim. Until when did you remain the deputy chief of the village?
Hoeun: I remained in the position until 1975. By 1975 the whole country was liberated. During that year I was asked to work at the district office.
Dany: That regime fell in 1975.
Hoeun: I was asked to work at the District Office on the same day of the liberation.
Dany: Were you transferred to the District Office?
Hoeun: Yes, I was.
Dany: Was that the Tram Kak District Office?
Hoeun: Yes, it was.
Dany: What did you do there?
Hoeun: I unloaded the food supplies which were brought in for the evacuees from Phnom Penh. We had to unload 60 sacks of rice from two trucks. Only two people which include my workmate and I were assigned to do this backbreaking work. We had to work day and night.
- Dany: Who was your workmate?
Hoeun: I think I might not have recollected his name. He died when he was in the country. Well, his name is *Ta Phân* (តាផន).
- Dany: Were those food supplies brought in for the new people?
Hoeun: Yes, they were.
Dany: Who called you to work at the District Office?
Hoeun: *Ta Chim* did.
Dany: Is he still alive?
Hoeun: Yes, he is.
Dany: Where does he live now?
Hoeun: Now he lives in Srok Prasat (ស្រុកប្រាសាត) village.
- Dany: Is he living in Trapeang Prasat (ត្រពាំងប្រាសាត) district?
Hoeun: I think he lives in Trapeang Prasat district. He now lives on the property of his second wife.
Dany: You mentioned you unloaded some rice which was brought in for the new people at Tram Kak District Office. How long had you been engaged in the food distribution to the new people?

- Hoeun: Rice continued to be distributed until 1976. By 1976 China stopped giving us anymore rice.
- Dany: Did the rice distribution continue until 1976?
- Hoeun: Yes, it did.
- Dany: Were there plentiful of rice and food supplies?
- Hoeun: Only milled rice was transported there.
- Dany: What was your position at that time?
- Hoeun: What did you say?
- Dany: What was your position?
- Hoeun: I held no position. I just helped unload milled rice from the trucks. However later on people noted that the work I did had become too hard for me. The released prisoners were then brought in to replace me. Those prisoners had been sent home earlier. They were those who had been accused of some moral misconduct and detained for 2-3 months before they were released.
- Dany: Who detained them?
- Hoeun: *Ta Chim*, who was the District Secretary, did.
- Dany: Who were the people he detained and what were they accused of?
- Hoeun: The detainees were the village and commune chiefs who committed some moral misconduct such as having an affair with the married women whose husbands were the combatants and who had gone to the battlefields. The offenders were detained for some re-education.
- Dany: Were they accused of moral misconduct?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were. After getting re-educated they were allowed to go home. People were not executed at the re-education centre.
- Dany: When you mentioned the wives, were they the ones whose husbands had to leave them behind while they were gone to the battlefields?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were.
- Dany: Was everyone who was found to have committed moral misconduct in that district arrested?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were.
- Dany: But they were not executed, were they?
- Hoeun: No, they weren't. They received the reduced sentence.
- Dany: Did they receive the reduced sentence?
- Hoeun: Yes, they did.
- Dany: By 1975 and the following years were you together with your wife and children?
- Hoeun: No, we weren't. My wife was tasked with carrying soil.
- Dany: Was she tasked with carrying soil?
- Hoeun: Yes. She was. She had to continue hard labour even during her late pregnancy. Her limbs had become swollen. She asked for a permission to deliver our youngest baby at home. But she was not permitted. She was told that there was no medic at home. A medic was only available there at the worksite. At one point during the dry season I went to see her carrying soil during her pregnancy. I saw her limbs getting swollen. She said she was unwell. I rushed her to the district hospital where she gave birth to our youngest child on that same day.
- Dany: In which district was the hospital located?
- Hoeun: It was located in Tram Kak district.

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- Dany: Were you allowed to take her to the hospital?
- Hoeun: Yes, I was. They wouldn't dare to challenge me. They were afraid of me like they were afraid of a tiger. That's because I worked at the District Office.
- Dany: Thanks to your position in the District Office people were afraid of you when you were visiting the worksite. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. They were afraid of me. They would not dare to say anything.
- Dany: Who was in charge over there?
- Hoeun: What did you say?
- Dany: Who was in charge at the base over there?
- Hoeun: I cannot recollect the names of the people who were in charge of the mobile unit. I have forgotten their names.
- Dany: You brought your wife to the Tram Kak district hospital. Do you remember who was in charge of that hospital?
- Hoeun: The person in charge of the hospital was *Ta Sân* (តាស័ន). But I do not know his surname.
- Dany: Are you referring to RIEL Sân (រឿល ស័ន)?
- Hoeun: I don't know his full name.
- Dany: Was he the Head of the Hospital?
- Hoeun: I know one of his children is named Kou (គូ).
- Dany: Did his son work at the district as well?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. He was a very gentle person. He was not a trouble maker.
- Dany: How many children did you have at the time?
- Hoeun: I had six children.
- Dany: Did you have six children?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did.
- Dany: Did you have six children already by then?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did.
- Dany: Where were your parents at that time?
- Hoeun: They lived with me in the village and they were aging and fragile by 1977.
- Dany: What about your Vietnamese mother? Since she was Vietnamese had she been mistreated?
- Hoeun: Yes, she had. She had been persecuted. Fortunately *Ta Heng* [តាហេង] my elder brother could protect us. He was my late elder brother and the senior military Commander of a mobile Division at the borders. Unfortunately he died in 1973 by B-52 bomb. Another older brother of mine, *Ta Yèv* (តាយ៉ែវ), was the Secretary of Koh Andet (កោះអណ្តែត) district.
- Dany: What year did *Ta Yèv* become the Secretary of that Koh Andet district?
- Hoeun: He remained the chief of the district until the Vietnamese came. Then he fled.
- Dany: With whom did he work when he was the Secretary of Koh Andet district?
- Hoeun: *Ta Soeun*, who was *Ta Yèv*'s elder brother, was the head of the Sector police while *Ta Yèv* was his deputy and also the Secretary of Koh Andet district. *Ta Soeun* was the person who was once approaching me for he wanted to kill me. However I could manage to kick him against the wall.
- Dany: Why did you kick him?

Hoeun: That happened when I was in bed. Early in the day I saw the District Secretary, *Ta Ouch* (អ៊ូច), who's *Ta Mok's* younger brother-in-law, who told me to expect to receive three men from Koh Andet. After failing to see the men when it went past 4 am I decided to catch some sleep. I was sleeping in the hospital bed, covering myself with a piece of curtain when suddenly the guy came and pulled it from me. The quick pull of the curtain caused it to slide across my neck causing a slight cut in my neck. He was directing the flash light right into my face. I asked him who he was and not to direct the flashlight into my face. I told him that I couldn't see with flashlight in my face. That person didn't stop it. At the same time I was trying to pull back the curtain while he was trying to pull it back simultaneously. It was like a tug of war. Then I turned my face away from him. He kept pointing his flashlight into my face. I asked again who the heck he was and why he kept pointing that damn flashlight at me. I challenged him to engage in conversation so that I could tell who he was. He replied that he came to contact me and asked why I was so aggressive. While remaining on the bed I threw a strong kick at him causing him to bang against the concrete wall. He was off balance and landed on the ground with his butt first. His handgun was also touching the ground. Then I turned on the light run by a battery. When the light was on I saw his bodyguards pointing their guns at me. I told them not to shoot me. Let's talk first. I asked him where he was from. He said he was from Koh Andet. I asked him where the three men I was expecting to receive were. He said they were in the car. He then offered to shake hand with me. I got off the bed and reached out to shake hand with him. I asked someone to see the men and took them to the re-education centre as there was no room to detain them there. The men were the Secretary of Koh Andet, his deputy and the member of the District Committee. They were taken out. Their hands were swollen and remained tied together.

Dany: Were those three men on the District Committee?

Hoeun: All of them were the Secretary, deputy and member of the District Committee.

Dany: What are their names?

Hoeun: I did not know them. I just saw them very briefly.

Dany: What was your position at that time?

Hoeun: I worked in that office.

Dany: Did you work in the District Office of Tram Kak?

Hoeun: Yes, I did.

Dany: What was your position in that district?

Hoeun: I was a member of the district.

Dany: Were you the member of Tram Kak district?

Hoeun: Yes, I was. Soon those people left. After they had left I noted that the guy by the name of Chea who developed the films for magazine did not go to bed the whole night either. I heard somebody was calling for *Ta Chhoeun* (តាឃ្លឺន). Chea said there was no *Ta Chhoeun* there except *Ta Hoeun* (តាហ្គឺន), whose house was a stone's throw from there. Then I heard him coming closer to where I was and he addressed me as *Ta [Grandfather]*. He asked me what I had done to the Brother from Koh Andet. I replied to

him that I didn't know who the he was and that I could hardly see anything. I threw him a kick. After I told my people to take the three men away, that man left without bidding me a farewell. With resentment he went to see the District Secretary for permission to get me executed. He had been lobbying him from 10 p.m. of that evening until 6 a.m. of the following morning, trying to convince him to get me killed. He challenged my position. He said who the heck appointed me there. He said I was very savage. He just wanted me to be killed. Regarding who appointed me, *Krou Ouch*, *Ta Mok's* younger brother-in-law, said he did not know the person who appointed me, and that he had seen me working there already when he came. He went on to say that *Ta Mok* perhaps was the one who assigned me to work there. But actually it was *Ta Chim* who was the one who appointed me. That man persistently wanted me killed. However he couldn't get me killed. When night fell, my elder brother, *Ta Yèv*, who worked in Koh Andet, came to see me. Once he arrived, he burst into tears. I asked him why he was crying. He said I was a traitor for I kicked the Provincial Governor and the District Secretary. I learnt that the man was the Zone Secretary in charge of arresting people and policing. He was a very barbarous person. Now he lives in Anlong Veng (អង្គជំរំវង).

- Dany: What is his name?
 Hoeun: His name is Soeun (សៀន). I do not know his surname.
 Dany: What is his spouse's name?
 Hoeun: I do not know her name. We met for a very short period of time.
 Dany: By the way, in what Sector was Takeo province?
 Hoeun: It was in Sector 13.
 Dany: What was the name of the Sector Secretary?
 Hoeun: There were several Sector Secretaries before I was there. During my time there, *Ta Kith* (តាគិត) was the Secretary
 Dany: Was his name *Ta Kith*?
 Hoeun: His name is PREAP Kith (ប្រាប គិត). He is the elder brother of *Ta Chim* we have just mentioned.
 Dany: Is his name PREAP Kith?
 Hoeun: He had fled into the jungle and died when he was there.
 Dany: *Ta Kith* is the older brother of *Ta Chim*. Who was Second from *Ta Kith*? And who were the rest of the three-member Committee?
 Hoeun: There was no one second from *Ta Kith*. After being assigned to work in Takeo for a few days, *Ta Kith* was sent to by *Ta Mok* the *Ta Khmao* (តាខ្មៅ) Sector known as Sector 25. I met him at *Ta Khmao* when he was the Provincial Governor.
 Dany: Who were *Ta Kith's* predecessors?
 Hoeun: His predecessor was *Ta Saom* (សោម) who was a Khmer Rouge warlord. I forgot the name of *Ta Saom's* immediate successor. But I remember *Ta Nhev* (ញើវ), *Ta Keav* (គាវ), and *Ta Muth* (មុត) who were also part of the Provincial Governing body in charge of the military.
 Dany: Were you mentioning *Ta Muth*?

- Hoeun: Yes, I was. *Ta Nhev* and *Ta Heng* were killed by B-52 bombs at the same time.
- Dany: Were you saying that *Ta Nhev* was *Ta Saom*'s immediate successor?
- Hoeun: There was another person by the name of *Ta Keav*.
- Dany: Was *Ta Keav* also his successor?
- Hoeun: *Ta Keav* was the deputy Secretary who then became the Secretary after the previous Secretary died.
- Dany: Who else?
- Hoeun: *Ta Ouch*, who was District Secretary, came after *Ta Keav* and *Ta Nhev*. Well, there was another person. He was, *Ta Prak* (ព្រាត់), who was the Provincial Governor. They were all taken to attend a study session and disappeared ever since. *Ta Kith* then came as a replacement.
- Dany: What about *Ta Ouch*?
- Hoeun: Initially *Krou Ouch* was the District Secretary of Koh Andet.
- Dany: Were *Ouch* and *San* (សាន) the same person?
- Hoeun: Who were you asking me about?
- Dany: I was asking you about *Ouch*.
- Hoeun: *Krou Ouch* was a former teacher. I do not know his surname.
- Dany: What is his wife's name?
- Hoeun: UNG Koeun (អ៊ុង គឿន). Ken (កេន) is *Ta Tith*'s wife (តាទិត).
- Dany: Was *Ouch* was the District Secretary?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He had remained the District Secretary of *Tram Kak* until the Vietnamese came. He then fled into the jungle.
- Dany: Was he the District Secretary of *Tram Kak*?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was the last Secretary for the district. His wife's name is *Koeun*. *Ta Tith*'s wife name is *Ken*.
- Dany: *Koeun* was the District Secretary. Did *Ouch* ever become the Sector Secretary?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. He was made commune chief before becoming the District Secretary.
- Dany: The Sector Secretaries were *Ta Saom*, *Ta Nhev*, *Ta Keav*, *Ta Prak*, and *Ta Kit*. What about *Ta Chim*?
- Hoeun: *Ta Chim* was the Secretary of the Ministry in charge of the Rubber Plantations.
- Dany: At that time were you also part of the District Committee headed by *Ta Ouch*?
- Hoeun: No, I wasn't. *Ta Ouch* became part of the District Committee only after I had left.
- Dany: Was *Ta Ouch* the last District Secretary?
- Hoeun: *Ta Chay* was *Ta Ouch*'s predecessor. I don't know the latter's surname. Oh! I now remember it. His surname is *Ty* (ទី). So his full name is *Ty Chay*.
- Dany: What had become of *Ty Chay*?
- Hoeun: What did you say?
- Dany: Now I'd like you tell me the story from the beginning. When you were at *Tram Kak* district, was the District Secretary *Ta Chim*?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. I worked with him.

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Transcribed by CHHAY Davin, RY Leakhena and SOKH Vannak - 10/88

- Dany: What position had *Ta Chim* been holding from the beginning?
 Hoeun: *Ta Chim* had been the head of the Khmer Rouge who was tasked with distributing leaflets. As soon as he left the jungle he was appointed the District Secretary. He had been holding this position for a long time.
- Dany: *Ta Chim* was the Secretary since the beginning. Who was his deputy?
 Hoeun: *Ta Chim* was the deputy. Let me recall who the Secretary was. *Yeay Khom* (ឌុម), the wife of *Ta Muth*, was the Secretary. Her name is PRIEK Khom (ព្រីក ខុម). She's *Ta Mok*'s daughter.
- Dany: Who was the Secretary?
 Hoeun: *Ta Chim* was the deputy.
 Dany: Was PRIEK Khom the Secretary and *Ta Chim* her deputy?
 Hoeun: And *Ta Dân* (តាំង) was a member. But he has passed away.
- Dany: Who is *Ta Dân*?
 Hoeun: *Ta Dân* was from Zone 5. He has passed away.
 Dany: *Ta Dân* was the member. Is Ly La (លី ឡា) his father?
 Hoeun: Yes, he is.
 Dany: Is *Ta Dân*'s son *Ta Tith*'s in-law?
 Hoeun: Yes, he is.
 Dany: *Yeay Khom* or PRIEK Khom, who was *Ta Muth*'s wife, held that position at the beginning. Is that right?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is. PRIEK Khom and *Ta Chim* were the first District Secretaries.
 Dany: And what about *Ta Dân*? Was he also one of the first District Secretaries?
 Hoeun: *Ta Dân*'s grandfather's name is Saom. So his full name is SAOM Dân. He is my first cousin.
- Dany: Is SAOM Dân your first cousin?
 Hoeun: Yes, he is. His mother is my mother's younger sister.
 Dany: *Yeay Khom* was *Ta Chim*'s predecessor. Who succeeded next?
 Hoeun: *Ta Chay* (ចាយ) did.
- Dany: Did *Ta Chim* become the Secretary after Khom?
 Hoeun: Chim became the Secretary. *Ta Chay* was his successor.
 Dany: Were you then the member?
 Hoeun: Yes, I was. I was in charge of bookkeeping.
 Dany: For how long had you been the member?
 Hoeun: I had been the member since 1976.
 Dany: From 1976 until which year had you been the member?
 Hoeun: I had been the member until 1978 when I went to Chub Rubber Plantations.
- Dany: It means that you were the member of Tram Kak district from 1976 to 1978. Is that correct?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is.
 Dany: And were you transferred over there along with *Ta Chim*?
 Hoeun: Yes, I was.
 Dany: Were both of you transferred at the same time?
 Hoeun: Yes, we were.
 Dany: Did *Ta Chay* come to replace you after you were transferred?
 Hoeun: *Krou Ouch* became the successor. *Ta Chay* was replaced even before *Ta Chim* came.

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Transcribed by CHHAY Davin, RY Leakhena and SOKH Vannak - 11/88

- Dany: You mentioned that *Ta Chay* was replaced before *Ta Chim*. What year was *Ta Chay* removed?
- Hoeun: He was also transferred in 1976. *Ta Chim* was not transferred until 1978.
- Dany: In 1976 where was *Ta Chay* transferred to?
- Hoeun: He was transferred to Preah Netr Preah (ព្រះនេត្រព្រះ) to work with *Yeay Chem* (ឃឹម).
- Dany: Between *Ta Chay* and *Yeay Chem* who was higher in the hierarchical order?
- Hoeun: *Ta Chay* was higher. He had good rapport in the resistance movement. He was also well-bred.
- Dany: And the last person to resume that position was Ouch. Is that right?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. *Krou Ouch* was the last person to resume that position. He had been holding the position until the Vietnamese came.
- Dany: Did Ouch have other names?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. He only had one name. He was a schoolteacher.
- Dany: Was he a schoolteacher?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He came to live in my village since he got married. Later he was called to work at Koh Andet. He was also known as San.
- Dany: Was he known as San and Ouch?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. But his name at birth is Ouch.
- Dany: Where does he live now?
- Hoeun: He lives in Samlot Chas (សំឡូតចាស់).
- Dany: In which commune does he live?
- Hoeun: He lives in Chhak Roka (ឆករកា) commune.
- Dany: It is located at the Au Rut Kroh (អូររូតក្រា) area?
- Hoeun: The Au Rut Kroh is located in the same commune. The boundary of that commune begins from here all the way to the West direction of the road until the Au Rut Kroh.
- Dany: Nowadays is he only known as Ouch?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is. No one calls him San.
- Dany: Are you saying that he is no longer called San?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am. San was the *nom de guerre* he only used during the Khmer Rouge period when he worked in Koh Andet district.
- Dany: Is *Ta Chim* still alive?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is. He is my older brother-in-law who used to live with my family. But they got divorced in 1985.
- Dany: And when *Krou Ouch*, who is *Ta Mok*'s the younger brother-in-law, was the Secretary of Tram Kak district, who was his deputy?
- Hoeun: I don't know. I had left by that time.
- Dany: Were you on the Koh Andet District Committee?
- Hoeun: The first District Secretary of Koh Andet was *Krou Ouch*. When Ouch was transferred to Tram Kak *Ta Soeun* and *Ta Yèv* took that position respectively.
- Dany: Initially *Krou Ouch* alias San was the Secretary. He had his name changed to San when he was at Koh Andet. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: When was he transferred?

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- Hoeun: He was transferred during the fighting. I don't remember the exact year. He started working there since the beginning of the establishment of the power structure.
- Dany: When he was transferred to Tram Kak Soeun replaced him. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. *Ta* Soeun and *Ta* Yèv replaced him.
- Dany: And *Ta* Yèv is your older brother, isn't he?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is.
- Dany: Before *Ta* Yèv came to Tram Kak where had he been?
- Hoeun: We used to live in the same village in Tram Kak as I did.
- Dany: But before he went to Koh Andet what did he do?
- Hoeun: He was the deputy Secretary of Koh Andet district.
- Dany: Was he the deputy Secretary of the district from the outset?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Was that before he moved to Koh Andet?
- Hoeun: Before moving to Koh Andet he did some rice farming also. Later on he was assigned to work over there.
- Dany: When he worked over there was he the deputy Secretary of Koh Andet district?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Was Soeun the Secretary?
- Hoeun: *Ta* Soeun was both Sector Police Chief and the deputy Secretary of the district.
- Dany: Was he in charge of the Sector's security?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was in charge of arresting people. He was once attempting to have me arrested but all to no avail.
- Dany: Is *Ta* Soeun still alive?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is. We met when he came to Au Rut Kroh.
- Dany: Where does he live?
- Hoeun: He lives in Anlong Veng.
- Dany: Do you know his wife's name?
- Hoeun: I used to know her name when we lived there. But I don't remember it now.
- Dany: In which part of Anlong Veng does he live? And what is his surname?
- Hoeun: I don't know about this.
- Dany: Where is he from?
- Hoeun: He is a native of Kampot.
- Dany: Which district is he from?
- Hoeun: He is from Chhouk (ឈ្នួត) district.
- Dany: Tram Kak district was initially headed by *Ta* Ouch and then *Ta* Soeun. Is that right?
- Hoeun: *Ta* Soeun and *Ta* Yèv were there to replace him. They were there until the Vietnamese came. When the Vietnamese came they left.
- Dany: What about Angkor Chey (កង្កែបជ័យ)?
- Hoeun: Angkor Chey district was governed by *Yeay* Chem-*Ta* Nhēn.
- Dany: Did *Yeay* Chem-*Ta* Nhēn govern Angkor Chey?
- Hoeun: Yes, she did. She was the Secretary of Angkor Chey district. Her husband's name is NHĒN Tauch (ញ៉ែន ត្នូច).
- Dany: Was he called *Ta* Nhēn?

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- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: What about a person by the name of Sieng (ស៊ីង). Do you know him?
- Hoeun: *Ta* Sieng was *Yeay* Chem's younger brother-in-law. I forgot his surname.
- Dany: Which district did *Ta* Sieng govern?
- Hoeun: He ran from the district. He made his way to Kampong Cham. But I don't know which district he was in.
- Dany: Are you talking about *Ta* Sieng?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am. He had remained there until the Vietnamese came.
- Dany: Did *Ta* Sieng and Ouch ever have some arguments?
- Hoeun: I've never heard anything about this.
- Dany: Do you know which district *Ta* Sieng used to live?
- Hoeun: He lived in Tram Kak district too.
- Dany: Was he on the District Committee?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Which district?
- Hoeun: I don't know. He left for another province.
- Dany: Do you know who the Secretary of Treang district (ទ្រាំង)?
- Hoeun: No, not at all.
- Dany: How about *Yeay* Chem and *Ta* Nhēn? Were they transferred as well?
- Hoeun: They were transferred to Preah Netr Preah long with *Ta* Chay in 1976.
- Dany: Who replaced *Yeay* Chem in Angkor Chey district when she was transferred to Preah Netr Preah?
- Hoeun: *Ta* Nith did. He's *Ta* Mok's the younger brother-in-law. His full name is MÂM Nith (ម៉ម នីត).
- Dany: Is MÂM Nith the younger brother-in-law of *Ta* Mok?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is.
- Dany: What is his wife's name?
- Hoeun: His wife's name is Poun (ពួន).
- Dany: Is she *Yeay* Poun?
- Hoeun: Yes, she is. *Yeay* Poun was deceased. Her children are still alive. Her full name is PRIEK Poun (ព្រីក ពួន).
- Dany: Did Nith die recently or did he die a long time ago?
- Hoeun: He died during the time when he fled into the jungle.
- Dany: Was he part of Sector 13 Committee?
- Hoeun: No, he wasn't. Before I left I didn't see him working there.
- Dany: Did Nith work until the Vietnamese came?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did.
- Dany: Who was in charge of Treang district?
- Hoeun: I do not know who was in charge of Treang district for I have never been there.
- Dany: Are you sure you don't know anyone who was in charge of Treang district?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am.
- Dany: Who was in charge of Kirivong district?
- Hoeun: I have never been there either. I used to arrange to have some materials distributed over there.

- Dany: You mentioned about *Ta* Tith who is *Yeay* Ken's husband. What did he do?
- Hoeun: Are you asking me about *Ta* Nith?
- Dany: No, I'm not. I am asking you about *Ta* Tith.
- Hoeun: *Ta* Tith was the Governor of Battambang province.
- Dany: What was his position before he was in charge of Battambang?
- Hoeun: He was the Secretary of Tany (តានី) district. After *Ta* Tith had left *Yeay* Chem took over for a short period of time. Then *Yeay* Chem also left that district. The three of them had left that district.
- Dany: What is the name of that district again please?
- Hoeun: I don't know the name of that district. It might be Angkor Chey district. When I was in charge of the food distribution inventory and bookkeeping in Tram Kak district people would come from that district to collect their rice and food supplies.
- Dany: Where was the food distributed?
- Hoeun: It was distributed at Tram Kak district. Food was collected from Tram Kak district to distribute to the new people over there.
- Dany: Was *Ta* Tith also there?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: What was his position?
- Hoeun: He was the District Secretary.
- Dany: When did he become the District Secretary?
- Hoeun: It was during *Yeay* Chem's term in office.
- Dany: When you are saying he was the Secretary of the district during *Yeay* Chem's term in office did that happen before the fall of Phnom Penh in 1975?
- Hoeun: Regarding this I don't recollect at all. There were *Ta* Tith, *Yeay* Chem, and Choeun (ចៀន), Dân (ដាន) who were in charge of Angkor Chey.
- Dany: Who is Choeun?
- Hoeun: SAOM Choeun and SAOM Dân are brothers.
- Dany: What did SAOM Choeun do?
- Hoeun: He was also the Tany District Secretary.
- Dany: Are Tany and Angkor Chey the districts?
- Hoeun: Yes, they are. I can recall it now. Angkor Chey is the district.
- Dany: Was *Ta* Tith not in charge of Kirivong district?
- Hoeun: No, he wasn't. He was in charge of Angkor Chey district.
- Dany: What about *Ta* Tēm (តេម)?
- Hoeun: For *Ta* Tēm I only knew him when I was in the jungle. I don't know him anymore. He was *Ta* Mok's most senior military Commander. He was good at military tactics.
- Dany: Had you been the member from 1976 to 1978? And who was the Secretary of the Southwest Zone then?
- Hoeun: *Ta* Mok was. He had been the only person in charge of that Zone.
- Dany: Who was *Ta* Mok's deputy?
- Hoeun: He had no deputy. He was in charge all by himself.
- Dany: Was *Ta* Mok in charge all by himself?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. Those who were closer in rank to *Ta* Mok were the Sector Secretaries.

- Dany: How many Sectors were there during that time?
 Hoeun: There were five Sectors.
 Dany: What were they?
 Hoeun: They were Tram Kak, District 108, District 109, District 107, and District 106.
 Dany: Were they districts?
 Hoeun: Yes, they were.
 Dany: Were those districts under the jurisdiction of Sector 13?
 Hoeun: Yes, they were.
 Dany: Where was Sector 13? Where was Sector 13 Office situated?
 Hoeun: Sector 13 Office was under *Ta* Soeun. He has passed away. His full name is NĀM Soeun (ណាំ ស៊ុន). He was a Khmer Rouge Commander.
- Dany: But where was the Sector Office located?
 Hoeun: It was located in the provincial town of Takeo.
 Dany: Where was Sector 25 located?
 Hoeun: I don't know. But when *Ta* Kith left from here he went there to take charge of Sector 25.
- Dany: Are you talking about *Ta* Kith?
 Hoeun: Yes, I am. It was PREAP Kith. He was the person we have just talked about earlier.
- Dany: Did he move to work at Koh Thum-Sa'ang which was located along the river banks?
 Hoeun: Yes, he did. That Provincial Office was located on the riverside. I have been there on one occasion.
- Dany: Was that where Sector 25 located?
 Hoeun: Yes, it was. The Office was adjacent to *Ta* Khmao. It was on the riverside.
 Dany: I take that as *Ta* Kith's Office.
 Hoeun: His Office located at the provincial hall.
 Dany: What about Sector 33?
 Hoeun: I don't know.
 Dany: You don't know where Sector 33 was located, do you?
 Hoeun: No, I don't.
 Dany: Was Sector 35 in Kampot?
 Hoeun: I don't know where that Sector was located either. The only Sector I remember the most was the one at which I used to meet and work with people.
- Dany: When did *Ta* Tith move to Battambang?
 Hoeun: He moved to Battambang in 1976. *Yeay* Chem came two or three months later. Then *Ta* Chay also moved.
- Dany: What about *Ta* Tith?
 Hoeun: *Ta* Tith was the Provincial Governor?
 Dany: Did he arrive first?
 Hoeun: He came at the same time with the group of three people including *Yeay* Chem, and *Ta* Chay.
- Dany: Regarding the three people, who was the most senior person in terms of their rank?
 Hoeun: *Ta* Tith was the most senior. He was the Provincial Governor. He had a Diploma.

- Dany: How could you rise to a high rank position in that regime given that your mother is a Vietnamese?
- Hoeun: They had me hold only petty position.
- Dany: Who made you hold the position?
- Hoeun: It was *Ta* Chim who did it. He is also my older brother-in-law.
- Dany: Is he your older brother-in-law?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is. We were living in the same village also.
- Dany: How does he relate to you? Is he married to one of your loved ones?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is.
- Dany: How does his wife relate to your wife?
- Hoeun: His wife is my wife's older sister.
- Dany: Thanks to this family relation you were appointed by *Ta* Chim to be a member of the district. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: You said your mother was wanted for execution. Who wanted her killed?
- Hoeun: *Yeay* Khom did. She was the District Secretary.
- Dany: Are you mentioning *Yeay* Khom?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am. She is *PRIEK* Khom. However after *Ta* Chim had noted that my mother and I were constantly persecuted he made me move to work at the District Office instead. At the District Office *Yeay* Khom had attempted to have me removed from my post. SAOM Dân (ស្រុក ដំន) warning her not to remove me. He said to her that if she learnt that I was *Ta* Chim's in-law she wouldn't wish to remove me anymore. *Yeay* Khom replied with a threatening tone to Dân that she wouldn't care who the heck I was as she didn't know who Chim was anyway. Dân is my younger brother.
- Dany: Are you referring to SAOM Dân?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am. Without such intervention I would have been killed. Soeun also attempted to have me killed. He once spent the whole night convincing the District Secretary to give him permission to have me killed. I knew he wanted me dead because the following morning of that same day my messenger rushed to me with some information that I was wanted for an execution for I kicked the Brother who was in charge of Koh Andet. He came to me with that information early in the morning when I was about to wash my face. As soon as I heard this I quickly took my motorcycle and off I went to the Provincial Office to meet with *Ta* Kith. When I met him I told him that I was wanted dead. He asked me who wanted to kill me. I told him that Soeun from Koh Andet did. He said who the heck assigned Soeun to be in charge there in the first place. He said he met him once but the guy was rather arrogant. They guy was too economical with his words. Even though he was trying to make him talk to him during the accident when his car skidded into the ditch he didn't want to. He sent his messenger to tell Soeun that he wanted to see him. Since that messenger was from the same village as mine I told him to keep me informed of *Ta* Kith's decision regarding my execution. My messenger then went to call Soeun (Koh Andet) and returned at 2 p.m. When Soeun came *Ta* Kith challenged him. He asked why he abused his power by threatening to shoot and kill people arbitrarily. He said it was lucky that the person he had threatened to kill was this Comrade. If that happened to another person

he wouldn't be that lucky. Soeun started crying after being yelled at. He continued to say that he wanted to see him. But he didn't want to see him. He said he was trying to talk to him. But he ignored him. *Ta* Kith got angry with Soeun who did not sit and talk with him. That's why at dusk of that same day Yèv, my older brother, came to see me and burst into tears because he learnt that I was accused of being a traitor. I told him not to worry about this and not to be afraid. I said I was not at fault. I told him I was satisfied to have kicked Soeun.

- Dany: Are you speaking about Yèv who was your older brother?
 Hoeun: Yes, I am. He was Soeun's deputy.
 Dany: Do you mean *Ta* Yèv?
 Hoeun: Yes, I do.
 Dany: When did that older brother of yours die?
 Hoeun: He died in the jungle in 1979.
 Dany: Did another older brother of yours who was holding a senior position in the military rank, Heng, die too?
 Hoeun: Yes, he did. UL Heng was killed by B-52 bomb in 1973.
 Dany: Your father died in 1977. Did he die in the hospital in Phnom Penh?
 Hoeun: Yes, he did. He died in the 17 April Hospital, Phnom Penh.
 Dany: Who took his body back?
 Hoeun: I had his body transported by the Sector Hospital headed by his wife.
 Dany: Was she the Head of the Sector Hospital?
 Hoeun: Yes, she was.
 Dany: What is her name?
 Hoeun: Her father's name is Yin (យ៉ិន). I don't remember her grandfather's name.
 Her name is Dy (ឌី). She was the Head of the hospital. His body was kept at the hospital.
 Dany: After he died did you take his body to the district?
 Hoeun: No, I didn't. His body wasn't taken to the district.
 Dany: Are you saying that his body was not properly buried?
 Hoeun: I don't know where he was buried.
 Dany: Did you not come to see his body?
 Hoeun: No, I didn't
 Dany: Were you not allowed to see the body or did you not want to go and see it?
 Hoeun: If I had asked for permission to see it I would have been allowed to. But I chose not to.
 Dany: Why did you choose not to see it?
 Hoeun: Because at that time I had to go to Phnom Penh for I was tasked with pulling down houses for a month. After being there for a week I started to feel scared. At night there were several soldiers coming out from the surrounding houses. The area was very well lit. It was as bright as it was in a day time.
 Dany: Were there soldiers?
 Hoeun: There were LON Nol's soldiers. About 10-20 soldiers were arrested each night. I asked them where they had been. They said they were hiding in the old restrooms and canals. Several of them remained in hiding. One of them said people came to carry out the arrests every day. Noting such unfavourable situation I returned to my home village. I asked someone to

take over from me in Phnom Penh. A man was found to replace me. He went to sleep at LON Nol's home. One day, Dang (អាងង), SAOM Dân's younger brother asked me to see the King's daughter. I was sitting in street while he was molesting her.

Dany: How did he molest her?

Hoeun: The King's daughter came to play near the metal wall. There was a hole in the wall that allowed him to touch her playfully. In the following morning I went to look for him. I didn't see him. I asked for him and wanted to know where he was. The person I asked told me that he was sent to a study session. He actually was sent to Prey Sar and killed.

Dany: Are you referring to SAOM Dang?

Hoeun: Yes, I am.

Dany: Which year was he killed?

Hoeun: He was killed in 1976. His older brother, SAOM Choeun (សោម ចៀន) also ended up being killed during that year.

Dany: Are you saying he was also killed?

Hoeun: Yes, I am. SAOM Doeun (សោម ឡឿន) worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when he was in Phnom Penh.

Dany: What did SAOM Dang do?

Hoeun: He was in a Battalion. His associate by the name of Noeuk (អាឡឺក) who had also invited me to see the King's daughter was also killed.

Dany: What was the name of the King's daughter?

Hoeun: People called her Princess Pang (អង្គរាស័យប៉ាង). That's all I know about her.

Dany: Where did you see Princess Pang? At which location did they molest the princess?

Hoeun: She came to play with us and let us feel her body.

Dany: Which parts of her body did they feel?

Hoeun: They could touch her all over her body. She didn't mind being touched. As the result all the male soldiers who were involved in this were killed. This includes the guy who came to replace me. I went into LON Nol's former house and saw him being tied with some ropes all over his body. I asked him what he had done wrong that he was tied like this. He said he was tied because he went to see the princess. I asked him when he would be untied and released. He said he would never be untied and released. He went on to say that he would be taken away and killed. I went out for my work. When I returned he was gone.

Dany: Did you involve in touching the princess?

Hoeun: No, I didn't. I was sitting in the street. If I had joined them I would have been killed as well.

Dany: Did SAOM Dang touch her?

Hoeun: He was standing near that wall where the princess was. I don't know whether he had touched her.

Dany: Regarding this incidence were all the people involved arrested?

Hoeun: Yes, they were.

Dany: Do you know who carried out the arrests?

Hoeun: *Ta Met* (ម៉ែត) of the Zone 5 Forces did.

- Dany: Are you referring to SOU Met?
Hoeun: Yes, I am.
Dany: Was he the person who carried out the arrests?
Hoeun: People who were arrested were detained at *Ta Met's* prison.
Dany: What was the name of that prison?
Hoeun: It's Tuol Sleng prison. My wife used to buy a 200-Riel ticket to visit it and saw the photos of Dang and Cheoun. They're my relatives. They were seen lying on the beds. Their bodies were so skinny. Their names and photos were attached to their respective bed.
- Dany: Where did the incidence when the princess had been touched take place?
Hoeun: It took place in front of LON Nol's house. It was two houses to the North of LON Nol's house.
- Dany: Pang is the Princes, wasn't she?
Hoeun: Yes, she is. She's very pretty. I saw her from a distance.
Dany: Did you also see her?
Hoeun: Yes, I did.
Dany: Had you been in Phnom Penh on several occasions?
Hoeun: I went there only once during 1976.
Dany: Since you were already the member of the district you were free to go to Phnom Penh, weren't you?
Hoeun: Yes, I could go anywhere I wished.
Dany: Does that mean you did not need to ask for permission from anyone before you went?
Hoeun: I only needed to ask for written permission from the District Secretary.
Dany: What did you write when you asked for permission?
Hoeun: I would state that I wanted to visit Phnom Penh and that I'd like to see the city. With that they gave me permission. Whatever district I said I wanted to visit I would be allowed to do so.
- Dany: Did you carry the letter of permission while travelling?
Hoeun: Yes, I did.
Dany: Did the letter of permission from the district suffice?
Hoeun: For a travel within the province only permission letter from the district sufficed.
- Dany: What about permission to travel to Phnom Penh?
Hoeun: For a travel to Phnom Penh letter of permission from the district is sufficient. For example, I had only the letter of permission from the district for my work in Phnom Penh.
- Dany: How did you go to Phnom Penh?
Hoeun: I took the truck which carried the wooden structures of the houses we had removed from various houses near Boeng Tumpun (បឹងទំព័រ). The truck would travel from the South of Boeng Tumpun to the West of it.
- Dany: What were the wooden structures you had removed from those old houses used for?
Hoeun: The long pieces of wood were used to build schools and cooperative communal eating halls. We were tasked with removing houses and taking only the long wood planks and long pieces of woods.
- Dany: Were you only asked to look for the long pieces of wood and long wood planks?
Hoeun: Yes, I was.

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Transcribed by CHHAY Davin, RY Leakhena and SOKH Vannak - 20/88

- Dany: Were those pieces of woods transported to Tram Kak?
 Hoeun: Yes, they were. The truck from the district would be used to transport them from Phnom Penh.
- Dany: Who were you supposed to meet in Phnom Penh during your trip?
 Hoeun: *Ta Kim* (គីម) from Kus (គុស) village who worked in a Regiment took me to LON Nol's house. He was *Ta Chim's* former messenger. Later *Ta Kim* rose to a senior position. *Ta Chim* contacted him to bring some people to take down wooden houses in Phnom Penh for some woods.
- Dany: Whose Division was that Regiment belong to?
 Hoeun: It was *Ta Met's* Division.
- Dany: Did you know *Ta Met* well?
 Hoeun: Yes, I did. I had known him since 1979.
- Dany: Did you only start to know him by 1979?
 Hoeun: Yes, I did.
- Dany: During the Khmer Rouge period did you know him then?
 Hoeun: No, I didn't.
- Dany: What about *Ta Muth*?
 Hoeun: I saw his troops in large numbers around LON Nol's house. *Ta Met* was in charge of the areas to the Southern direction of the house. The Southern part was under the control of the Southwest Zone.
- Dany: What about MEAS Muth? Did you know him well?
 Hoeun: I knew him in 1970 when he came out of the jungle and built his office in my paddy field near my home. We had remained in the jungle. By 1976 I was allowed to get out of to take goats and other trivial things for the District Office. The twelve goats were useful while the trivial things were useless.
- Dany: Did you know him in 1970?
 Hoeun: Yes, I did.
- Dany: What kind of office did he build? Was that a Sector Office?
 Hoeun: I have never heard what the office was called. But I knew *Ta Mok's* Office. *Ta Muth's* Office was never named.
- Dany: Did you get to know him 1970? Did you ever meet him again after that?
 Hoeun: When we were moving up to the Dangrek Mountain I met him again. It was on 24 April 1975. That was immediately after the whole country was liberated. *Ta Mok* bestowed MEAS Muth with the power to command the troops and govern Koh Kong.
- Dany: Where was it?
 Hoeun: It was in Koh Kong where he governed.
- Dany: What happened next?
 Hoeun: There were a lot and endless accounts about this. In Koh Kong my younger cousin-in-law (my wife's younger sibling) and my son shared with me the same worries. He said he had been very scared because a mind-boggling scale of people had been executed. He said he wouldn't dare to live over there anymore. I asked him to be patient and keep silent.
- Dany: Who carried out the executions?
 Hoeun: *Ta Nhăn's* squad did. *Ta Muth* authorized them to do.
- Dany: What was *Ta Nhăn's* position?
 Hoeun: He was the deputy Commander of a Division in Chhouk district of Kampot.

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Transcribed by CHHAY Davin, RY Leakhena and SOKH Vannak - 21/88

- Dany: Was he a native of Kampot and part of the Division under *Ta Muth*?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was with the same Division under *Ta Muth*.
- Dany: Was he less senior in rank than *Ta Muth*?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was *Ta Muth*'s deputy.
- Dany: But was *Ta Nhăn*'s Division in charge of carrying out the executions?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: Who were those people who were executed?
- Hoeun: They were soldiers and civilians from the cities. None of them was spared.
- Dany: People from which cities were killed? Who were they?
- Hoeun: People who were on LON Nol's party side were killed. The LON Nol's people had declared their defeat. On April 21 *Ta Mok* ordered his troops to deal with the defeated soldiers. When his troops got there they started announcing through the loud speakers from their trucks telling the Khmer Republic soldiers to lay down their arms and have them stacked in one place. They went on to say that for those who had surrendered they would be brought back to their respective home villages. The soldiers were convinced by *Ta Muth*'s deceitful statements. They surrendered their arms and military gears. Then some trucks were brought in to transport them away. When arriving at the unknown locations they were told to dig their own graves near the plantations of the fruit trees. All of them were killed while their legs remained shackled.
- Dany: What about your son?
- Hoeun: My son fled into the jungle with *Ta Muth* and died also.
- Dany: Was your son the one who knew about the widespread killing earlier?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was the only son of mine who died.
- Dany: Was he the one who came to tell you about the news?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: He has passed away, hasn't he?
- Hoeun: Yes, he has.
- Dany: What's his name?
- Hoeun: I called him Baraing (បារាំង). He has a white complexion as that of a French person.
- Dany: Was he the one who told you about the killings?
- Hoeun: He was the one who said he was very scared as truckloads of people were brought to be killed.
- Dany: What month was it?
- Hoeun: He came on two occasions. He came once in 1975 and another time in 1976. Each time he visited home he always talked about the killings.
- Dany: Where did the killings take place?
- Hoeun: The killings took place in Koh Kong. When our troops got there the town centre was full of armed LON Nol's soldiers. They had not laid down their arms yet. However they followed the instruction to lay down their arms and military gears. They didn't know that they were tricked that they would be transported to their home villages. None of them was brought to their home villages. They were shackled in the legs and made to dig their own graves near some fruit trees where they were killed and buried. When the rains came all those fruit trees were destroyed.
- Dany: Is *Ta Nhăn* still alive?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is.

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- Dany: Where does he live now?
Hoeun: I do not know where he lives now. I once met him when I just was departing from the North. He was living in Anglung Veng at that time. But I do not know if he still lives there.
- Dany: Did the killings start since 24 April 1975?
Hoeun: On 21 and 22 April when *Ta Muth* got there he declared through a loudspeaker telling the defeated soldiers to surrender their arms. So the killings started from that date.
- Dany: Besides Koh Kong where did *Ta Muth* work?
Hoeun: I don't know.
- Dany: Was he also in charge of Kampong Som?
Hoeun: He was in charge of the provincial towns of Koh Kong and Kampong Som.
- Dany: Were you informed of this through your son?
Hoeun: Yes, I was. I got this information from the villagers who went back and forth to those areas.
- Dany: But you did not see it with your own eyes, did you?
Hoeun: No, I didn't. I never went to those places. My son, who stayed there, told me that he was very scared for he had seen trucks with a full load of people destined to be killed. In 1976 the *Mayaguez* ship was set on fire. It was the 6th largest ship in the world. It had been set on fire for three consecutive months. But it was fire resistant. The important items on board the ship were collected and taken to the shores. It was very big that it could even accommodate an aircraft. It finally succumbed to fire after it had been fire resistant for three months. It had sunk in the ocean.
- Dany: How did you know that the *Mayaguez* ship was set on fire?
Hoeun: I learnt about this from the Provincial Governor who spoke during a study session I also attended.
- Dany: Who was the Provincial Governor?
Hoeun: *Ta Keav* (កែវ) was.
- Dany: Is his name *Ta Keav*?
Hoeun: Yes, it is. He was the Provincial Governor who presided over the study session.
- Dany: What did he say?
Hoeun: He said that in 1976 the *Mayaguez* ship, which was the 6th largest ship in the world and had a runway for an aircraft to land on, with hundreds of soldiers on board, was seized. All the soldiers and crew members were arrested. He added that the ship was illegal in our sea. The crew members were arrested and killed. Their corpses were buried near some trees while the ship was set on fire.
- Dany: Where were the corpses of those soldiers buried?
Hoeun: I don't know where they were buried because I have never been there. I only heard about this.
- Dany: Where was the ship seized?
Hoeun: It was seized at sea. But I don't know where at sea it was seized.
- Dany: Was *Ta Keav* the person who told you about this?
Hoeun: Yes, he was. *Ta Keav* opened that study session.
- Dany: Did you ever meet *Ta Mok*?
Hoeun: I used to meet him. I left him only when I came back from the North.

- Dany: When you were a member of Tram Kak district did you ever meet *Ta Mok*? Did *Ta Mok* ever mention to you about this during his teaching sessions?
- Hoeun: I did not study with *Ta Mok*. As a rank-and-file cadre I was not supposed to attend study sessions at the Zone level.
- Dany: Who would be qualified to attend the study sessions at the Zone level?
- Hoeun: Only high-ranking cadres such as District Secretaries or Provincial Governors would be allowed to attend such sessions. I was only a member. I therefore was not allowed to attend such sessions.
- Dany: At that time did your wife, children, and mother also stay at the District Office?
- Hoeun: No, they didn't. They were at home and tasked with carrying soil. My mother, who was old, was made to collect vegetables and cook rice for the people in the cooperative.
- Dany: You have mentioned that *Yeay Khom*, *Ta Muth's* wife, wanted to kill your mother. When did that happen?
- Hoeun: It happened in 1976 when *Yeay Khom* was still in the district. She killed KÂNG Chea (កង ឆា) who was one of *Ta Mok's* close friends. He was the assistant to the commune chief. This killing was reported to the senior level. *Ta Mok* held a meeting at Khporb Ta Pêk (ខ្ពុបតាពែក) Dam. People from the whole province were gathered to build that dam. During the meeting *Ta Mok* asked who killed Chea. He then challenged the District Secretary to find the perpetrator. He further warned that if the killer was not found the District Secretary would be buried up to the neck and raked. After three meetings were held *Yeay Khom* fled to Koh Kong where she died. She died in bed. She had died a few days before people knew it. Her corpse had been decomposing for a few days creating some stench.
- Dany: Did *Ta Mok* give the order to kill his own daughter?
- Hoeun: He challenged the Secretary of Tram Kak district to find the person who had killed Chea. He said if the killer was not found the District Secretary would have to be buried up to the neck and raked. He made such a threatening statement during three meetings at Kouk Tbaeng (កោកត្បែង) village. *Yeay Khom* was frightened by the statement and fled to live with her husband in Koh Kong. She fled to Koh Kong and died over there. She had mistreated people. That's why she died. Only *Yeay Khom* and *Ta Chim* were in charge of Kraing Ta Chan. (ក្រាំងតាចាន់).
- Dany: Now I would like to ask you about Tram Kak. Were many people killed in Tram Kak?
- Hoeun: The old villages were empty of people. They had been accused of having political tendencies and executed. I was also wanted for execution.
- Dany: *Ta Chim* is your elder brother-in-law who could give you some protection. Could he not protect you from being executed?
- Hoeun: Yes, he could. Thanks to him I was spared. He took me to work at the District Office to avoid being looked down and mistreated. However when I was over there *Yeay Khom* was still coming for me and wanted to kill me. When Dân, who was *Ta Chim's* deputy, told her that I was *Ta Chim's*

- the younger brother-in-law she responded with a threatening tone that she did not know anyone by the name of Chim.
- Dany: How long did *Yeay* Khom stay in Tram Kak District before she fled and died?
- Hoeun: She was assigned to work over there since she came out of the jungle.
- Dany: How long had she remained in Tram Kak?
- Hoeun: She had remained in Tram Kak until 1976 when *Ta* Mok wanted to kill her. Then she fled. She left in 1976. *Ta* Chim became her successor.
- Dany: When *Ta* Chim became in charge did he kill a lot of people?
- Hoeun: There were a lot of killings. The soldiers of *Ta* Rèn's (រ៉ែន) Division and Division 200 were all screened. They had their biographies checked and verified. Those who were found to have been affiliated and related to the parents or spouses of the ex-soldiers or police had been executed. One of my cousins, whose father was Vietnamese and whose mother was Khmer, came to ask me for a pair of shorts to wear after his military shoes, clothes, and hat had been removed immediately after the end of the war. He had walked from Koh Andet to my house. It took him a day and night to walk from Koh Andet which is near Vietnam border to my home. Without a letter of permission he was not allowed to get any food during his trip.
- Dany: You were saying that there were killings during *Ta* Chim's period. Is that true?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. I am not lying to you. You'd better visit Chumruk (ជំរុក).
- Dany: Where did the killings happen?
- Hoeun: Those people were brought into the jungle where they were executed. Later their skulls were collected and kept at a place which was previously used by forestry officers near Kraing Ta Chan.
- Dany: Were they taken to be executed at Kraing Ta Chan?
- Hoeun: Their skulls were kept at Kraing Ta Chan and the jungle near Kraing Ta Chan called Prey Khmaoch Kaun Khmeng (ព្រៃខ្ពោចក្បួនក្មេង) or Prey Srâmâ (ព្រៃស្រម៉ា).
- Dany: What did you do as a member of the District Committee? Were you not involved in any of the arrests and killings of people?
- Hoeun: How could I be involved for I was not allowed to know anything about those killings!
- Dany: Were you not allowed to know anything at all about those killings?
- Hoeun: No, I wasn't.
- Dany: *Ta* Chim is your elder brother-in-law. Why did you tell me that you were not involved?
- Hoeun: *Ta* Chim even wanted to kill me also.
- Dany: Did *Ta* Chim want to kill you?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. When we were fleeing into the jungle he ordered 15 soldiers to chase me down. When they found me two of them pointed the two B-40 rocket launchers at me while the rest were watching at me. They did not dare to kill me because I was with *Ta* Chum's (ជុំ) Division. This Division had plenty of soldiers.
- Dany: When did you have a row with *Ta* Chim?

Hoeun: I had a row with him when we were into the jungle. The row was stemming from the fact that I did not agree with what the group had decided. The group of 5-6 people including *Ta Chim* had reached an agreement to kill Yun (យ៉ុង) who was from Chub. He was the Head of *Ta Chim's* Office. He was also allowed to bring his wife with him while being in the jungle. He was tasked with looking after the office and *Ta Chim's* wife. However on one occasion when the Vietnamese troops attacked us he abandoned the office. *Ta Chim's* wife had gone missing. Though latter on she was found Yun was still wanted to be killed for his negligence in letting her go into missing. I didn't agree with the group. *Ta Chim* wanted to kill me because I vouched for Yun. I told him that Yun had joined us and followed us in the jungle because he loved and treated us like his parents. I went on to say that this man had to bring his wife here even though she had to be away from her parents and relatives. He was here for our cause. Now you wanted me to kill him. I wouldn't approve it. Then *Ta Chim* stamped his feet and yelled at me.

Dany: What did you say?

Hoeun: He yelled at me.

Dany: Do you remember what he said when he was yelling at you?

Hoeun: He stamped his feet and said that the reason he never wanted me to join him was that I didn't learn to agree what he's agreed. After the meeting I came to my place which was approximately ten kilometers into the jungle. After having some rice gruel a messenger was sent to kill me. That messenger used to be one of my people. When he arrived he burst into tears. I thought he was coming to see me because he had run out of rice to eat. I told him not to cry as there was still plenty of rice at my place and that he could get some. Then he proceeded to tell me that *Ta Chim* sent him to kill me. He said he wouldn't dare to kill me. He went on to say that if I wanted him to kill *Ta Chim* he would reluctant to do so. I told him not to seek revenge. I asked him to stay with me. That night he and I fled to the jungle to the North of Chamka Andaung (ថ្នាក់កណ្តាល), the Rubber Plantation, in Au Santhor village (អូសង្កែវ).

Dany: What year was that?

Hoeun: It was in July 1980 when we fled.

Dany: By 1980 already you were wanted to be killed, weren't you?

Hoeun: Yes, I was. He killed a lot of people in the jungle.

Dany: But his wife and your wife were sisters. Why had he sought revenge on you?

Hoeun: Because I did not agree with him when he wanted to kill the above mentioned man.

Dany: Later have you managed to get along with him?

Hoeun: No, I haven't. He wanted to kill me on three occasions. I happened to encounter and work with him again on Dangrek Mountain. For he was not successful with his intention to kill me he had to remove me from my position. He said he had to remove me from my post because I was a deserter. Actually I had deserted because I had been very sick. I had been hospitalized. My limbs and body were swollen. I could hardly bend my hands or legs. Fortunately *Ta Mok* had moved in to open Corridor 1001.

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He came to the hospital and asked a medic whether I had been cured and if I could go with him now. The medic told him that I could not be discharged now because my body remained swollen. Then *Ta Mok* warned the medic that if I died the medics would also be killed. Soon they gave me some vitamin B1 tablets. After taking them for a few times I felt better. My condition improved.

Dany: What caused your body and limbs to get swollen at that time?

Hoeun: It was because I had gone without foods a long period of time. When I had eaten some rice my body became swollen. It was swollen because of the rice I ate. The swelling was so severe that I could not even fold my legs. My whole body remained stiff. Because my swollen body was so big I couldn't share my hospital bed with other patient. I was not taken good care by the medics because *Ta Chim* had removed me from power and told the medics not to treat me well. As the result they did not give me any medicines until *Ta Mok* came.

Dany: When was that?

Hoeun: It was in 1980.

Dany: Where did it happen?

Hoeun: It was in July 1980 when I was on Dangrek Mountain. I was hospitalized at the hospital at Corridor 1001.

Dany: Corridor 1001 was under the control of SON Sen, wasn't it?

Hoeun: Yes, it was. After *Ta Mok* had left SON Sen was in charge of that access point. I asked for permission from SON Sen to let me go and work with *Ta Mok*. I asked him for a few times. Yet he didn't say no or yes. I was finally not given such permission. Then I told SON Sen that if I wasn't allowed to go and work with *Ta Mok* I would like to stay here with him at this office. I was then allowed to work at that office with SON Sen. Being in that office I was tasked with arranging 200 women to collect some leaves to make thatched roofs. However I was not aware of the geographical location and wouldn't know where to go for those leaves. I refused to go no matter how hard I had been pushed to do it. Finally another person was assigned to take over from me. I was then made to build houses and classrooms for political study sessions.

Dany: You have said that you moved to Kampong Cham in 1978. Is that correct?

Hoeun: Yes, it is.

Dany: In which month did you move?

Hoeun: In August 1978 I left for Kampong Cham.

Dany: Was it immediately before the collapse of the Khmer Rouge regime?

Hoeun: Yes, it was. Only a few months later the Vietnamese came. They came in 1979.

Dany: In 1978 why did you leave Tram Kak for Kampong Cham?

Hoeun: I had to move because *Ta Chim* was also moving to a new place. *Ta Chim* was concerned about my being persecuted. He wanted me to be with him. I had to leave because I was afraid that *Ta Soeun* would find me and put me in trouble.

Dany: Was that when *Ta Chim* and you were still in good terms?

Hoeun: Yes, it was. We were in good terms back then. We only had some row when we fled to jungle. While we were in the jungle he wanted to kill me. However he was not successful with his plan to kill me. Instead he killed

the wife of a man who fled with me. He wanted to kill her husband also. But I disagreed. I vouched for him not to be killed because I knew he had treated us like parents. I secretly told him to flee for his life because he would be killed if he didn't escape. Unfortunately his wife and child were killed inside a jungle that evening.

- Dany: Was *Ta Chim* transferred to Kampong Cham in August?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Who sent him over there?
- Hoeun: *Ta Mok* did.
- Dany: Did *Ta Mok* send him?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did.
- Dany: How are *Ta Chim* and *Ta Mok* related? Why did *Ta Mok* send *Ta Chim* over there?
- Hoeun: They both are not related. *Ta Mok's* home village was next to that of *Ta Chim's*.
- Dany: In August you moved to Kampong Cham. Did you have to go from Takeo to Kampong Cham directly or did you spend over night in Phnom Penh?
- Hoeun: I did not spend over night in Phnom Penh. I travelled all night until I reached Kampong Cham.
- Dany: Did you have to travel all night?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did.
- Dany: When you arrived in Kampong Cham whom did you first meet?
- Hoeun: I did not meet anyone in Phnom Penh. I continued on.
- Dany: Did you continue on until you got to Kampong Cham?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. The vehicle did not stop in Phnom Penh.
- Dany: What kind of vehicle did you travel in?
- Hoeun: There were many vehicles left by the LON Nol's army. They were managed by the district and province.
- Dany: How many people travelled with you?
- Hoeun: About 40 people were in that vehicle.
- Dany: Were 40 people in one vehicle? Besides you and *Ta Chim* who were those people?
- Hoeun: There were too many people for me to remember.
- Dany: Were there too many people for you to remember?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were. There were about 200 people.
- Dany: Where did the vehicles stop?
- Hoeun: The vehicles stopped near Chub factory. They stopped at the Head Office of the factory.
- Dany: Was Chub further away from Tonle Bet (ទន្លេប៉ែន)?
- Hoeun: It was around 10 kilometers further away from Tonle Bet.
- Dany: Did you go there in August?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. It went there in August 1978.
- Dany: Who did you meet when you got there?
- Hoeun: I met no one other than *Ta Chim* who was in charge over there.
- Dany: Of what section was *Ta Chim* the Head?
- Hoeun: He was the Head of the Ministry. He was a member of the Zone.
- Dany: What Zone was that?
- Hoeun: It was the East Zone. SON Sen was the Zone Secretary.
- Dany: What position did you hold at that time?

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- Hoeun: I was in charge of the Warehouse and Logistics.
 Dany: For whom did you work?
 Hoeun: I worked for *Ta Chim*.
 Dany: Was *Ta Chim* in charge of the Rubber Plantation Committee yet? Where was the Rubber Plantation?
 Hoeun: It was in Chub.
 Dany: Was he also a member of the East Zone?
 Hoeun: Yes, he was.
 Dany: Were you in charge of the logistics of Chub Rubber Plantation?
 Hoeun: Yes, I was.
 Dany: Did you know *Ta An* (តានាន) at that time?
 Hoeun: *Ta An* was in charge of Sector 41. Sector 41 covered some stretch of land which was cut off from Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom. After I fled to Au Trav (អូត្រាវ) I did not see him anymore.
 Dany: When did you get to know *Ta An*?
 Hoeun: I knew him well when I fled into the jungle. At that time I worked closely with him.
 Dany: Did you know him when you fled into the jungle after the fall of the Khmer Rouge in 1979?
 Hoeun: Yes, I did.
 Dany: Did you not know him yet when you worked in Tram Kak and Kampong Cham?
 Hoeun: No, I didn't. I had never been there.
 Dany: You did not know him at that time, did you?
 Hoeun: No, I didn't. I started to know him only when we were on the run.
 Dany: When did you know that he was in Sector 41?
 Hoeun: I knew that he was in Sector 41 when I was on the run in 1979. I met him in that year. He arrested and detained ten Rubber Plantation workers.
 Dany: At which prison were those workers detained?
 Hoeun: They were detained in Sector 41 prison near Chamka Leu (ចំការក្រវី). After the report was made to us I was assigned to ask *Ta An* to release them. Those workers were finally released and brought back to the Rubber Plantation.
 Dany: When were you on the run?
 Hoeun: It was in 1979 that I was on the run.
 Dany: Did he still arrest and detain workers in 1979 even after the Khmer Rouge Regime had collapsed? Did that happen before the Vietnamese troops came into Kampong Cham?
 Hoeun: Those fleeing workers were accused of being the Vietnamese spies. They were arrested and detained because *Ta An*'s forces did not know them.
 Dany: What was the name of that village?
 Hoeun: I don't know the village where the prison was located.
 Dany: Was *Ta An* the Secretary of Sector 41 at that time?
 Hoeun: He was the Provincial Governor.
 Dany: Was he the Governor of province 41?
 Hoeun: He served as the Provincial Governor.
 Dany: Did you ever see *Ta An*'s his deputy?

- Hoeun: I didn't see his deputy. I saw only the chiefs. I also met *Ta Sim* (ស៊ីម).
- Dany: When did you know *Ta Sim*?
- Hoeun: I knew him when we fled into the jungle because our wives were from the same villages. Our wives have known each other since they were young.
- Dany: What was the name of *Ta Sim*'s wife?
- Hoeun: Her name is *Sēm* (សែម).
- Dany: Is her name *Sēm*?
- Hoeun: Her full name is *MÂM Sēm* (ម៉ម សែម).
- Dany: How many children do they have?
- Hoeun: I don't know how many children they have.
- Dany: What position did *Ta Sim* hold?
- Hoeun: He was the Secretary of Sector 43.
- Dany: Where was Sector 43?
- Hoeun: It was in Kampong Thom province.
- Dany: Where is *Ta Sim*'s birthplace?
- Hoeun: It was said that he was born in Kampong Chhnang.
- Dany: Where is *MÂM Sēm*'s birthplace?
- Hoeun: She was born in Tram Kak district.
- Dany: Is she from the same district as yours?
- Hoeun: Yes, she is. We are from the same district. Our villages are next to each other.
- Dany: How are you and her related?
- Hoeun: She is also my cousin.
- Dany: Did you live in the same village with her?
- Hoeun: That small village was divided into two.
- Dany: What is the name of the village?
- Hoeun: It's called Trapeang Kul (ត្រពាំងគុល) village.
- Dany: Is it in Trapeang Thum Khang Tbaung commune?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. It is located in Tram Kak district.
- Dany: What is her father's name?
- Hoeun: Let me recall. Her father is *Ta Chuon* (ជួន) and her mother is *Yeay Sēm* (សែម).
- Dany: How many siblings does *Sēm* have?
- Hoeun: I don't remember. *Sim* (ស៊ីម), who is one of her elder sisters, was a school teacher. Perhaps she had only three siblings.
- Dany: Was *Sim* the elder sister of *Sēm*?
- Hoeun: Yes, she is. I have forgotten the name of the other one. *Sim* is the eldest sister.
- Dany: Where is *Sim* now?
- Hoeun: *Sim* has passed away. Only her husband is still alive. *Sun* (ស៊ីន) is the youngest one.
- Dany: Where is *Sun* living?
- Hoeun: She has also passed away. Only *Nèm*'s wife (ណែម) is still alive.
- Dany: As far as you know, where is *Sēm* living now?

- Hoeun: I don't know. When they established the administrative structure people who were related or connected were given positions and assigned some tasks where they had to leave the jungle to perform them. I didn't know what she did. When I fled into the jungle I met her husband.
- Dany: Where did you meet him?
- Hoeun: I met him on Dangrek Mountain. We fled into the jungle together. I met Sēm and Sim in the jungle. I met them again when we were on the Mountain.
- Dany: Was Sim deceased later?
- Hoeun: Yes, she was.
- Dany: Where did she die?
- Hoeun: She died on Kbal Lan (ក្បាលឡាន) Mountain in 1997. She died from ascites.
- Dany: Is Sēm still alive?
- Hoeun: Yes, she is.
- Dany: Where is she now?
- Hoeun: She is living in Phteah Muoy (ផ្ទះមួយ) village.
- Dany: Is she living in Phteah Muoy village?
- Hoeun: Yes, she is.
- Dany: Where is that village?
- Hoeun: I don't know.
- Dany: How do we get there?
- Hoeun: You can go to Krapeu Py (ក្រពើពីរ) then proceed to Veal Chambaing (វាលចំបាំង) and you will get to that village.
- Dany: Do we have to go through Krapeu Py?
- Hoeun: Yes, you do.
- Dany: How can we get to Krapeu Py?
- Hoeun: Thai vehicles carrying logs travel pass Krapeu Py to the South and turn right to the West toward the border.
- Dany: Is Phteah Muoy the name of that place.
- Dany: Yes, it is. It has been called Phteah Muoy since the war times.
- Dany: Does she live in Phteah Muoy?
- Hoeun: Yes.
- Dany: Can you guess how far it is from here to that place?
- Hoeun: It takes us the whole day to reach there.
- Dany: Does it take the whole day to get there?
- Hoeun: Yes, it does. When people got there on foot they would drop by at Sēm's house.
- Dany: Why did people have to drop by her house?
- Hoeun: They dropped by her house to get treated. A spell was cast on her child. She had to bring a Khmer traditional healer from Phnom Penh to remove it. Now the healer has moved to Prey Rumchek (ព្រៃរូមចក).
- Dany: Did that healer have to get there on foot?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did.
- Dany: Did it take her the whole day to walk there?
- Hoeun: Yes, it did.
- Dany: If we go there by car will it take less time?
- Hoeun: Yes, it will. I may take only a half day.

Original KH: 00968883-00969005

Transcribed by CHHAY Davin, RY Leakhena and SOKH Vannak - 31/88

- Dany: What is the name of the traditional healer?
 Hoeun: She is a female traditional healer. Her name is *Yeay Neth* (យាយនេត). She is living at Prey Rumchek.
 Dany: Is her name is *Yeay Neth* and living at Prey Rumchek?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is. Her house is at Prey Rumchek.
 Dany: Where is Prey Rumchek?
 Hoeun: I have never been there. I only know that she is at Prey Rumchek.
 Dany: Is Prey Rumchek in Samlot district?
 Hoeun: Samlot district stretches all the way to Dang Tung (ដងតុង) Bridge.
 Dany: Are you referring to that bridge?
 Hoeun: Yes, I am. Dang Tung Bridge is 90 meters long. The border of the district ends at that bridge.
 Dany: Is that place called Prey Rumchek village?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is.
 Dany: Is *Yeay Neth* a Khmer traditional healer?
 Hoeun: Yes, she is. She is good at removing spells.
 Dany: Has she ever been to Phteah Muoy?
 Hoeun: Yes, she has. But I don't know where she is now.
 Dany: Is her house in Phteah Muoy?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is.
 Dany: To get there we have to take Kbal Lan route. Is that correct?
 Hoeun: No, it isn't. You have to take Phlov Kraom route first. When you get to Kampong L'pov (កំពង់ស្រឡៅ) you will see a newly built road. You then proceed from Kampong L'pov to Veal Chambaing, Krapeu Py, and Samlanh (សំរោងព្រៃ). Then you have to travel through that jungle.
 Dany: Then we will arrive at Phteah Muoy. Is that correct?
 Hoeun: You have to pass another village before you get to Phteah Muoy.
 Dany: You don't know how many children *Sēm* has, do you?
 Hoeun: No, I don't. I had met only her parents. I asked them where she and other children were. They told me that they were at home. I don't know which home they were in.
 Dany: Did you know *Keth* at that time?
 Hoeun: I only knew *Ta Keth* who was at the Rubber Plantation.
 Dany: Was he at the Rubber Plantation?
 Hoeun: Yes, he was. *Ta Keth* was also known as *Ngorn* (ង័រ). He fled into the jungle with me.
 Dany: Was *Ta Keth*'s also known as *Ngorn*?
 Hoeun: Yes, he was.
 Dany: Which Rubber Plantation was *Ta Keth* at?
 Hoeun: He was at Chamka Andaung (ចំការអណ្តូង) Rubber Plantation in Stung Trang (ស្ទឹងត្រាង) district. I don't know his place of birth because I knew him only when I fled into the jungle with him.
 Dany: Where did *Ta Keth* come from?
 Hoeun: I don't know. He was in the army. He was holding several senior positions. But I don't know which place he had been in charge.
 Dany: Did you meet him when you fled into the jungle?

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- Hoeun: Yes, I did.
 Dany: Was that when the Vietnamese came in?
 Hoeun: Yes, it was.
 Dany: Where is he now?
 Hoeun: I don't know. Because I have moved here I have no idea where he is now. When I was leaving that place they all were in Along Veng. But I don't know which place they would have moved after that.
 Dany: What is the name of Keth's wife?
 Hoeun: I used to see her but I don't know her name.
 Dany: Is Sēm also related to *Ta Mok*?
 Hoeun: Yes, she is.
 Dany: Is Sēm, who's Sim's wife, *Ta Mok*'s niece?
 Hoeun: Yes, she is.
 Dany: Do you know Kan (កាន)?
 Hoeun: Yes, I do. *Ta Kan* also fled into the jungle with me.
 Dany: What position did he hold?
 Hoeun: He was the Secretary of Kang Meas (កងមាស) or Peam Chikang (ពាមជីកង) district. I have always mistaken Kang Meas for Peam Chikang and vice versa. I knew him very well when we were inside the jungle. *Ta Chim* ordered him to seize my weapon. I challenged him by asking him whether there was no more Vietnamese left in the country to justify such seizure. I said to him that his action could be inferred that he had been serving the Vietnamese because they were still present in Cambodia. I told him I couldn't fight the Vietnamese without my weapon. I told him to tell *Ta Chim* to come and seize it by himself. *Ta Chim* did not come. Later I came forward and handed it over to *Ta Mok*.
 Dany: Where is Kan living now?
 Hoeun: I don't know.
 Dany: Where did you meet him?
 Hoeun: I met him inside the jungle when we were on Dangrek Mountain.
 Dany: What year was that?
 Hoeun: I met him at Au Thum (អូរធំ). It was in Au Thum that he wanted to seize my weapon. It was at Corridor 1001. I had known him for a short period of time.
 Dany: Did you know Phim (ភីម) who was in charge of Batheay (បាធាយ) district?
 Hoeun: I don't know Phim. I have never heard of him.
 Dany: What about Monn (ម៉ុន) who was in charge of Cheung Prey (ជើងព្រៃ) district?
 Hoeun: *Ta Monn* also came from Trapeang Thum village. I don't know his full name. He was the Secretary of that district.
 Dany: Was he the Secretary of Cheung Prey district?
 Hoeun: Yes, he was.
 Dany: Is he still alive now?
 Hoeun: He may have passed away. Many of his friends have passed away. I know *Ta Monn* and *Ta Mân* (ម៉ែន).
 Dany: Do you know *Ta Monn* and *Ta Mân*?

- Hoeun: *Ta Mân* was *Ta Monn*'s deputy. *Ta Mân* also came from my village.
- Dany: Where is he now?
- Hoeun: After fleeing into the jungle for a few days he died.
- Dany: What about *Ta Monn*?
- Hoeun: I have never met him. The full name of *Ta Mân* is CHĒV Mân (ចេវ ម៉ន).
His grandfather's name is CHĒV.
- Dany: Is his full name CHĒV Mân?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: What is *Ta Monn*'s full name? Is his full name CHĒV Monn (ចេវ ម៉ន)?
- Hoeun: No, it isn't. They are not related. They were in charge of the same district.
I know Mân.
- Dany: Do you know *Yeay Yuth* (យ៉ៃ យុត)?
- Hoeun: Yes, I do. But I don't know her family name?
- Dany: Was *Yeay Yuth* on the District Committee?
- Hoeun: She worked in Kampong Siem (កំពង់សៀម) with *Ta Sy* (ស៊ី). *Ta Sy* was the
Secretary while *Yeay Yuth* was his deputy.
- Dany: Who is *Ta Sy*?
- Hoeun: His full name is OAK Sy (ឱក ស៊ី).
- Dany: Was OAK Sy in charge of Kampong Siem district?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was a warlord of Kampong Siem.
- Dany: Where is he now?
- Hoeun: I had left and don't know where he is now. Perhaps they all live in Along
Veng. *Ta Sy* did not return to his home village. But his older brother di
- Dany: What is his older brother's name?
- Hoeun: He is AOK Y (ឱក ឌី).
- Dany: Is he AOK Y?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is. He dies of malaria upon arriving at his home village.
- Dany: Where is his home village?
- Hoeun: He is also from Tram Kak (ត្រាំកក).
- Dany: Which village is that?
- Hoeun: It's Nhèng Nhâng (ញ៉េងញ៉ង) village.
- Dany: Is it in Nhèng Nhâng commune?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: Which village is that?
- Hoeun: I don't know.
- Dany: That's about AOK Y. What is the name of AOK Y's wife?
- Hoeun: I don't know. I never saw her. I only met *Ta Sy* who came to attend
meetings and worked at the district.
- Dany: You have never seen her, have you?
- Hoeun: No, I haven't.
- Dany: What is their father's name?
- Hoeun: His name is Aok.
- Dany: What about their mother's name?
- Hoeun: I don't know. I only knew and met his older brother.
- Dany: What about people in the Kampong Thom area?

- Hoeun: I don't know them as I have never been there.
- Dany: What about the man by the name of Phèn (ផែន)? Do you know him?
- Hoeun: Which Phèn are you talking about?
- Dany: I am *Ta Phèn*?
- Hoeun: *Ta Phèn* initially was the Provincial Governor. I should have mentioned about him earlier. He was Saom's deputy. When *Ta Saom* (តាសោម) had left *Ta Keav* (តាកាវ) took over from him. After that there were *Ta Nhev* (តាញ៉ែវ) and *Ta Muth* (តាមុត).
- Dany: Where did *Ta Saom* go?
- Hoeun: I don't know. We parted ways. I had also left for another district while *Ta Phèn* had been removed and detained at Chrey Au Phnov Mountain (ជ្រៃអូរព្រៃ) after being accused of having an affair with eighteen women within the rank. The news of these moral misconducts was known after those women had got married. They told their husbands that they were not virgin because they were raped by *Ta Phèn* who was then the Provincial Governor. As a consequence he was taken and detained at Chey Au Phnov Mountain where he made to break rocks.
- Dany: Was *Ta Phèn* brought there?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. I arranged to have him and another man be taken by car over there.
- Dany: Did you arrange to have them taken by car over there?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. The car was arranged to take him and a school teacher by the name of Onn (អ៊ុន).
- Dany: Were both of them committing moral misconducts?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were. *Ta Onn* has passed away. His relatives were the school teachers. They were also taken there. In total there were six to seven people who were brought there. I don't remember their names. I remember only *Ta Phèn* and *Ta Saom* whom I had known in the jungle.
- Dany: What about *Ta Chhum* (តាជួន)?
- Hoeun: I have never heard of him.
- Dany: Have you never heard of him?
- Hoeun: No, I haven't.
- Dany: Did you know *Yeay Chem* (យាយចែម) well?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. But I don't know her surname.
- Dany: When she was in charge of Angkor Chey (អង្គរជ័យ) were she and *Ta Nhen* on board of any Sector Committee?
- Hoeun: There was another person in charge of the province in which Angkor Chey district is located.
- Dany: Where was *Yeay Chem* transferred from?
- Hoeun: She was transferred from Angkor Chey and became a Provincial Governor of Battambang along with *Ta Tith* (តាទិត).
- Dany: Was she with *Ta Tith* in Battambang?
- Hoeun: Yes, she was.
- Dany: Do you know where she worked?

- Hoeun: She worked in Preah Netr Preah (ព្រះនេត្រព្រះ) district. *Ta Tith* worked at the provincial level.
- Dany: How did you know she worked in Preah Netr Preah?
- Hoeun: It was because we had lived in the same district. We also met again when we were attending trainings in Kampong Cham.
- Dany: Had she ever been to Kampong Cham?
- Hoeun: Yes, she had. During that time she had worked at the district level. So we had to meet in Kampong Cham. I met her there.
- Dany: Why did she have to go to Kampong Cham?
- Hoeun: When she was in charge of the district we used to meet. However since I had moved to Kampong Cham I no longer saw her. It was because she had moved to Battambang. Later on when we were fleeing into the jungle we met again. When she was in charge of the district we would meet on a daily basis during my work. But when she had moved to Angkor Chey we had not met again.
- Dany: Had you met her frequently when you moved to Kampong Cham?
- Hoeun: No, I hadn't. We couldn't meet because we were very far away from each other.
- Dany: But you have just mentioned that you two met in Kampong Cham, haven't you?
- Hoeun: I was confused to say that.
- Dany: Did you meet her in the jungle of Takeo?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. We met in Takeo.
- Dany: Did you meet her in Angkor Chey?
- Hoeun: When we were in the jungle we met at the refugee camp again.
- Dany: Did you ever meet *Ta Tith*?
- Hoeun: *Ta Tith* is my fellow villager. We first met and had known each other since we were Buddhist monks.
- Dany: When he began his work did he start working in Tram Kak as well?
- Hoeun: He had worked in Tram Kak. But I don't remember what he did and which village he worked for. Then he had left. *Ta Prak* came to replace him. Finally *Ta Phèn*, *Ta Keav*, and that old lady came to resume the position respectively.
- Dany: Which old lady are you referring to?
- Hoeun: I'm referring to *Yeay Chem*. After being there for a few days she was ordered by *Ta Mok* move to the Northwest Zone.
- Dany: What about *Ta Tith*?
- Hoeun: *Ta Tith* had worked as the Provincial Governor for a few days.
- Dany: Was he a Provincial Governor?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. By 1976 *Ta Kith* was in charge. Then *Ta Prak* was in charge. After only a few days in office *Ta Prak* was removed and replaced by *Ta Kith*. Then *Ta Kith* was also removed. I don't know who replaced him as I had moved out from there.
- Dany: So those people were there only briefly. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. They were there for a very short period of time because the superiors made frequent replacements.
- Dany: Did *Yeay Chem* work there for a short period of time also?
- Hoeun: Yes, she did.

- Dany: When *Yeay Chem* had left *Ta Prak* was brought in to replace her. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: Was *Ta Prak* also arrested?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Was he killed?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. No one was spared.
- Dany: Which year was it?
- Hoeun: They were killed at Prey Khmaoch Kaun Khmeng, Prey Srâmâ (វិញ្ញាបនបត្រ), and their skulls were kept at Kraing Ta Chan (ក្រាំងតាចាន់).
- Dany: Which year did that take place?
- Hoeun: *Ta Prak* was killed at Prey Khmaoch Kaun Khmeng and his skull was kept at Kraing Ta Chan. Lots of skulls are seen there.
- Dany: Which year was that?
- Hoeun: The killings intensified during 1976, 1977 and 1978.
- Dany: After *Ta Prak* had gone was *Ta Tith* installed to replace him?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Had *Ta Tith* been holding his position longer?
- Hoeun: He had worked there for two or three months. Then it was *Ta Kith*'s turn. After less than a month of duty he had also been removed to *Ta Khmao* (ត្រីកោណ) also known as Sector 25.
- Dany: Who replaced *Ta Kith*?
- Hoeun: I don't know as I had already left. I do not know who the provincial Governor was.
- Dany: At that time were all the people of Vietnamese descent killed?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were. Old villages were all empty of villagers.
- Dany: Why did they kill the Vietnamese?
- Hoeun: Some people who owned a rice mill were accused of being the petty bourgeoisie. Their whole family would be exterminated. People had been killed because they were accused of stealing things. For example a woman who thought her radio was stolen filed a complaint with *Ta Chay* (ចាម) accusing the Khmer Rouge for not being able to curb theft even though it had proudly claimed that there was no theft under the Khmer Rouge. By chance while walking to work *Ta Chay* found a child holding the radio. He asked where he got it. The boy said it was his mother's. *Ta Chay* challenged him that if it was his mother's radio why she filed the complaint citing that it had been stolen. He told the boy that his mother accused the Khmer Rouge of not being able to control theft though it proudly claimed that there was no theft under the Khmer Rouge and that her radio has been stolen. Then he accused the boy of being the thief. To that effect the boy, his parents and younger siblings, all were taken away and executed.
- Dany: Who lost the radio set?
- Hoeun: A complaint was filed with *Ta Chay*. He alleged that the content of the complaint implicated Khmer Rouge. He treated it as an attempt to frame him. He took the whole family to be killed. The family members who were

killed were *Yeay Pho* (យាយផូ), *Ta Sei* (តាសី), *Kroam* (ក្រាំ) and his wife, and *Ban* (ហ៊ាន) and his wife.

- Dany: Was the whole family wiped out?
 Hoeun: Yes, it was. The whole family of six was executed.
 Dany: Who lost the radio?
 Hoeun: *Yeay Pho* and *Ta Sei* did.
 Dany: Was the complaint filed with *Ta Chay* over the loss of that radio?
 Hoeun: Yes, it was. But in fact the radio was not stolen. They left it with their child and thought it was stolen. When *Ta Chay* found out that the radio was not stolen he arrested all the family members and killed them.
 Dany: The whole family was killed wasn't it?
 Hoeun: Yes. It was. The whole family of six people including young children were all killed. This family was wealthy.
 Dany: Which year did that happen?
 Hoeun: They were taken and killed at Prey Khmaoch Kaun Khmeng.
 Dany: Which year did that happen?
 Hoeun: It took place in 1975. It happened during the time when the administrative structure was being established.
 Dany: Is *Ta Chay* still alive?
 Hoeun: He passed away in 1989. He left *Au Trav* (អូត្រាវ) and died in *Kampong L'pov* (កំពង់ល្បែង).
 Dany: Where is *Kampong L'pov*?
 Hoeun: It is near here. It's on the other side of that bridge.
 Dany: So if we go to *Phteah Muoy* we have to go through *Kampong L'pov*. Is that correct?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is. You have to go through *Kampong L'pov*. At *Kampong L'pov* you'll find a straight road to the East.
 Dany: What is that Eastern part called?
 Hoeun: It is called *Stung Tauch* (ស្ទឹងតូច). After *Stung Tauch* you will get to *Veal Chambaing*, *Krapeu Py* and *Samlanh*. From there you have to go up the Mountain to the South. I don't know what it is called from there. But you will see a road for cars.
 Dany: Do you think the villagers in those areas would know *Phteah Muoy* if we ask them for this information?
 Hoeun: Yes, I do. They all know her. People at every house will know *Sēm*.
 Dany: Do they all know her?
 Hoeun: Yes, they do.
 Dany: We thank you very much for allowing us to interview you. Your information is very useful. We hope you wouldn't mind sharing further information with us should we wish to ask you more in the future.
 Hoeun: No, I wouldn't mind at all.
 Dany: I thank you.
 Hoeun: Thank you.

The End

Second interview**UL Hoeun, Sex: Male, Age: 75****Place of birth: Trapeang Prey village, Trapeang Thum Khang Tbaung
commune, Tram Kak district, Takeo province****Present address: Ta Sanh Cheung, Ta Sanh commune, Samlot district,
Battambang province****Position during the Khmer Rouge Regime: Member of Tram Kak district****Date: 17 August 2013****Interviewer: LONG Dany****01:58:21****68 pages**

- Dany: Yesterday it was too late in the evening to continue the interview. Now I would like to ask you further about *Ta Muth*. Today is the second day of our interview. You mentioned some date regarding *Ta Muth*. What exact date is it?
- Hoeun: It was on 21 April when *Ta Mok* ordered *Ta Muth* to deploy the troops to the provinces of Koh Kong and Kampong Som. I still remember that date very well.
- Dany: Was it on 21 April when *Ta Mok* ordered the deployment of the troops?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. *Ta Mok* ordered *Ta Muth* to take the troops there and govern Koh Kong.
- Dany: Is it Koh Kong or Kampong Som?
- Hoeun: Kampong Som and Koh Kong were one. This area was also included in the Koh Kong Corridor as well as Pailin. *Ta Muth* was in charge over there. He was in charge of the Koh Kong Corridor Committee.
- Dany: On 21 April 1975 was he in charge of Kampong Saom-Koh Kong?
- Hoeun: By 21 April 1975 he was the Provincial Governor of Takeo. *Ta Mok* assigned him to bring his troops to be stationed in Koh Kong-Kampong Som.
- Dany: What did he do then?
- Hoeun: He was still the Provincial Governor of Takeo. He was still the military Commander in that province. On 21st immediately after the war was over *Ta Mok* assigned him to deploy his troops to Koh Kong-Kampong Som.
- Dany: So was he not in charge of the Division?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was in charge of the Division.
- Dany: What Division was he in charge?
- Hoeun: He was in charge of the military Division. *Ta Muth* had been in charge of the Division in Takeo province.
- Dany: What Division was he in charge when he was in Koh Kong-Kampong Som?
- Hoeun: He was still in charge of the Division. When he became the Provincial Governor he was still in charge of the military including the Navy and Infantry.
- Dany: Was he in charge of both the Navy and Infantry?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: You said that your son saw people getting killed. Can you elaborate on this?

- Hoeun: At that time the soldiers and armed men across the country had not been disarmed yet. The announcements were heard on the loudspeakers mounted on the cars. All the Khmer Republic soldiers were instructed to surrender their arms and military gears. It was indicated in the statements that those who had surrendered their arms would be allowed to return to their home villages. They would be given a ride there. Once all their arms and military gears were surrendered they were told to get on the trucks. Infuriatedly instead of being transported to their home villages they were taken to the jungle.
- Dany: To which jungle were they taken?
- Hoeun: They were taken to the fruit tree plantations. Upon arriving there they were shackled in the legs and made to dig their own graves by the trees. Each person who finished digging his pit would be shot and buried in it. This process had been applied until all people were killed and buried. Finally the plantations had run out of space to bury all the people. All the fruit trees by which the bodies were buried had died after one big rain.
- Dany: How did that happen?
- Hoeun: After the rain the trees turned purple in colour. Then their leaves began to fall and died.
- Dany: Why did the trees die?
- Hoeun: The pits were dug so close to them. Their roots were cut and dried. Since the decomposing bodies were too salty for the surrounding soil all the leaves fell and the trees died.
- Dany: Did all the trees at which the bodies were buried die?
- Hoeun: Yes, they did. Hundreds of hectares of trees died thanks to the so many people who were killed there. These people were brought in from across the province. All soldiers in the fortress had been killed.
- Dany: Had many people been killed?
- Hoeun: Yes, they had. Several thousands of soldiers and civilians had been killed.
- Dany: Did you see what was happening?
- Hoeun: No, I didn't. But my son saw it and told me about it.
- Dany: Did he come back from Kampong Som to tell you about this? Who was his superior?
- Hoeun: He worked with *Ta Muth*.
- Dany: Was he was in the Navy under the control of *Ta Muth*?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was in the Navy and Infantry.
- Dany: In which section was he?
- Hoeun: At that time he was in *Ta Muth's* Bodyguard Unit.
- Dany: If he was in *Ta Muth's* bodyguard squad his name must be Baraing. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: I always called him Baraing. His real name is ÈK Baraing (ឯក បារាំង).
- Dany: Was he known as ÈK Baraing during that period?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Was he called Baraing?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: When did he come to tell you about this news?
- Hoeun: He came in 1975 after he had lived there for a few months. He had seen what was happening. He was so terrified and came to tell me about it. I told him not to talk about it because if someone heard he mentioned about

it he too would be arrested and killed. I also told him to be patient and keep silent. He then returned to work. In 1976 he came to me again.

Dany: What did he say this time?

Hoeun: He said the same thing. He told me that he had been so frightened and wanted to come back home. I told him not to come back home. If he did so chances were that we both would be arrested. He said he couldn't stand seeing those people being killed. He said no one was spared. He went on to say that first they were told that they would be brought home. But it was a lie. They had been loaded onto the trucks and brought out in the jungle of Chamka Andaung where they were all killed. He continued to say that those people had been shackled in the legs and made to dig their own graves where they were buried.

Dany: Who brought the people there for execution?

Hoeun: I didn't ask him to specify who ordered the executions. However there were a lot of people involved in this including those who drove the trucks.

Dany: But did you say that *Ta* Muth was in charge?

Hoeun: Yes, I did. He was the top leader there.

Dany: Who was second from him?

Hoeun: *Ta* Nhann (តាញ៉ាន់) was under *Ta* Muth. He oversaw the killings.

Dany: Did he?

Hoeun: Yes, he did.

Dany: Did you learn about this from your son?

Hoeun: Yes, I did. This account was commonly shared by our neighbours who said it happened elsewhere such as in Koh Kong, Kampong Som and Takeo. People had been killed and thrown into the bomb craters until they were filled with dead bodies. The pits were overloaded. Children were never buried. They were thrown first into the pits. They the adults would be thrown after being beaten. Later the beatings were no longer practiced. They improvised some tools like the slingshots and attached with metal wire which they used to wrap around a victim's neck to suffocate him/her. In no longer than five minutes the victim would be dead. They were then pushed into the pit.

Dany: Where did such executions take place?

Hoeun: They took place in Takeo. The same practice was applied also in Ang Ta Saom (អង្គតាសោម).

Dany: Which year was that?

Hoeun: It was after Ang Ta Saom had been liberated. It was perhaps in 1974. After Ang Ta Saom was liberated the troops continued to advance to Phnom Penh.

Dany: Did the killings take place from 1974?

Hoeun: The killings took place since 1970. In 1970 whenever *Ta* Muth had won a victor over a fortress people would be arrested and sent *en mass* to his wife who was in charge of the Provincial Police. She was also the District Secretary.

Dany: People were sent to his wife. Who is his wife?

Hoeun: His wife is PRIEK Khom.

Dany: What was her role at that time?

- Hoeun: She was the District Secretary, the Provincial Governor and the Chief of the Provincial Police.
- Dany: Was Khom the Chief of the Provincial Police?
- Hoeun: Yes, she was. *Ta Chim* (ធីម) was also ruthless. They both were the chief executioners who had arrested and killed people. They would go out and arrest people at noon time.
- Dany: Was *Ta Chim* also involved?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was *Yeay Khom*'s deputy of the district. There were large scale executions. No life was spared.
- Dany: Did your son tell you that in Kampong Som-Koh Kong the Khmer Republic soldiers and city residents were taken to the plantations?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. They were brought to the fruit tree plantations.
- Dany: And they were chained, made to dig their own graves and beaten. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. All of them were chained and made to dig their own pits.
- Dany: How were they treated?
- Hoeun: They were shot and stabbed with the bayonets. The execution style was applied commonly in that place as well as in Takeo as far as I know.
- Dany: Did you witness the killings in Takeo?
- Hoeun: They used the improvised tools as I mentioned above to kill people.
- Dany: Who used those tools for the executions?
- Hoeun: I don't know. But I heard the soldiers were the ones who did it.
- Dany: Did they use those tools when they were in the forest?
- Hoeun: Yes, they did. All B-52 craters in the forest were full of corpses.
- Dany: Really?
- Hoeun: Yes.
- Dany: Besides what your son had told you what else do you know about *Ta Muth*'s work?
- Hoeun: In 1970 when the Khmer Rouge organizational structure was being established some arrests started to be carried out.
- Dany: Who were destined to be arrested?
- Hoeun: They started to arrest assistants to the commune chiefs, commune and village chiefs, soldiers, policemen and school teachers. They were accused of being the petty bourgeoisie, in particular, those who owned a rice mill. Those who had been arrested were never released. They were taken to the jungle and killed. The arrests were so intensive that each village was emptied of its villagers. Not only were the Khmer Republican soldiers were killed their parents were also arrested and killed. That was why each village was so quiet. When night fell we felt so frightened fearing that our turn would come someday. That's about what *Ta Muth* had done. He left the jungle and set up his office at Trapeang Kraom (ត្រពាំងក្រោម). The office was situated near my rice field. I witnessed the collection of the skulls at one place near Kraing Ta Chan. They were taken and kept at Chungruk Tortung (ជ្រុងក្រូចទ្វីប).
- Dany: In 1970 you said *Ta Muth* was in Takeo. He arrested the assistants to the commune, commune chiefs, schoolteachers and petty bourgeoisie. Did you witness all of these?

- Hoeun: Yes, I did. The victims were arrested and walked into my house so that they could be tied up. They were arrested and tied *en mass*.
- Dany: Did you witness it?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did.
- Dany: Did this happen in 1970?
- Hoeun: Yes, it did. By 1970 the arrests were made to target those who were in the authorities of the former Sangkum Reasr Niyum including village and commune chiefs and the Khmer Republic people. Those people were accused of being the petty bourgeoisie.
- Dany: Do you know *Ta Muth* clearly?
- Hoeun: Yes, I do. First he did not know me well. He just got to know me very well when he came to work here. He would drop by my house as it was located on the way to his office.
- Dany: Where is his birthplace?
- Hoeun: Pardon me?
- Dany: Where is MEAS Muth's birthplace?
- Hoeun: His birthplace is in Chhouk district, Kampot province. However I don't remember the name of the village and commune.
- Dany: After he had been transferred to Kampong Som-Koh Kong did your son tell you anything else about him? What else do you know?
- Hoeun: I only know the mistreatment being inflicted onto the policemen, soldiers in the fortress and the civilians.
- Dany: May I ask you more about *Ta Mok's* children and his in-laws?
- Hoeun: Sure.
- Dany: What about MEAS Muth's wife?
- Hoeun: Her name is PRIEK Khom.
- Dany: PRIEK Khom is his older daughter. What about his second daughter?
- Hoeun: *Yeay Ho* (ឃ្ល) is his second daughter.
- Dany: Are you referring to *Yeay Ho*?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am. I am referring to PRIEK Ho.
- Dany: What is her husband's name?
- Hoeun: His name is *Ta Vin* (វីន). He was in the Division. He was killed by *Ta Mok*.
- Dany: Is his name *Ta Vin*?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is.
- Dany: What is his surname?
- Hoeun: I don't know.
- Dany: Where is his birthplace?
- Hoeun: *Ta Mok* killed Vin after he had been angry with him for selling women to Thais. Vin had been involved in trading weapons with the Thais also. He had been to Thailand to buy the foods and rice for the soldiers.
- Dany: Are you saying he was selling women?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am. He sold the women to the Thais. He did this to make sure he could feed the soldiers, who experienced food shortages. He sold women and weapons to the Thais to get some money to buy foods and rice for them. When *Ta Mok* learnt about this he killed him.
- Dany: When did that happen?

- Hoeun: It happened in 1990 or 1991 when we were moving up Dangrek Mountain. During that time we were not yet recognized by the French. We therefore had yet to receive any food supplies from them. We had to be self-sufficient.
- Dany: Are you referring to 1979 after the Vietnamese came?
- Hoeun: No, I'm not. I am referring to the recent event in 1991 or 1992.
- Dany: Was that close to the arrival of the UNTAC?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. However due to the UNTAC's belated arrival the soldiers were starving. Vin then had to trade in women with some rice and foods to feed the soldiers.
- Dany: Where had Vin lived between 1970 and 1975?
- Hoeun: I don't know where he had lived.
- Dany: Did you to him already back then?
- Hoeun: No, I didn't. I bumped into him only when we were walking in the jungle. When he saw us he asked where we were heading to. I said I was looking for Angkar and rice. He asked us to follow him and asked which unit we belonged to. I replied that I was a worker of Chub Rubber Plantation. He asked me to follow him. But I did not do so. He lived not far from us.
- Dany: Had you not known him when you were in Tram Kak?
- Hoeun: No, I hadn't. I had never heard of him.
- Dany: When did he get married with PRIEK Ho who was *Ta Mok's* daughter?
- Hoeun: I don't know about her. Later on I saw Ho and her son, Boeu (ហ្ន៊ែវ). He was here to insult and course Chrech accusing her father of having killed his father. He said he would never forgive her father. He would want nothing short of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.
- Dany: Whose is her father?
- Hoeun: Boeu was very upset with his grandfather.
- Dany: Was he upset with *Ta Mok*?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was angry with him for he killed his father.
- Dany: Where is Boeu now?
- Hoeun: Now he lives in Prey Rumchek (ព្រៃរូមចក).
- Dany: Have he insulted and cursed her recently?
- Hoeun: Pardon me?
- Dany: When did he insult and curse her?
- Hoeun: He came to her house here and started to have a row.
- Dany: When did that happen? Was it long ago?
- Hoeun: It happened in 2000.
- Dany: In 2000 *Ta Mok* was still alive, wasn't he?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: He said *Ta Mok* killed his father?
- Hoeun: He knew it. Almost everyone knew it.
- Dany: Is Ho *Ta Mok's* the second or third daughter?
- Hoeun: She is the second daughter. The third one is Heanh.
- Dany: Is Heanh his third daughter?
- Hoeun: Yes, she is. His fourth daughter is Krou who was born with a cleft lip.
- Dany: Is his third daughter named Heanh?
- Hoeun: Yes, she is.
- Dany: Is her full name PRIEK Heanh?

- Hoeun: Yes, it is. All Ta Mok's children have PRIEK as their surname.
- Dany: What is the name of PHIEK Heanh's husband?
- Hoeun: His name is Boran (បូរណ).
- Dany: Is his name Boran?
- Hoeun: His father's name is *Ta Chhèm* (ផែម) who was a Khmer Rouge leader.
- Dany: Is Chhèm Boran's father?
- Hoeun: His father's name is Khèm (ខែម). He was a genuine Khmer Rouge leader.
- Dany: Do you mean "Khèm"?
- Hoeun: Yes, I do. I mean Khèm.
- Dany: Where is he now? Where is his home village?
- Hoeun: He is at Wat Damnak Trach (វត្តដំណាក់ត្រាច) village, Trapeang Thum Khang Tbaung commune, Tram Kak district.
- Dany: Are you referring to Boran?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am. Boran is his son. He's *Ta Mok's* son-in-law. He was made to be in charge of a Division when we had fled into the jungle.
- Dany: What was Boran's position when you were in Tram Kak?
- Hoeun: He was the Head of *Ta Mok's* Office.
- Dany: Was he the Head of the Office?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He has passed away.
- Dany: When did Boran become the Head of the Office?
- Hoeun: I only know that he was the Head of the Office in 1975 and 1976. He would transport ammunition and weapons into my village of Trapeang Chrey, Trapeang Chrey commune. A large volume of ammunition and weapons had been brought in. Every night the villagers of three villages were made to help sort the military supplies. This work took the villagers three months to complete. There were small and big arms including 130 mm NS 155 mm guns.
- Dany: Was Boran the Head of *Ta Mok's* Office in Takeo?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was in charge of all sections.
- Dany: When *Ta Mok* had moved to Battambang did Boran rise to a higher position?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. He had remained in charge of the office.
- Dany: Did he move to another place?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. He had remained in that position. He escaped into the jungle once the Vietnamese arrived.
- Dany: What was his position when he was in the jungle?
- Hoeun: In the jungle he was made to be in charge of a Division.
- Dany: What Division was it? Where was it based?
- Hoeun: I don't know the number of the Division. At that time he was at Koh Kong Corridor while I was in the North Zone.
- Dany: Was Boran at Koh Kong Corridor?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: What about Vin?
- Hoeun: Vin also went to the North Zone.
- Dany: Was he with *Ta Mok*?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Are you referring to 1003?

- Hoeun: It was in the North Zone. That area is where Dangrek Mountain is situated.
 Dany: Did Boran not go there?
 Hoeun: No, he didn't. He had never been there. He had come to this area only when *Ta Mok* needed him. He would take a Thai vehicle to get his work done here.
 Dany: Is Boran still alive?
 Hoeun: No, he isn't. He was shot dead by the Vietnamese.
 Dany: When did he die?
 Hoeun: He died in 1990s, maybe in 1998 or 1999.
 Dany: But by 1999 the reintegration had already taken place. Do you mean 1980s? Samlot had been integrated already by 1996.
 Hoeun: He had not died yet at that time.
 Dany: By the time he died, had the UNTAC come to Cambodia?
 Hoeun: No, it hadn't. It had not come yet.
 Dany: It came to Cambodia in 1991 or 1992. Did he die before it came?
 Hoeun: Yes, he did. He left his district and accidentally entered into the Vietnamese front line. The Vietnamese shot him dead.
 Dany: That sounds like he died in 1980s. Do you think so?
 Hoeun: Yes, I do.
 Dany: Do you remember which year in 1980s he died?
 Hoeun: I don't recall it.
 Dany: Just now you have mentioned that *Ta Mok*'s third daughter is PRIEK Heanh. Is his fourth daughter named Krou?
 Hoeun: Yes, she is. She was born with a cleft lip.
 Dany: Is Krou a daughter?
 Hoeun: Yes, she is. She is known as Krou with a cleft lip.
 Dany: Are all his children female?
 Hoeun: Yes, they are.
 Dany: What does Krou's husband do?
 Hoeun: I don't know him. I have never seen him. For a year when she had lived next to my village I would often see her. Then the couple had moved elsewhere.
 Dany: Does *Ta Mok* have another child after Krou?
 Hoeun: He has no other child. His children include *Yeay Heanh* who is *Ran*'s wife, *Yeay Ho* and *Yeay Khom*. He has only four children.
 Dany: What about Chrech? Whose daughter is she?
 Hoeun: Well, Chrech is his youngest daughter.
 Dany: Is Chrech *Ta Mok*'s youngest daughter?
 Hoeun: Yes, she is. She had just got married in 1988. She got married in Chrach (ច្រាច់).
 Dany: Is Chrech his youngest daughter?
 Hoeun: Yes, she is.
 Dany: His first daughter is Khom. Other daughters include Ho, Heanh, Krou and Chrech. Chrech got married in 1988. What is the name of Chrech's husband?
 Hoeun: His name is Koe (ក្លើ). He's a tribesman.
 Dany: What tribe does he belong to?

- Hoeun: I don't know which tribe he belongs to. These tribespeople wear wild boar tusks as their earrings.
- Dany: Is he wearing those tusks?
- Hoeun: No, he isn't. His parents are.
- Dany: Where is Koe now?
- Hoeun: He is not very far from here.
- Dany: What did he do?
- Hoeun: He had no job. *Ta Mok* married him to his daughter.
- Dany: Did he not have any jobs?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. Due to the internal and external rupture he had never been appointed to any positions. He have held no position ever since.
- Dany: You don't know what tribe *Ta Mok's* son-in-law belongs to, do you?
- Hoeun: No, I don't.
- Dany: Were Koe and Chrech living in Samlot all by themselves?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were.
- Dany: What about her elder sisters such as Khom, Ho, Heanh and her husband and Krou?
- Hoeun: Ho is still alive. Heanh's husband has passed away. I don't know about Krou though I know her children.
- Dany: Where are they? Where do they live?
- Hoeun: I don't know.
- Dany: Do you not know where they live?
- Hoeun: No, I don't.
- Dany: What about *Ta Rèn*? Is he *Ta Mok's* son-in-law?
- Hoeun: *Ta Rèn* is Ho's husband. He is also *Ta Mok's* son-in-law.
- Dany: I see.
- Hoeun: Oh! No. He's not Ho's husband. He's Krou's husband.
- Dany: Are you sure he's Krou's husband?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am. I have just recalled it better now. *Ta Rèn* is Krou's husband.
- Dany: Have you just recollected that *Ta Rèn* is Krou's husband?
- Hoeun: Yes, I have. Krou's husband is *Ta Rèn*.
- Dany: What did *Ta Rèn* do when you lived in Tram Kak?
- Hoeun: He was in charge of a Brigade which was stationed at Kampong Ampil (កំពង់អំពិល) next to the Mekh market (ផ្សារមេម). That Brigade was to protect our water boundaries.
- Dany: Was Kampong Ampil in Kirivong?
- Hoeun: It was in District 107. District 107 was surrounding the Takeo provincial town including Kampong Ampil, and Kampong Youl (កំពង់យោល) which were under the jurisdiction of the Navy under *Ta Rèn*.
- Dany: Was 105 in Tram Kak?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. District 105 was Tram Kak. District 106 was Angkor Chey. District 107 was surrounding Takeo's provincial town. District 108 was Koh Andet. District 109 was Kirivong. There were only five districts.
- Dany: Was Treang district surrounding Takeo's provincial town?
- Hoeun: There was no Treang district at that time.
- Dany: What district had the codename of District 107?
- Hoeun: It was just called District 107. I don't know which district was behind this codename.

- Dany: Did *Ta Rèn* become the Commander in that region in 1975 when Phnom Penh was liberated?
- Hoeun: In 1975 I went to see him. I wanted to get some rice. He was stationed next to Borei Mountain near Kampong Ampil. His house was in the lake.
- Dany: Was he the Commander of a Division?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: In which Zone was his Division?
- Hoeun: I was confused. Actually he was not the Commander of the Division. He was the Commander of a Brigade. There was only one Division in the Southwest Zone which was in charge by *Ta Muth*.
- Dany: Was there only one Division in the Southwest Zone?
- Hoeun: *Ta Muth* was the Commander of the Division, and *Ta Rèn* was the Commander of the Brigade there.
- Dany: Did *Ta Muth* move to a new place?
- Hoeun: He moved to Koh Kong-Kampong Som while *Ta Rèn* had remained in Takeo.
- Dany: Had *Ta Rèn* remained in that place the entire time?
- Hoeun: Yes, he had. Had the Vietnamese not come he wouldn't flee to the jungle.
- Dany: Is that my understanding that he had remained in Takeo until the Vietnamese came?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. He passed away after he had been the jungle.
- Dany: You said you paid him a visit when he had fallen ill, didn't you?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. He was not very far from where I lived.
- Dany: Where was it?
- Hoeun: It was at Dangrek Mountain on the L'pov River. He had been admitted to the hospital. He couldn't make it. He had been bed-ridden for a long time before he died.
- Dany: Had he been bed-ridden in the hospital for a long time?
- Hoeun: Yes, he had. He had been fighting his ailment for a long time before he died. It was his Karma to end up like this.
- Dany: What karma are you referring to?
- Hoeun: The karma resulted from his having killed so many people.
- Dany: Where had he killed those people?
- Hoeun: He had killed the soldiers.
- Dany: Had he killed those soldiers during the POL Pot regime?
- Hoeun: He had killed the soldiers in Kampong Ampil. Those whose biographies were not complete and in doubt were stripped off their military uniforms and allowed to wear only a pairs of shorts. Yesterday I mentioned about the guy who was denied a shirt and hat to wear home. He was also denied a letter which he could use to get some rice. He was let go with a pair of shorts. He had to walk barefoot from the Vietnam-Cambodia border. It took him a day and night to get home. All soldiers in *Ta Rèn*'s Brigade were killed saving only 200 people who were let go. My cousin was one among the lucky ones who could manage to get home alive.
- Dany: Of what disease did he die?
- Hoeun: His disease was unknown. He had experienced uncontrollable urination and defecation.
- Dany: Was he able to walk?
- Hoeun: No, he wasn't.

- Dany: Was he emaciated?
 Hoeun: Yes, he was. He had been having diarrhea until he died.
 Dany: Did his wife take care of him?
 Hoeun: Yes, she did. She had accompanied him in the hospital. *Ta Mok* lived close by.
 Dany: Did he ever visit him at the hospital?
 Hoeun: No, he did.
 Dany: It was commonly known that *Ta Mok* had killed some people. Have you ever heard of this?
 Hoeun: Yes, I have. He killed only *Ta Vin*.
 Dany: What about *Ta Rèn*? Did he kill anyone?
 Hoeun: No, he didn't. When he was on the Dangrek Mountain he didn't kill anyone. However he shot to kill the villagers' ducks.
 Dany: What did he shoot?
 Hoeun: He shot ducks.
 Dany: Who shot the ducks?
 Hoeun: *Ta Rèn* did. The villagers of a few nearby villages gathered to build a dike to retain water for their ducks to swim. After it was built *Ta Rèn* went to inspect it. He told them not let their ducks swim in the water. They challenged him by saying that the purpose of building the dike was to retain water for their ducks to swim. Later *Ta Rèn* drove his jeep to shoot all those ducks. The dead ones were thrown into his car. Those who managed to run into the coops were later shot as well.
 Dany: Was he that good at shooting?
 Hoeun: Well, it wouldn't be hard to shoot a duck! However he was not the shooter. His bodyguards were. Those ducks were shot near my house. There was a small stream near my house.
 Dany: Which stream was it?
 Hoeun: It had no name. It's in Thailand.
 Dany: Was it in Thailand? When he died was he in the hospital near Tonle L'pov?
 Hoeun: Yes, he was. He died in Tonle L'pov hospital, also known as Hospital Kor-7 (ក្រ-៧).
 Dany: You mentioned that *Vin* who was *Ho*'s husband was shot dead by *Ta Mok*. Has *Ho* remarried?
 Hoeun: No, she hasn't. Since then no one has approached her for a new marriage proposal.
 Dany: What about *Krou*? Is her name *Krou* or *Kruo* (ក្រូ)?
 Hoeun: Her name is *Krou*. She is a woman with a cleft lip.
 Dany: Has she remarried after *Ta Rèn* has died?
 Hoeun: No, she hasn't. Neither *Yeay Ho* nor *Heanh* has remarried. After their husbands have died no other men would love them because they hate *Ta Mok*. Also all four daughters of *Yeay Chrech* are spinsters.
 Dany: Are they spinsters now?
 Hoeun: Yes, they are. No one marries them because people hate *Ta Mok*'s family.
 Dany: Was *Ta Mok* not loved by people here? It was said that in *Samlot* *Ta Mok* was liked and loved?

- Hoeun: I haven't heard people talking about their hate or love for *Ta Mok*. However *Ta Mok*'s children are not very much liked by people here. They hate them. That's why his daughters remain the spinsters.
- Dany: How about you? Do you hate him?
- Hoeun: No, I don't. I never hate him. I asked him for an axe. He gave me one which I still use now.
- Dany: Unlike other peoples you don't hate him, do you?
- Hoeun: No, I don't.
- Dany: Do you love him?
- Hoeun: I neither love him nor hate him.
- Dany: Why are you natural about loving and hating him?
- Hoeun: I didn't like about him regarding the event when he yelled at his soldiers while he was ordering them to go down the Dey Reap Kraom (ភ្នំដីរាបក្រាម) Mountain. His house was on the foot of the Mountain. He warned the soldiers to never ever challenge him and Pot. He said as long as he and Pot were still alive no one would be allowed to challenge them. He went on to say that on top of Mok there was nothing but a hat; and on top of the hat there was nothing but the sky. As soon as he finished saying that each of them fired a round. The bullet holes were visible from my house.
- Dany: Where did that happen?
- Hoeun: It happened in Chrach village.
- Dany: Where is Chrach village?
- Hoeun: It was on Ta Chàk (តាចាក់) Mountain.
- Dany: When did it happen?
- Hoeun: It happened in 1988.
- Dany: Was it in 1988?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. I remember it for I was offered a ride from Au Trav to Chrach.
- Dany: When you were on the Tram Kak District Committee where were your children including Baraing who was in the Navy?
- Hoeun: My second son came to Dangrek Mountain. Now he has disappeared again.
- Dany: Let me ask you again. My question was when you were in Tram Kak where were all your children?
- Hoeun: My eldest son was with me.
- Dany: Was he not with *Ta Muth*?
- Hoeun: No, he wasn't. Baraing was the one who was with *Ta Muth*.
- Dany: During the liberation day in 1975 you were in Tram Kak and your eldest son was with you. What did he do?
- Hoeun: He was still with me until late 1975 when *Ta Muth* saw him and asked him to go with him.
- Dany: Did he ask him to go with him?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did.
- Dany: What is his name?
- Hoeun: His name is Baraing.
- Dany: Is Baraing your eldest son?
- Hoeun: No, he isn't. Baraing is my third son. My first son is Khoeun (ក្មេង). My other son is Khuon (ក្មេង).

Dany: Is your eldest son's name Khuon?
Hoeun: No, he isn't. My eldest son is Khoeun.
Dany: Where was Khoeun?
Hoeun: Khoeun was always with me.
Dany: Had he been with you until you had moved to Kampong Cham?
Hoeun: Yes, he had. When I had moved to Kampong Cham he was sent to serve in the Zone military under *Ta* Mok.
Dany: What did he do when he was with you in Tram Kak?
Hoeun: He was too young for a job.
Dany: He was the eldest son. Why was he still too young for a job?
Hoeun: He was just too young.
Dany: What about Baraing? Why was he allowed to work?
Hoeun: That was in 1975 when Baraing was 11 years old. When he turned 11 he was wanted for a job.
Dany: How could a young boy of his age remember things including the killings?
Hoeun: He saw the events with his own eyes.
Dany: Since he was very young how did he manage to find way to return to his home?
Hoeun: During that time several cars and trucks would be going back and forth all days and nights between *Ta* Muth's place in Koh Kong-Kampong Som and Tram Kak.
Dany: What did Khoeun do when he was with you in Tram Kak?
Hoeun: He was a messenger.
Dany: Who did he work for as the messenger?
Hoeun: He delivered letters to the communes.
Dany: Did he carry letters for you and the whole District Committee Office?
Hoeun: No, he didn't. I assigned him to only carry letters whenever I needed the communes to come to collect the supplies at the district. I would write 15 letters for 15 communes. He would carry them to those communes.
Dany: How did he deliver the letters?
Hoeun: He would carry them on his bicycle. Bicycle was the only means of transportation he had at that time.
Dany: Did he ever go there by horse?
Hoeun: No, he didn't.
Dany: How old was he at that time?
Hoeun: Khoeun was thirteen years old.
Dany: Was Khoeun thirteen years old?
Hoeun: Yes, he was. Baraing was eleven. Khuon was twelve.
Dany: What did Khuon do at that time?
Hoeun: He didn't do anything.
Dany: Was he with you?
Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was at the District Office where he repaired cars.
Dany: Did he also work at Tram Kak District Office?
Hoeun: Yes, he did.
Dany: Was he tasked with repairing cars?
Hoeun: Yes, he was.
Dany: Has Baraing already passed away?
Hoeun: Yes, he has. He died in the jungle.
Dany: When did he die?

- Hoeun: He died in 1979 when he went into the jungle. He has disappeared ever since.
- Dany: Have you only begun to lose touch with him in 1979?
- Hoeun: Yes, I have.
- Dany: Has he disappeared?
- Hoeun: Yes, he has. We have lost contact with him.
- Dany: What about Khoeun?
- Hoeun: Khoeun was still alive back then. He got divorced here. After the 6-7 July fighting he has disappeared ever since.
- Dany: Have you lost touch with him since then?
- Hoeun: I knew he was alive when he came to get remarried. His second wife then passed away. He got married again with another woman who is not far from where his second wife lived. Then he has disappeared again.
- Dany: Has he ever visited you again?
- Hoeun: No, he hasn't. He came to see me once. Then he has never come back.
- Dany: Do you know where he is now?
- Hoeun: I don't. I have no idea where he has gone.
- Dany: What about Khuon?
- Hoeun: Khuon was a car repairer.
- Dany: Was he a car repairer?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He repaired cars in the district.
- Dany: Where is he now?
- Hoeun: Now he is in Ratanakiri.
- Dany: Is he in Ratanakiri?
- Hoeun: He is married to a Laotian wife in Ratanakiri. They have married for three years now.
- Dany: Has he just been there for three years?
- Hoeun: Yes, he has.
- Dany: When did he get married with that Laotian wife?
- Hoeun: They got married in 1984.
- Dany: Did he have a previous marriage before that marriage?
- Hoeun: No, he did. He was still too young to get married before that.
- Dany: What about the other sons of yours?
- Hoeun: I have seven children including Baraing who was deceased.
- Dany: Are Baraing's younger siblings married?
- Hoeun: His younger sister is still single.
- Dany: When you were in Tram Kak what did they do?
- Hoeun: They didn't hold any positions as they were still too young. They were tasked with collecting cow dungs. They were too young that they were not able to even collect them.
- Dany: Did they stay with you or your wife?
- Hoeun: They were with my wife.
- Dany: How often did you visit your wife?
- Hoeun: I needed to ask for permission to visit my family. I was ashamed to ask for a frequent visit. So I would only visit them once a month or less frequent than once a month.
- Dany: Is that true that you would be allowed to have a day off every 10th, 20th and 30th day of each month?

- Hoeun: No, it isn't. When I was tasked with farming the dry season rice I would only be allowed to visit home once every six month. Not until we plowed and raked the wetland and that there would be no more rising water would we be allowed to visit home.
- Dany: Were your young children with your wife?
- Hoeun: Only two of my young children were in Tram Kak district.
- Dany: Were only two of your children at Tram Kak District Office?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were.
- Dany: There must be only your eldest son, Khoeun, who was tasked with repairing cars, and Khuon who was a messenger. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: How long had he remained the messenger?
- Hoeun: He had been the messenger until I moved to another district. He was sent to join with *Ta Mok*.
- Dany: Was Khoeun sent to join the Zone troops in Takeo when you had moved to the Rubber Plantation in Kampong Cham?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: What about Khuon?
- Hoeun: He moved to the North with me.
- Dany: Do you mean he went you to Kampong Cham?
- Hoeun: Yes, I do. He had remained in the jungle with me up until 2000.
- Dany: Did your wife, your children, your parents, and your siblings go with you when you moved to Kampong Cham?
- Hoeun: Only my family went with me. My parents were at their homeland.
- Dany: How many of your children went with you?
- Hoeun: Four of my children went with me.
- Dany: Does that include Khuon?
- Hoeun: Yes, it does. Khuon, Voeun, Vorn and Neou went with me.
- Dany: Did the four of them go with you?
- Hoeun: Yes, they did.
- Dany: Khoeun went to join the Zone troops. Baraing was with *Ta Muth*. Were there only six people?
- Hoeun: No, there weren't. There were seven of them.
- Dany: Does that mean five of them came with you and two others parted ways?
- Hoeun: Yes, it does.
- Dany: Were your family reunited when you were working in Kampong Cham?
- Hoeun: Yes. They were also in the office while I was in charge of logistics.
- Dany: Were you in charge of the logistics for the Rubber Plantation or another plantation?
- Hoeun: I was in charge of the logistics at the Chub Rubber Plantation.
- Dany: Did you wife work in the office?
- Hoeun: Yes, she did. She worked in the Warehouse Office where she was tasked with cooking foods.
- Dany: While she was in charge of cooking was *Ta Chim* also there?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Did *Ta Chim* and his family move there altogether too?
- Hoeun: Yes, they did.
- Dany: *Ta Chim*' wife is your wife's elder sister. What is her name?
- Hoeun: Her name is Heang (អ៊ែង).

- Dany: Is her name Heang?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is. She's called *Yeay* Heang.
 Dany: What is your wife's name?
 Hoeun: Her birth name is Hoeun. However on her Identification Card her name is CHEA Ny (ធានី).
- Dany: Is she originally named Hoeun?
 Hoeun: Yes, she is. Her previous name is CHEA Hoeun. Her sister is CHEA Hoeun.
- Dany: Is your wife CHEA Hoeun while *Ta* Chim's wife is CHEA Heang?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is.
 Dany: Did *Ta* Chim go there with his wife and his children?
 Hoeun: Yes, he did.
 Dany: Did his parents not go with him?
 Hoeun: No, they didn't. They had passed away before that.
 Dany: How many children does he have?
 Hoeun: All his children are deceased.
 Dany: Did he have many children?
 Hoeun: Yes, he did.
 Dany: How many children did he have?
 Hoeun: Let me count! He has six sons and a daughter. They include Vy (វី), Cheth (ចេត), Nath (ណាត), Thou (តូ) and Pheak (ភ្នែក) who were twins, Huoch (ហួច) and Nav (ណាវ).
- Dany: Yesterday you said that *Ta* Chim got divorced. Is that correct?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is. He got divorced in July 1980.
 Dany: Why did he get divorced?
 Hoeun: His wife who had a previous marriage parted ways and went back to live in her native district. She found her previous husband and reunited with him on Dangrek Mountain.
- Dany: Did his ex-wife come back to her native village or did she still live in the Mountain?
 Hoeun: She came back to her native village. She used to be brought back by the Vietnamese to Stung Treng province also known as Chèb province. Later she returned to the Dangrek Mountain where she found her previous husband and reunited with him in 1985.
- Dany: What year was that?
 Hoeun: It was in 1985 when she met her previous husband again on Dangrek Mountain.
- Dany: Did she divorce her second husband when she met with her previous one?
 Hoeun: Yes, she did.
 Dany: Does that mean they parted ways when she was arrested by the Vietnamese? Where was she arrested?
 Hoeun: Yes, he does. She was arrested on July 1980 on Dangrek Mountain.
 Dany: Have they part their ways ever since?
 Hoeun: Yes, they have.
 Dany: Were all their family members arrested by the Vietnamese?
 Hoeun: Yes, they were.
 Dany: Were she and all her children arrested?

- Hoeun: Yes, they were. The whole family was arrested.
 Dany: Did only *Ta* Chim manage to escape?
 Hoeun: Yes, he did. He has remarried with another woman after he has lost touch with his previous wife.
 Dany: Did he get married with another woman when he was in the Mountain?
 Hoeun: Yes, he did.
 Dany: Has he managed to be reunited with his previous wife and family?
 Hoeun: No, he hasn't. I used to mediate between the two parties. I advised him not to have two wives at the same time even though his first wife was back in the village. *Ta* Mok also sent a man to represent him during the mediation. The man also shared my suggestion. Finally he chose to let go a wife.
 Dany: What do you mean by choosing to let go a wife?
 Hoeun: I mean he has chosen to be with his second wife only.
 Dany: Did his new wife not allow him to take both?
 Hoeun: No, she didn't. His previous wife has never visited him or their children.
 Dany: Where does his new wife live?
 Hoeun: She lives in Kampong Cham. She used to go into the jungle together with him.
 Dany: Where does his first wife live?
 Hoeun: She now lives here in the same village where I do.
 Dany: Does she live in the same village with you?
 Hoeun: Yes, she does.
 Dany: What village does she live in?
 Hoeun: She lives in Ta Sanh Cheung (តាសង់ចេង) village.
 Dany: Do her children also live with her in the village?
 Hoeun: Yes, they do.
 Dany: Does *Ta* Chim keep in touch with his first wife and children?
 Hoeun: No, he doesn't. Occasionally he comes only to ask for some money to feed his second wife.
 Dany: Does he not have enough money for the living?
 Hoeun: No, he doesn't. He doesn't make any money.
 Dany: He is holding a higher position why does he not make any money?
 Hoeun: He is holding no position now.
 Dany: Is he not holding any positions now?
 Hoeun: No, he isn't.
 Dany: Does he live at Srah Chhouk (ស្រះឈូក) or somewhere else?
 Hoeun: Now he lives in Prasat district. I don't know in which village he lives.
 Dany: When you had arrived at Chub Rubber Plantation did you see any of the former leaders in Kampong Cham?
 Hoeun: I had not seen any of the former leaders at Chub Rubber Plantation. What I had seen were only the familiar faces that arrived at the district. They include SAO Phim (សោភឹម) and KOY Thuon (កុយ ធ្នូន). I heard that they were shot dead. I saw the pits where people could have been killed and buried in. It was said that truckloads of people were transported to be killed and dumped in those pits.
 Dany: When you and *Ta* Chim had arrived there did you see a lot of people living there?
 Hoeun: Which place are you talking about?

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- Dany: I am asking about when you were at Chub did you see a lot of people over there?
- Hoeun: There were 50,000 workers in that area. They were called to attend a rally. I was shocked by the huge number of people attending the anniversary. Then in September there was a mass marriage of 400 couples. After the ceremony was over the couples were allowed to take hold of their partners. However thanks to the huge crowd of newly wed couples and confusion many ended up losing their partners.
- Dany: How did they lose their partners so quickly?
- Hoeun: They lost their spouses or their lovers.
- Dany: How did that happen?
- Hoeun: This is how it happened. Immediately after the ceremony was adjourned the couples were allowed to go for their partners. It was a huge crowd of newly wed couples and the other people who attended the ceremony. Many couples who didn't manage to hold their partners' hands could not find theirs.
- Dany: How many couples were married at that time?
- Hoeun: There were four hundreds couples.
- Dany: You said that was in September. Which year was that?
- Hoeun: It was in 1979.
- Dany: What month was it?
- Hoeun: It was not 1979 yet.
- Dany: Was it in September 1978?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: Had you been there only for a month before you fled?
- Hoeun: I went there in August 1978. A month later the Vietnamese came. Then I had to escape.
- Dany: For a person who moved from Takeo like you did *Ta Mok* give you any order regarding traitors?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. I received orders from *Ta SON Sen* when I got there.
- Dany: Did you receive orders from *Ta SON Sen* in lieu of *Ta Mok*?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. I used to see *Ta SON Sen*'s Directive in August 1978. It reads "Comrade! You, as a matter of urgency, shall purge all the enemies within villages, cooperatives and syndicates. There are a great number of them in these places." The Directive bore the signature of Comrade Kheang (កែង).
- Dany: Who is the Comrade?
- Hoeun: He is Comrade Kheang.
- Dany: Is it Khiev or Kheang?
- Hoeun: It was Kheang. I noted the name ended with "ng [ង]."?
- Dany: Did you note the name was spelled as "Kheang [កែង]"?
- Hoeun: It was the signature of Comrade Kheang of Office 870. He was the only person signed on that Directive which had not been implemented soon enough before the Vietnamese came. The Vietnamese got to Chub already by 31st.
- Dany: No arrests had ever been made yet before the Vietnamese came. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is.

- Dany: Even though *Ta Chim* had been there he did not manage to make any arrests yet. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. The Directive was yet to be implemented. Soon after the first meeting was over we had parted ways.
- Dany: Were people evacuated from there?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were. People were evacuated from Tonle Bet (ទន្លេបឹងទន្លេ). The Vietnamese warplanes dropped bombs on the large petroleum barrels which burst into fires killing all the people at Tonle Bet.
- Dany: Who ordered the evacuation of the people from that area?
- Hoeun: *Ta Chim* was not the one who did it. He didn't have soldiers to evacuate the people. I saw soldiers were brought in to Tonle Bet.
- Dany: Does that mean *Ta Chim* did not order the evacuation but the military did?
- Hoeun: Yes, it does. It was *Ta SON Sen* who ordered the evacuation of people from Svay Rieng.
- Dany: Where was *Ta SON Sen* at that time?
- Hoeun: He was at Tbaung Khmum (ត្បូងឃ្មុំ) District. His Headquarter was there.
- Dany: Was Tbaung Khmum in Suong?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: What did *Ta SON Sen* do at that time?
- Hoeun: He was still the Zone Secretary.
- Dany: Which Zone was he the Secretary?
- Hoeun: Since he was in Kampong Cham he was in the East Zone. However he called himself the Secretary of Office 870 and issued the Directive to kill people.
- Dany: Was he not a Commander?
- Hoeun: No, he wasn't. He was in charge of Civil Affairs.
- Dany: Who was the Top Military Commander at that time?
- Hoeun: It was *Ta Pin* (តាពឹង).
- Dany: Was *Ta Pin* the Top Military Commander?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. He was a member of the Zone and in charge of the Division.
- Dany: What was his Division?
- Hoeun: I don't know.
- Dany: Do you know whether *Ta Pin* was a member of the Zone or the Commander of the Division or the Secretary of the Zone?
- Hoeun: *Ta SON Sen* was the Secretary of the Zone.
- Dany: Who was his deputy?
- Hoeun: At that time there were only two people *Ta KE Pauk* (តាកែ ពក) and *Ta SON Sen*. *Ta KE Pauk* might have been the deputy of *Ta SON Sen* because he was on the in the East Zone Committee with *Ta SON Sen* who held more senior position.
- Dany: What about *Ta Chim*?
- Hoeun: *Ta Chim* was also a member of the Zone. But he was in charge of the Ministry of Chub and Chamka Andaung.
- Dany: Was Chamka Andaung closer to there?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: Was Keth alias Ngorn not in charge of that place?

- Hoeun: He was in charge of Chamka Andaung Rubber Plantation. He was appointed by *Ta Chim*.
- Dany: Did you go to Chamka Andaung in the outset?
- Hoeun: No, I didn't. I didn't go that far.
- Dany: Did *Ta Chim* go there?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. He had been at Chamka Andaung for a few months. Then *Ta Koy Thuon* was in trouble. Several people were killed and others were running into the jungle. *Ta Chim* was then sent from Chamka Andaung to oversee Chub.
- Dany: Did *Ta Chim* arrive there before you did?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. He had been there about a year before I was there.
- Dany: Did he arrive there a about year before you did?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did.
- Dany: It that correct that *Ta Chim* had been in Chamka Andaung about a year before you?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: It is correct that he left Chamka Andaung for Chub in August 1978?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: Had you already been in Chub when he moved in?
- Hoeun: No, I hadn't. Not until *Ta Mok* managed to find 200 men from Tram Kak to be in charge of Chub Rubber Plantation which comprised of five bases and five districts had I moved in.
- Dany: When *Ta Mok* wanted some men for work did he instruct *Ta Chim* to find them?
- Hoeun: The order was rendered to each commune. After the men had been recruited a report was filed to *Ta Mok* who ordered the trucks to take them. I wanted to join them but I was refused. Yet I sneaked onto one of the trucks and managed to get there.
- Dany: Who did not allow you to go?
- Hoeun: I asked *Ta Ouch*, the District Secretary, to allow me to go there. He refused to let me go. He said if I went there he would have no one to help him with his work. He didn't let me go. But I got on the truck without his knowledge.
- Dany: Did you go there all together with your whole family?
- Hoeun: Yes, we did.
- Dany: Did *Ta Chim* want you there?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. I went there on my own volition.
- Dany: What year did *Ta Chim* move there?
- Hoeun: He went to Chamka Andaung in 1976. In 1978 after appointing someone to replace him he left Chamka Andaung for Chub.
- Dany: Did *Ta Chim* go there at the same time with *Ta An*?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. He went there with *Yeay Chem-Ta Tith* and *Yeay Yuth*.
- Dany: Where did *Yeay Chem-Ta Tith* move to?
- Hoeun: They moved to Battambang province. I don't recall which district she was in charge.
- Dany: What is *Ta Chim*'s surname?
- Hoeun: His surname is PREAB (ប្រាប).
- Dany: Is his full name PREAB Chim?

- Hoeun: Yes, it is. But he was also known as *Ta Phann* (ផាន់) when he was at the Rubber Plantation.
- Dany: Was he also called *Ta Phann*?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Was he called *Ta Phann* when he was there?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. His surname was not addressed.
- Dany: Do you not know where his second wife was?
- Hoeun: Yes, I do. She was in Kampong Cham. But I don't know in which commune or district she was.
- Dany: When you were at Chub and met with him was he friendly with you?
- Hoeun: Are you referring to *Ta Chim*?
- Dany: Yes, I am.
- Hoeun: Yes, he was friendly with me.
- Dany: But then he started to have a row with you, didn't he?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. He had the row with me when we were in the jungle. He wanted to kill me because I disagreed with him regarding his intention to kill that young man. I explained to him that I wouldn't agree to kill someone who had joined our cause. He was very angry and stomping his feet. He yelled at me saying that he was right not to bring me with him.
- Dany: In 1976 when he first came did you ask him to bring you with him?
- Hoeun: In 1976 he asked his messenger to invite me to go there. I told the messenger that I didn't want to go because I had not been informed earlier. I refused because I actually didn't realize that it was *Ta Chim* who invited me through his messenger. Later on upon learning that 200 men were wanted to be in charge at the Rubber Plantation I wanted to go there. I requested that I be allowed to go there. I was refused. Yet I got on the truck without permission and managed to get there finally.
- Dany: Did *Ta Ouch* not allow you to go?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. He said if he let me go he would be frustrated as no one would assist him with his work.
- Dany: Yesterday you talked about what had become of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Naradipo? How did you know about him?
- Hoeun: I knew about him because I was at the Tram Kak District Office. His concrete house was just 100 meters to the West of Dharmayudh (ធម្មយុត្តិ) pagoda. It had been sprayed with bullets and burnt down to ashes.
- Dany: Was his house located 100 meters from the District Office?
- Hoeun: It was located about 100 meters from the district market. The following morning I went to the intersection of the old District Office and saw several political tracts left on the ground earlier. I picked one of them to read and saw the picture of Prince Naradipo with his message of appeal for people to rally for *Samdech* Sihanouk.
- Hoeun: When did that happen?
- Dany: It happened in 1976.
- Hoeun: It was in 1976 when the political tracts were seen scattered all over the place.
- Dany: Did that happen immediately after the fall of Phnom Penh of 1975 or later?
- Hoeun: It happened in 1976.
- Dany: Did that happen in Tram Kak?

- Hoeun: Yes, it did.
 Dany: Did it happen near the Dharmayudd pagoda?
 Hoeun: It happened at the former Tram Kak District Office which was across from Ang Ta Saom market.
 Dany: Was the picture of Prince Daradipo printed on the political tracts and that he rallied for *Samdech* Sihanouk?
 Hoeun: Yes, it was. He asked people to support Sihanouk.
 Dany: What else was written on the tract?
 Hoeun: I don't recall. I had read only a few lines. I felt intimidated to read further. Then some of the district youths were asked to collect and destroy all of the tracts.
 Dany: What happened after that?
 Hoeun: From then on I didn't know where he would be. When I went to Chub in September *Ta* Chim asked me to attend the study sessions in *Ta* KE Pauk's Zone.
 Dany: Where was it?
 Hoeun: It was in Kampong Cham.
 Dany: Did you attend the study sessions in KE Pauk's Zone?
 Hoeun: Yes, I did. I attended the study sessions conducted at the Zone school in Kampong Cham. The school was situated on the river front. I met *Ta* Sy who was from the same district as mine.
 Dany: Was *Ta* Sy the man who was on the Kampong Siem District Committee?
 Hoeun: Yes, he was. He said it was a great burden for him after Daradipo was brought to him. He said Daradipo was made to carry soil but he refused. He fed him rice with water convolvulus soup but he refused to eat it. He didn't want to walk and had to be carried when going places. He was too much burdensome for him. So I killed him. He said he killed the prince in that year. I forget what month it was.
 Dany: When was the prince killed?
 Hoeun: I don't know. He met me on September 1978.
 Dany: Do you think he could have been killed before September 1978?
 Hoeun: Yes, I do. He had been killed long before I was told about it. *Ta* Sy repeated this account when we met again at Dangrek Mountain.
 Dany: What else did he tell about when you met him again?
 Hoeun: He just said he was annoyed with Daradipo who refused to walk, eat and had to be carried whenever he wanted to go to any places. It was too burdensome for him. So he killed him.
 Dany: Did he tell you where he killed him?
 Hoeun: I don't know. He was in Kampong Siem while I was in Tram Kak.
 Dany: Was the person who killed the prince AOK Sy?
 Hoeun: I don't know whether he did the killing or ordered it.
 Dany: Did *Ta* Sy tell you that Daradipo had to be carried?
 Hoeun: Yes, he did. He said Daradipo refused to walk and eat water convolvulus soup. He didn't like the soup. He refused to carry soil. He didn't want to do anything. It was too annoying to keep the prince. So he was killed.
 Dany: Was that what *Ta* Sy told you?
 Hoeun: Yes, it was. I remember him telling me about this twice.
 Dany: I take that he told you about this on two occasions. One was in September 1978 when you attended the study sessions with KE Pauk. Is that correct?

- Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: You were at the East Zone. Why did you have to come to study at the Central Zone?
- Hoeun: In September I was still at Chub.
- Dany: Was *Ta* KE Pauk at the Central Zone?
- Hoeun: The study sessions were not conducted in Takeo. They were conducted in Kampong Cham.
- Dany: Was Kampong Cham divided by the river?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. We had to cross the Tonle Bet River to come to the provincial town of Kampong Cham.
- Dany: Was the other side of the river, which was the Eastern part, under the jurisdiction of the East Zone?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. However *Ta* KE Pauk was in charge of Kampong Cham town.
- Dany: Does that mean *Ta* KE Pauk was in charge of two places at the same time?
- Hoeun: I am not sure about this.
- Dany: Was he in charge of both the East and Central Zones?
- Hoeun: No, he wasn't.
- Dany: Was he in charge of the North Zone?
- Hoeun: No, he wasn't. The North Zone was under another person. *Ta* KÈ Pauk and *Ta* SON Sen were both in charge of the East Zone.
- Dany: Now I got your point. *Ta* Sy told you about the account when you came to attend the study sessions. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. He told me once about it. He told me about this again when we met at Dangrek Mountain in August 1980.
- Dany: Did he just tell you that he was too burdensome that he had to kill the prince?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. He said it was too difficult because the prince needed to be carried. He didn't eat rice. He didn't do anything.
- Dany: Was it in Kampong Siem district?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. But I was not told where he was killed. He just told me about the killing.
- Dany: I would really like to know more about this story. Do you think if we want to know more about it we have to meet with *Ta* Sy?
- Hoeun: Yes, I do. However I do not know if *Ta* Sy is still alive now. He's younger than I am.
- Dany: Where is *Ta* Sy's home village?
- Hoeun: His home village is in Nheng Nhang commune. I don't know what village it is. *Ta* Y (តា ឌី) who is his elder brother also lives there.
- Dany: Does *Ta* Sy have an elder brother by the name of *Ta* Y?
- Hoeun: Yes, he does. They share the same last name. Their names were AOK Sy and AOK Y.
- Dany: *Ta* Sy has an elder brother named Y who is in Nheng Nhang commune.
- Hoeun: I guess he has remained in Along Veng. He hasn't returned to his home village.
- Dany: If we want to look for him do you think we can just give his last name to people who may then tell us about his and his family?
- Hoeun: I don't know if this works. I know that he is alive. But I don't know about his father.

- Dany: Do you think people in Nheng Nhang commune will know if we ask them about him?
- Hoeun: Yes, I do.
- Dany: What is the name of the village in Nheng Nhang commune where we should stop by to search for him?
- Hoeun: I don't know. I have no idea in which village he is. I only know that he is in Nheng Nhang commune. Every time I went to see him he would always be in Nheng Nhang commune.
- Dany: Every time you saw him was it at the Commune Office?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: Was he on the Commune Committee?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He had been on the Commune Committee since 1970.
- Dany: Do you think people will recognize who we are talking about when we ask them about *Ta Sy* who used to be on the commune Committee?
- Hoeun: Yes, I do. All people know him. His father brought him to work at the Bek Kus crossroads.
- Dany: What is his father's name?
- Hoeun: I don't know.
- Dany: Did you know why *Ta Mok* sent Takeo people to Kampong Cham and other places?
- Hoeun: Let's me explain. Only well selected people of the Khmer Rouge strong-based commune and district would be selected and sent out to all districts and provinces. Those who were sent out were carefully and well selected from that main base commune and district which was District 105.
- Dany: Was District 105 called the main base district?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. It was *Ta Mok's* main base district. It covered Trapeang Kul and Trapeang Prey communes as well. Since 1970 that place remained the stronghold. A lot of soldiers were deployed to that place. No outside troops could ever break in.
- Dany: Who do you think was in charge of that place? Was it *Ta Mok*, *Ta POL Pot* or *Ta Noun*?
- Hoeun: Which place are you talking about?
- Dany: Would the people who had been carefully selected from Tram Kak district under *Ta Mok* be sent to be in charge of the other places all across the country?
- Hoeun: Not really! When a person was sent from Tram Kak district to be in charge of another place he would be appointed to be in charge of the commune by the Secretary of that district. For example *Ta Chim* came from Tram Kak district. Upon arriving he was placed under *Ta Pauk* who was under *Ta SON Sen*. *Ta Mok* would be in charge nationwide.
- Dany: Did *Ta Mok* send people there?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. He would send people as the replacements.
- Dany: When *Ta Mok* had to send people to fill in those vacant positions what did he say?
- Hoeun: After spending 4-10 days to find the required number of 100 people *Ta Mok* would be notified. He then told us he would bring the trucks to pick them. That's all he said. Then the trucks would be brought in to transport those people to the places they were supposed to go. *Ta Mok* had never attended a meeting or study session.

- Dany: Based on your recollection do you think a lot of people were sent from District 105 to supervise other places across the country because it was *Ta Mok*'s main stronghold?
- Hoeun: Yes, I do. Only people from Tram Kak district would be chosen to be in charge of other places across the country.
- Dany: Did all the people including young and adults, male and female, hold a senior position in the district before they were sent out to take charge of another place?
- Hoeun: No, they didn't. People would only be appointed a new position after being sent to a new place.
- Dany: Is it fair to say that an ordinary person who held no position in the district would be appointed a position at a new place?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. If he was in charge of a commune in Tram Kak he would become the Secretary of the district he was sent to. An ordinary person who held no position would become a Pillar or member of the Youth League. He would be out of *Ta Mok*'s hands after he was appointed at the new place.
- Dany: Did *Ta Mok* come to your place?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. He would frequently meet with *Ta SON Sen*. But he had never visited Chub workers.
- Dany: Now I'd to ask you about your life. What was your life and that of your family's like after the Vietnamese came in 1979? Tell us about your fleeing to the jungle and people you had met.
- Hoeun: I ran into the jungle and met no one. Upon learning that the Vietnamese reached Phnom Penh *Ta Chim* dispersed the troops and let them go to their respective homes. He asked us to take a car. But we didn't want to take it. We ran for our life. We chose to be on foot. Thousands of cars were left behind at Kampong Thma of Santuk district.
- Dany: Did *Ta Chim* hold a meeting to announce the demobilization of the troops by 1979?
- Hoeun: There was no meeting held. Upon learning the news about the advanced Vietnamese troops we were in panic. He just told the soldiers to demobilize and let us go where we belonged. He asked us to take any cars which were parked all over the place at Kampong Thma of Santuk district. No one took them. Influx of workers was seen in the area. We had to leave them behind when we had to run into the jungle.
- Dany: How did you deal with such situation?
- Hoeun: I had cried but there were no more tears to cry. I hopped on to *Ta Chim*'s vehicle only to be refused a ride. He said I would add extra weight to his vehicle which would eventually have a flat tire. Yet I clung on to his vehicle. My wife got on the truck with *Ta Chim*'s wife and had left earlier. We parted ways. Fortunately at Sandann, Kampong Thom, I reunited with her. I was invited to return to my hometown. I said I wouldn't go there as I was afraid of the Vietnamese. I heard people say that the Vietnamese would split an areca palm tree into halves and use them as their grilling sticks.
- Dany: What did you hear?
- Hoeun: I heard the Vietnamese would split the areca palm tree into halves and use them as their grilling sticks to grill a human being.

- Dany: Who said that?
Hoeun: The people who were on the run did. My wife also said that. .
Dany: Did the Vietnamese use the areca palm trees to make the grilling sticks?
Hoeun: Yes, they did. That's why I heard from people.
Dany: Did you hear this from other people? Or were you told about this by your senior leaders?
Hoeun: We heard from other people who were also on the run like us who said that. They said people were made to line up when the Vietnamese were cutting the areca palm trees into halves and used them as grilling sticks to grill them. We heard about this from one another. Our senior leaders were on the run and didn't tell us anything about this.
Dany: Did you believe what you heard and become panic?
Hoeun: Yes, I did. Everyone in Tram Kak also did. The whole Tram Kak was empty as people were fleeing to the jungle only to die of starvation *en mass*.
Dany: Is it true that you would be killed if you hadn't fled?
Hoeun: No, it isn't. There was an old man who remained in the village during the time when Vietnamese came. He was not mistreated. He didn't leave the village because he was busy collecting the materials from the cooperatives to keep in his house.
Dany: There was a rumor that before the Vietnamese came the Khmer Rouge had planned to lace the Cambodian noodles with poison to kill Khmer people. Have you ever heard it?
Hoeun: No, I haven't.
Dany: It was also said that pits were dug to burry people. Is that true?
Hoeun: No, it isn't.
Dany: You haven't heard about those things, have you?
Hoeun: No, I haven't. If they were true I would have been told. Such news shouldn't take more than a day to reach Chub. The news about the grilling sticks was spread so fast.
Dany: Did everybody talk about the grilling sticks?
Hoeun: Yes, they did. Hundreds of people were on the run because they had heard about it.
Dany: Did your family remain together even when you were on the Mountain?
Hoeun: We began our escape from Chub. My wife and family took a Chinese truck which accommodated 60 people ten of whom were my family members. The truck was stopped by two Vietnamese military tanks. One of the tanks was blocking the truck while the other one was parked by the side of the truck. A man got off tank which was on the side of the truck. He started taking off my son's hat. My son had a hand grenade and dropped it into the cabin of the tank pilot's cabin. The tank in the front started moving. That allowed the truck to move forward only to be fired at. Bullets were sprayed from gun mounted on that tank hitting one of the Chinese men who was also on the truck.
Dany: Did the Chinese get shot?
Hoeun: Yes, he did. That Chinese man was a visitor. He was a medic.
Dany: Were there some Chinese people at Chub?
Hoeun: There were sixty Chinese working at the factory.

- Dany: By the time the Vietnamese stopped the truck your son was carrying a hand grenade. Is that correct?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. He had a hand grenade with a wooden handle.
- Dany: Were the Vietnamese scared when the grenade was thrown at them?
- Hoeun: After the grenade exploded inside the tank. The truck started to move forward because one of the tanks moved to the side. However we were fired at from the other tank.
- Dany: Was anyone injured by the grenade explosion?
- Hoeun: The grenade exploded inside the tank.
- Dany: Was it dropped into the tank?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: Why did you son feel the need to drop the grenade into that tank?
- Hoeun: My son was on the rooftop of the truck where he could drop the grenade into the tank. We then rushed to get away from the scene. The injured Chinese man was flown from Kampong Cham to China. Through telegraph we learnt that he didn't make it.
- Dany: How did he die?
- Hoeun: He was so seriously injured. He got hit by a bullet fired by the Vietnamese while he was sitting in the truck driver's cabin.
- Dany: Was he the only person who got injured?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: What is his name?
- Hoeun: He died at the China border.
- Dany: Was the injured man flown from Kampong Cham airport?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Were all the 60 Chinese on board the plane?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were. When taking the Chinese men to the airport I asked the driver of the truck to wait until the last Chinese man was on the truck before he drove off. I asked him to allow my wife to be on the truck also. The tank was destroyed. I was lucky to be able to escape unharmed. The Head of the Ministry was on his motorbike and so was I. He guided us.
- Dany: Are you referring to *Ta Chim*?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am. He was taking the lead when we were on the run.
- Dany: Was the injured Chinese taken to the Kampong Cham airport where he was flown to China?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. The plane took off and flew to the North direction. I was told that it took only five hours to reach China by plane.
- Dany: How did you know the person who was injured died?
- Hoeun: I knew it because he was in the truck with my wife.
- Dany: Did he die when he was in the truck?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. He died when he reached China border. I knew about this through phone calls.
- Dany: Who made the phone calls?
- Hoeun: *Ta Mok*, *Ta SON Sen* and *Ta KE Pauk* were on the phones with the Chinese people.
- Dany: Did you hear that he didn't make it?
- Hoeun: I heard about it when I was still at Chamka Andaung. I heard that our Chinese visitor passed away when he was at China border.
- Dany: Were you still in Chamka Andaung when the Vietnamese came?

- Hoeun: Yes, I was. I was at Chub. We were enjoying the party on the 31st December 1978.
- Dany: Is it on the December 31st 1978?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. The next day was 1979. At 5.30 pm on December 31st while we were having a party the Vietnamese troops attacked us.
- Dany: Did the people at the party manage to escape?
- Hoeun: Several people including the servants in white clothes were shot dead all over the place.
- Dany: Were the servants who were serving the Chinese people at the party killed by the Vietnamese?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were.
- Dany: Was only one Chinese man killed?
- Hoeun: Yes. Only one Chinese was killed.
- Dany: Did your wife see the Chinese man being hit by a bullet?
- Hoeun: Yes, she did. She was on the same truck with him. He was bleeding heavily.
- Dany: Where did he get hit?
- Hoeun: He got hit on national road near the Chub factory. My wife was taking one of the seats in the truck driver's cabin while the soldiers were riding in the back of the truck. When the truck was fired at she ducked for a cover underneath the truck. She was lucky not to get hit.
- Dany: Was the Chinese man the only person who got injured?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Was the truck too fast for the tank to chase?
- Hoeun: The tank stopped in Suong.
- Dany: Was your truck chased by the tanks?
- Hoeun: The tanks blocked our truck from leaving the party. One of the tanks stopped right in front of the truck while the other was positioned on the side line of it. Then the man emerging from a tank pilot's cabin and hopped on to the truck and started to remove the hats from young people who were on it. Noting that the tank's hatch was open my son dropped a hand grenade into it. Suddenly the tank in the front started to move away from the front of the truck. That made it possible for the truck to move forward.
- Dany: Was the truck driven away immediately after it could move forward?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. But then it was fired at. A bullet hit the Chinese man who died later.
- Dany: Did your wife leave first and you left after?
- Hoeun: Yes, she did. When I arrived at Tonle Bet I saw her there. I had to abandon my motorbike on National Road 7 and started to walk for the rest of my journey.
- Dany: On your trip from Chub at which point did your motorbike break down?
- Hoeun: It broke down on National Road 7.
- Dany: Where was it exactly?
- Hoeun: It was about 50 meters from the road to Peam Cheang [ព្រមជាំង]. I left it there.
- Dany: Was it at Prey Tortung (វៀតទ្រីង)?
- Hoeun: No, it wasn't. It was at Phlov Tortung (ផ្លូវទ្រីង). That road leads to Chub.

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- Dany: Was it called Thnal Totung (ថ្នល់ទទឹង)?
- Hoeun: No, it wasn't. Thnal Tortung would lead us to the South.
- Dany: Did your motorbike break down soon after you had left Chub?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. Only a few minutes after I had left the factory it broke down.
- Dany: Did you have to continue your journey on foot after it broke down?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. I had to walk all the way to Tonle Bet ferry crossing.
- Dany: Did you meet your wife again over there?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did.
- Dany: What happened next?
- Hoeun: When we arrived at the ferry crossing *Ta Chim* yelled order at us telling us not to drag our feet and be quick to cross the river before the Vietnamese got us. I then started to look for Tàk (តាក់) who was in charge of the Ferry Crossing but all to avail.
- Dany: Who is Tàk?
- Hoeun: He's my younger brother.
- Dany: Is he your biological younger brother?
- Hoeun: He was the Head of the Ferry Crossing. Failing to find him I was looking for a ferry to transport us to the other side of the river. There was no ferry available. There were many abandoned ships. Finally we found a large boat in the middle of the sea. A young man was seen on that boat. I asked him to start its engine so that workers could be ferried across the river. He said he unfortunately didn't know how to steer it. I asked him whether he knew how to start its engine. He said he did. He then started it. I used a long wooden pole to navigate the boat to the dock. As soon as the boat was at the dock several other people including my wife and family and *Ta Chim* got on it. Not many people were allowed to board the boat as it could be overloaded. Later on that day a few other boats were seen transporting the people all night.
- Dany: Was *Ta Chim* bossy?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He liked yelling orders. But when I yelled back at him he was silent.
- Dany: How did you continue your trip after you had reached Kampong Cham?
- Hoeun: We spent overnight in Kampong Cham after we continued our trip by trucks. Some bombs were dropped in Kampong Cham that night. *Ta Mok*, SON Sen and *Ta Pauk* were also there.
- Dany: Was *Ta Mok* also there?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was in Kampong Siem district.
- Dany: Why was *Ta Mok* also there?
- Hoeun: He was there to meet with *Ta SON Sen*. They spent over night in Suong district. They didn't sleep at Kampong Cham provincial town. *Ta Sy* was also there. Bombs were dropped that night because *Ta Sy*, *Ta Pauk* and *Ta Mok* were there. Their whereabouts could have been compromised by some spies who could track them.
- Dany: Did you know anyone on the Commune Committee working with *Ta Sy* in Kampong Siem district?
- Hoeun: No, I didn't. I was new to that area. I met with *Ta Sy* that evening when I asked him to provide me with accommodation at his place. The next morning I had to leave him for Chamka Andaung. I was at Chamka

Andaung for another night. Then I heard the Vietnamese had reached Phnom Penh. So I went to Kampong Thma. I arrived at Kampong Thma by 6 pm.

- Dany: Did you have to part ways with *Ta* Mok and SON Sen?
 Hoeun: Yes, I did. *Ta* Mok had to leave for Phnom Penh with the Chinese visitors.
 Dany: What about SON Sen? Where did he go?
 Hoeun: SON Sen also went to Phnom Penh.
 Dany: What about KE Pauk?
 Hoeun: KE Pauk also went to Phnom Penh.
 Dany: Did all the senior leaders head to Phnom Penh?
 Hoeun: Yes, they did.
 Dany: What date was that? Is it January 1st or December 31st?
 Hoeun: It is the January 1st 1979. We had the party on December 31st.
 Dany: Did the Vietnamese troops attacked on the day the party was held?
 Hoeun: Yes, they did. By 6.30 pm when had just had our first glass of wine and hadn't start our meal of the evening yet they came to attack us.
 Dany: Where did you go next after Kampong Thma?
 Hoeun: By the time we arrived Kampong Thma the Vietnamese troops had already reached Phnom Penh. *Ta* Chim told all of us that we had to part our ways. He wanted us to return to our home villages while he would continue his struggle in the jungle. He asked us to take any cars we wanted. He then had left.
 Dany: Is that the last time you saw him?
 Hoeun: Yes, it is. I was trying to get on the truck with them but I was refused the ride. I had to walk. I walked back to the Rubber Plantation at Chamka Andaung. Upon knowing the Vietnamese had reached Kampong Thma I had to head North through the jungle.
 Dany: Did your family have to walk with you?
 Hoeun: No, they didn't. They had boarded the truck and arrived in Kampong Thom ahead of me. They got to *Ta* Sim and SEM's house.
 Dany: Did they get to *Ta* Sim's house?
 Hoeun: Yes, they did. I knew *Ta* Sim.
 Dany: Is Sem his wife?
 Hoeun: Yes, she is. I was reunited with my wife and family at their house.
 Dany: Was his house in Kampong Thom province?
 Hoeun: Yes, it was. I also met him again when we were in the jungle.
 Dany: How long did it take for you to travel from Kampong Cham to Kampong Thom?
 Hoeun: It took me over a month to be able to locate my family.
 Dany: Had Kampong Thom collapsed by then?
 Hoeun: Yes, it had.
 Dany: If it had been fallen where did you find your wife?
 Hoeun: I found her in the jungle of Sandann district.
 Dany: Did you meet *Ta* Sim in the Sandann jungle too?
 Hoeun: Yes, I did. *Ta* Sim was also on the run. Then we met at Choam (ឃុំ) village, Sandann district.
 Dany: Where did you go after arriving in Choam village?
 Hoeun: I went to the jungle and never met villagers again.
 Dany: Where did you go next?

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- Hoeun: I had lived in the jungle in Kampong Thom for a year.
Dany: After that where did you go?
Hoeun: During the first year when I had been there *Ta Chim* wanted to kill me. Then I had to dissent my rank and ran into the jungle of Chamka Andaung Rubber Plantation.
Dany: What did *Ta Chim* do at that time?
Hoeun: At that time in the jungle he was the Secretary of Santuk district.
Dany: Was he the Secretary of Santuk district?
Hoeun: Yes, he was. In that jungle he was just appointed as an interim Secretary of Sandann district.
Dany: While he was the Secretary of the district what did you do?
Hoeun: I didn't have any position. I did rice farming.
Dany: Were you not on the Santuk District Committee?
Hoeun: No, I wasn't.
Dany: *Ta Chim* was a Secretary of Santuk district. Who was his deputy?
Hoeun: *Ta Neang* was. I don't know his surname.
Dany: Did you say *Ta Neang*?
Hoeun: Yes, I did. But he died of ascites when he was in Along Veng district.
Dany: Did you know *Ta Poch* (តា ប៉ូច) at that time?
Hoeun: Yes, I did.
Dany: What did he do?
Hoeun: I only heard of him. I don't know what he did.
Dany: Was he on the District Committee?
Hoeun: No, he wasn't. But he was the Provincial Governor.
Dany: Was he the Provincial Governor? Does that mean he was holding a higher position than *Ta Chim*?
Hoeun: Yes, it does. However, when we were in the jungle I didn't know what position he held. I knew that *Ta Chim* was made to be in charge of Santuk district. That is all I know.
Dany: When he was the Secretary of the district did he still want to kill people?
Hoeun: Yes, he did. He wanted to kill me.
Dany: You told me you had the row with him over the person you vouched for. He wanted to kill him. How was he?
Hoeun: He was *Ta Chhnuon* (តា ច័ន្ទ) who was a traditional healer from Daung Pring (ដូង ព្រីង) village, Sandann district.
Dany: Why was he wanted for execution?
Hoeun: He was accused of believing in abstracts and black magic. *Ta Kung* was ordered to kill him. But he challenged the order by explaining that the healer was good at treating his soldiers when they were sick. If he were killed who would be able to treat the soldiers again. *Ta Kung* was ordered on three occasions to kill him. Finally he was compelled to carry out the order. The gunshot was heard. People said *Ta Chhnuon* was killed. I went to see it. I saw the pit where his body was buried while his pants had been taken off and left on the pit. I felt very sorry for him. He helped treated people with care. Now he was killed.
Dany: Who is *Ta Kung*?
Hoeun: *Ta Kung* was a military Commander who was in charge of giving protection to the Rubber Plantation workers.

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- Dany: What is his full name?
Hoeun: I don't know. I only knew that he was a soldier in the jungle.
Dany: When he wanted to kill *Ta Chhnuon* you asked him not to do it and he became angry with you. Is that correct?
Hoeun: I didn't dare to say anything. I wish I could say something. If I could I would tell him to run away. *Ta Kung* was ordered three times to kill him. Two times of which he refused. Finally he did it.
Dany: Did *Ta Chim* order *Ta Kung* three times to kill *Ta Chhnuon*?
Hoeun: Yes, he did.
Dany: But earlier *Ta Chim* also spoke with you about *Ta Chhnuon*. Then he was angry with you and threatened to kill you. Is that correct?
Hoeun: No, it isn't. That relates to another incidence when I vouched for the person by the name of Yun who was the Head of his Office. I asked him not kill him. Regarding *Ta Chhnuon* he didn't speak with me. *Ta Chhnuon* was taken away when he was preparing the bed for the patient. Immediately after he was gone I heard he was shot. I went to see it and saw his pants left on his pit. I was saddened to see that.
Dany: Where did you go after this?
Hoeun: By July I left Chamka Andaung and the Rubber Plantation for Dangrek Mountain.
Dany: In July of which year did you leave?
Hoeun: I left in July 1980.
Dany: Did you climb Dangrek Mountain?
Hoeun: Yes, I did. We were told to bring 30 cans of rice to prepare for our journey to the North. I didn't have the rice. I went there empty handed.
Dany: Did you go there as a big family?
Hoeun: No, I didn't. I had to leave my daughters with someone at Yung Pra-ob (យុងប្រា-អុប) village. Later they were all brought back by the Vietnamese to our home village.
Dany: Were all your family members brought back to their home village by the Vietnamese?
Hoeun: Yes, they were. Except Khuon who went into the jungle with me.
Dany: Did *Ta Chim*'s wife and your wife return to their home village?
Hoeun: Yes, they did. However *Ta Chim*'s wife had been arrested by the Vietnamese.
Dany: Was she killed by the Vietnamese?
Hoeun: No, she wasn't. She was brought home along with the rest of the family members.
Dany: Was it a rumour that the Vietnamese used the areca palm trees as the grilling sticks to grill people?
Hoeun: Yes, it was. It was the rumour told by the people who ran away from the Vietnamese troops. We were frightened and easily convinced by the rumour.
Dany: Did the Vietnamese not know what *Ta Chim*'s wife did?
Hoeun: I don't know.
Dany: Was she imprisoned?
Hoeun: No, she wasn't. I asked her about the arrest. She said she was brought to Stung Treng province. She was not mistreated. Another person by the

name of Nath who was hungry and had to steal some rice was not mistreated.

Dany: Later on your family was brought to their home village. Is that correct?

Hoeun: Yes, it is. They were brought to Tram Kak district. My wife got there in April 1979. Then *Yeay Heang* came.

Dany: Did you climb Dangrek Mountain all by yourself?

Hoeun: No, I didn't. I went there with Khuon.

Dany: What happened when you got to the Mountain?

Hoeun: When I arrived at Dangrek Mountain I met *Ta Chim* who threatened to seize my gun.

Dany: Did you meet *Ta Chim* again?

Hoeun: Yes, I did. I also met *Ta Kan* who was in charge of Kang Meas or Peam Chikang district.

Dany: Did you also meet *Ta Kan*?

Hoeun: Yes, I did. *Ta Kan* was ordered to seize my gun and a pairs of brass knuckles. My gun was a brand new one. It was a very nice golden gun made in Russia. *Ta Kan* also said it looked great. He asked that the gun be seized. I challenged him not to seize my gun because I believed that the Vietnamese were still all over the place. I asked him who ordered him to do so. He said *Ta Chim* did. I told him to ask *Ta Chim* to come and get it by himself. *Ta Chim* was afraid to come in person. He asked the guy by the name of Sau, who later become my son in law, to come and take it from me. I also refuse to give it to him. I asked him to tell *Ta Chim* to come by himself. *Ta Chim* would never dare to come by himself. Finally I brought the gun into the jungle and bumped into to *Ta Mok*. He said we were carrying two many guns. He said it would be a good idea if I gave the gun to him so that he could give it to the soldiers at the frontline. He said the white-headed people like me shouldn't be carrying gun.

Dany: Does white-headed mean old people?

Hoeun: Yes, it does. He said the white-headed people like me shouldn't carry gun. He wanted it for the soldiers at the frontline.

Dany: Had you known that *Ta Kan* was the Secretary of Kang Meas district?

Hoeun: No, I hadn't. I started to know him when he came to seize my gun.

Dany: Where was *Ta Kan* from?

Hoeun: I don't know.

Dany: How did you know his name?

Hoeun: When I arrived there I heard everyone called him *Ta Kan*.

Dany: Is he older than you are?

Hoeun: No, he isn't. He's younger than I am. But I don't know which district he was the Secretary of?

Dany: You just mentioned Peam Chikang or Kang Meas. Do you recall it?

Hoeun: Well, I heard young people talk about *Ta Kan* in Peam Chikang or Kang Meas. I have forgotten about this.

Dany: You don't know from what district he was, do you?

Hoeun: No, I don't. He used to work as a commune chief during the POL Pot time.

Dany: What commune was he the chief of?

Hoeun: He was either in Peam Chikang or Kang Meas district.

Dany: After that where had *Ta Kan* been?

- Hoeun: He had been in the jungle with me and others. He had remained in the jungle until he was ordered by *Ta Mok* to relocate.
- Dany: Did he return to his home village?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. He went to fight the Vietnamese troops at the Thai border.
- Dany: What else can you tell us about *Ta Kan*?
- Hoeun: That's all I know about him. We parted our ways and never met again.
- Dany: What is the name of *Ta Kan*'s wife?
- Hoeun: I don't know. I saw only *Ta Kan*. When he was in the jungle he was all by himself.
- Dany: In 1987 you met *Ta Mok*. After giving your gun to him where did you go next?
- Hoeun: I became sick and admitted to the hospital. My body became swollen. *Ta Chim* told the medics not to provide me with medication.
- Dany: Why did he harbour the appetite vengeance against you?
- Hoeun: He had harboured resentment at me since I disagreed with him regarding his desire to kill the Head of his Office.
- Dany: Why did he want to kill the Head of his Office?
- Hoeun: When I got back to the office I met his bodyguards who were sent to kill me. When one of them saw me he burst into tears. I told him not to cry we had not run out of rice. I thought he was coming for some rice. I told him to get the rice to eat. He said he didn't come for the rice. He was sent to kill me. He said he wouldn't take that order to kill me. Instead he said he would kill *Ta Chim* if I wanted him to do so. I said it wasn't necessary to retaliate. We ought to run away.
- Dany: Who were the bodyguards?
- Hoeun: They were *Nhây* (ញ៉ៃ), *Nhonn* (ញ៉ន), and *Hây* (ហៃ). They were three young men.
- Dany: Where are they from originally?
- Hoeun: They are also from *Tram Kak* district like me.
- Dany: Are they from the same village as you?
- Hoeun: Yes, they are. All of them are from *Trapeang Prey* (ត្រពាំងជ្រៃ) village where I lived.
- Dany: Are they still alive?
- Hoeun: I know *Hây* has passed away in the jungle. I did not know about the rest. I have lost touch with them since then.
- Dany: Have you not met any of them since then?
- Hoeun: No, I haven't.
- Dany: Do you know their parents?
- Hoeun: Yes, I do. They were alcoholic. They died of too much wine consumption.
- Dany: Why did *Ta Chim* order someone to kill you?
- Hoeun: It was because I disagreed with him. People who participated in the meeting agreed with him except me.
- Dany: What was the meeting about?
- Hoeun: The meeting was to discuss the plan to kill that man.
- Dany: Which man?
- Hoeun: He was *Yun* who was the Head of his Office. His wife's name is *Aun* (អ៊ុន). She gave birth to child in the jungle.
- Dany: Where is *Yun* originally from?

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Transcribed by CHHAY Davin, RY Leakhena and SOKH Vannak - 72/88

- Hoeun: He is from Cheang Torng (ធាងទ្រង់) commune, Tram Kak district.
- Dany: If he joined your cause why was he wanted for an execution? What had he done wrong that *Ta Chim* wanted to kill him?
- Hoeun: He made a mistake. He was supposed to look after *Ta Chim*'s wife. However when the Vietnamese attacked he had to abandoned her and others. She went missing. As a result there was an order to kill him.
- Dany: Did *Ta Chim*'s wife go missing? Was she arrested by the Vietnamese?
- Hoeun: It was thought that she was arrested by the Vietnamese. Actually she got lost in the jungle. She was found later. The couple had reunited again until they reached Dangrek Mountain.
- Dany: Did *Ta Chim* decide in the meeting which was held at his office that Yun had to be killed because he abandoned his wife?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did.
- Dany: What year was that?
- Hoeun: It was in 1980 when he wanted to kill me.
- Dany: When did he want to kill Yun?
- Hoeun: It was in 1980.
- Dany: What month was it?
- Hoeun: It was perhaps in January. I remember it because it was the time when I had to flee from Kampong Thom to Kampong Cham.
- Dany: Was Yun finally killed?
- Hoeun: No, he wasn't. I told him to run to his home village.
- Dany: Where did he escape to?
- Hoeun: He went to his home village.
- Dany: Is he now in his home village?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is.
- Dany: What district is it?
- Hoeun: He is now in Kbal Au village, Cheang Torng commune, Tram Kak district.
- Dany: Is he now living in Kbal Au village?
- Hoeun: Yes, he is.
- Dany: What is the name of Yun's wife?
- Hoeun: Her name is Aun.
- Dany: Is her name Aun?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: Was he grateful to you for helping him?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. Otherwise he would have been killed.
- Dany: Is he still alive?
- Hoeun: I think so. I advised a few of them to return to their home village. When my wife learnt about this she came to me to ask for clarification. I told a man by the name of Ny that he was not very well over here. It would be better for him to return to his home village. First he didn't trust me. He said I wanted him to be mistreated by advising him to return his home village. I told him I gave him this advice in good faith. He said he couldn't go as he was short on foods. I told him to take some of *Ta Neang*'s rice and leave. By 9 am he took the rice. He left with four other people. I told the man who was going with him to look after him and Tith. I told him not to mistreat them. I asked him to help bring them to their home village. Off they went. Upon learning that Ny had reached his home village my wife asked him about me. Ny told her that I was doing fine. He said I had

cassava and roots as foods and I could catch plenty of fish for food each day.

Dany: Is Ny still alive?

Hoeun: Yes, he is.

Dany: Where does he live?

Hoeun: He lives in Trapeang Ruesei (ត្រពាំងថ្មស្នី) village, Trapeang Thom (ត្រពាំងធំ) commune, Tram Kak district.

Dany: What is the name of Ny's wife?

Hoeun: He was single.

Dany: Has he been married?

Hoeun: I have never seen him again.

Dany: You don't know his wife's name, do you?

Hoeun: No, I don't.

Dany: Is he still alive today?

Hoeun: Yes, he is. My wife met him when he got back to his village.

Dany: Is his name Ny?

Hoeun: Yes, it is. But I don't know his full name.

Dany: What is his father's name?

Hoeun: I don't know. We lived far away from each other. We just met when we were in the jungle. We went to work at the same Ministry.

Dany: When *Ta* Chim held a meeting to discuss about killing Yun who else were in the meeting?

Hoeun: There were four people including me. They were *Ta* Neang, *Ta* Tun (ឡុន), and *Ta* Duch (ឌុច).

Dany: Which Duch is that?

Hoeun: Well, there were actually five people attending the meeting. But I cannot recall his name.

Dany: Which *Ta* Duch are you referring to?

Hoeun: I am referring to *Ta* Duch from Tram Kak district.

Dany: What did he do?

Hoeun: Now he holds a senior position. He was in the jungle with me.

Dany: Has Duch returned to Tram Kak district?

Hoeun: Yes, he has. When he had returned to Tram Kak district he was asked to talk in the meeting. He was on his feet making confession. He bought his rank with some gold necklace he obtained from Thuok when he was deceased. .

Dany: Did he not go to the jungle?

Hoeun: Yes, he did. But he returned to his home village in 1980.

Dany: What did he do in Tram Kak district?

Hoeun: He held a higher position. Duch was the Head of the Sector Police. He was known to people when he made his confession during the meeting upon returning to his village.

Dany: Was he not mistreated?

Hoeun: No, he wasn't.

Dany: During the meeting when you discussed about killing Yun what position were you holding?

Hoeun: When the Vietnamese troops came I was not holding any position. When I was in the jungle I was holding no position either.

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Transcribed by CHHAY Davin, RY Leakhena and SOKH Vannak - 74/88

- Dany: How would you be invited to the meeting if you were not holding any positions?
- Hoeun: I was still included in the meetings because I used to be a person with some credits.
- Dany: Did you attend the meeting with *Ta Neang*?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did.
- Dany: Was *Ta Neang Ta Chim*'s deputy?
- Hoeun: *Ta Neang* was the Head of Chub factory. *Ta Tun* was a Regiment soldier while *Ta Duch* was the Chief of Phnom Pech (ភ្នំពេជ្រ) base.
- Dany: Where is Phnom Pech?
- Hoeun: Phnom Pech is in Chub.
- Dany: Had he remained in charge of the police in Tram Kak?
- Hoeun: No, he hadn't. He had come with *Ta Chim*.
- Dany: Was it only you who disagreed with the idea of killing Yun?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. The meeting agreed with the idea except me. He was stomping his feet and yelled at me. He said that's the reason he didn't want me to join his trip was because I didn't learn to agree with him. Once the meeting was over I returned to my office. Soon three young men were sent to kill me. These men used to be my people.
- Dany: Was it because you disagreed with his decision to kill Yun who let his wife go into missing that *Ta Chim* wanted to kill you too?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: The three young men came for you. Instead they shed tears and decided not to kill you. Did that angry *Ta Chim*?
- Hoeun: Yes, it did. I ran with the three young men to a location about 10 kilometres from his place. He was trying to kill me there again but all to no avail. We then moved to Kampong Cham. Later he sent 15 armed men from *Ta Kung*'s Division to kill me. They all were armed with AK-47 and two B-40 Rocket Launchers. I was sitting with *Ta Chum* like this seating arrangement when they found me. They pointed their guns and the B-40 Rocket Launchers at me. They stared at me. I said I knew you were here to kill me. I sat still looking straight at them. A while later they had left.
- Dany: Did they not dare to shoot you?
- Hoeun: No, they didn't. How would they dare to shoot me while I was with a Division of soldiers under *Ta Chum*!
- Dany: Were you sitting with *Ta Chum*?
- Hoeun: Yes, I was.
- Dany: Where was *Ta Chum* at that time?
- Hoeun: He was in the jungle in Stung Trang district. He was in the jungle of Chamka Andaung and Rubber Plantation in the North.
- Dany: What did he do before the Vietnamese came?
- Hoeun: He had been in charge of the Division all along?
- Dany: Which Division was he in charge?
- Hoeun: I don't know which Division he was in charge. But I knew he was in charge of a Division.
- Dany: When did you first get to know him?
- Hoeun: I first knew him when I ran into the jungle.
- Dany: Had you never known him before?
- Hoeun: No, I hadn't.

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Transcribed by CHHAY Davin, RY Leakhena and SOKH Vannak - 75/88

- Dany: Did you know where he was from?
 Hoeun: No, I didn't.
 Dany: Now let's go back to the point when you met with *Ta Mok* to whom you gave the gun. What did you do after that?
 Hoeun: I was sick and hospitalised. I did nothing during this treatment.
 Dany: Which hospital had you been admitted to?
 Hoeun: I was admitted to K-7(គ្រ) 1001 Hospital located next to the Tonle L'pov River.
 Dany: Was 1001 located under *Ta Mok*'s jurisdiction?
 Hoeun: No, it wasn't. *Ta Mok* was at 1002. He moved to 1002 when *Ta SON Sen* was in charge of 1001.
 Dany: Why did he have to move to 1001?
 Hoeun: He had left 1001 to open a new Corridor at 1002 which was to the West of 1001.
 Dany: Who was in charge of 1001 when he was in charge of Corridor 1002?
 Hoeun: *Ta SON Sen* was in charge of 1001.
 Dany: Was *SON Sen* in charge of 1001?
 Hoeun: Yes, he was.
 Dany: Initially had *Ta Mok* been in charge of 1001?
 Hoeun: Yes, he had. When more troops were built up he started a new Corridor called 1002. *SON Sen* had to be in charge of 1001.
 Dany: When did *SON Sen* arrive at 1001?
 Hoeun: It was in February 1980.
 Dany: Did you go there in July?
 Hoeun: I moved there later. I had to move there twice. During my last move the troops had all withdrawn.
 Dany: Were you seriously sick during that time when your body become swollen?
 Hoeun: Yes, I was. My body had become swollen to the point that I could not move my limbs.
 Dany: What did *Ta Mok* tell the medics regarding your sickness?
 Hoeun: He did not bring me to the hospital. Only when he moved to 1001 again that he paid me a visit.
 Dany: Are you referring to 1002?
 Hoeun: Yes, I am. I should have said 1002. He asked the medics when he was looking for me at the hospital. The medics told him my name and let him know that my condition had not improved due to the fact that *Ta Chim* had advised them not to take good care of me and not to give me any medication. *Ta Mok* then yelled order at them warning them that if they didn't treat me and let me die they too would be dead. *Ta Sy* and *Ta Lorn* were the Heads of the hospital back then.
 Dany: Are you referring to *Ta Sy* who was on the Kampong Siem District Committee?
 Hoeun: Yes, I am. He became the Head of that hospital.
 Dany: What did *Ta Chim* do to be able to rise to that position?
 Hoeun: I don't know what had been doing when he moved to 108.
 Dany: Was 108 a Division? Was it 108 or 808?
 Hoeun: It was 808. I don't know what he had been doing at 808.
 Dany: Did you meet *Ta Sy* over there?

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- Hoeun: Yes, I did. I met him and he talked to me about his story again.
- Dany: When you were in the hospital did *Ta Sy* tell you again about that story?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did.
- Dany: Did you also meet *Ta An* there?
- Hoeun: No, I didn't. *Ta An* was with the villagers at Tonle L'pov.
- Dany: Was he in Tonle L'pov?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: When you were with the villagers you met *Ta Sy*. Did you also see *Ta Kan*? Was he still there?
- Hoeun: No, I didn't. I have never met him again. I met him once when he was sent to seize my gun. After the troops were demobilized I haven't heard about him. Perhaps *Ta Mok* has assigned him to do something else.
- Dany: *Ta Sy* was in charge of Kampong Siem district. Did he become the Head of the hospital over there?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was in charge of K-7 Hospital.
- Dany: How long had you been hospitalised?
- Hoeun: After I had some Vitamin B-1 three times I was able to relieve myself and started to have some strength to sit up. After I got recovered I was discharged. I had decided to work at *Ta SON Sen's* warehouse. I was asked by the hospital to build houses even though I had not fully recovered. Instead I chose to work at the warehouse.
- Dany: Were you asked to work even though you had no fully recovered?
- Hoeun: As soon as I could be back on my feet though I was still weak I was asked to make the hospital beds and build houses.
- Dany: Who asked you to do that?
- Hoeun: *Ta Sy* and *Ta Deuro* (ធូរ) did. They were the Heads of the hospital.
- Dany: Were you asked by *Ta Sy* and *Ta Deuro* to do that?
- Hoeun: Yes, I was.
- Dany: Where is *Ta Deuro* from?
- Hoeun: *Ta Lorn* was *Ta Sy's* deputy.
- Dany: Where is *Ta Lorn* from?
- Hoeun: I don't know.
- Dany: Was he not with *Ta Sy* earlier?
- Hoeun: No, he wasn't. He was in separate unit. He was appointed to that position when he was in the jungle.
- Dany: Did you decide to work at *SON Sen's* warehouse instead of working for the hospital?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. I wrote a letter to *SON Sen* asking him for permission to see *Ta Mok* who had left a message for me that whenever I had recovered I had to go with me. I ended my letter by asking him to kindly allow me to go and see *Ta Mok*. I never heard from him. Later when he was to meet with *Ta Mok* and *Ta POL Pot* I wrote him another letter. I sent it through *Ta Kong* who was his bodyguard. After a while when *Ta Kong* returned I met him ask whether he gave my letter to *Ta SON Sen*. He said he gave it to him already. He told me *Ta SON Sen* placed it in his pocket. There was no answer. Finally I asked *Ta SON Sen* to allow me to work with him at the warehouse. He approved.
- Dany: Did *Ta SON Sen* tell you that he had given the letter to *Ta Mok*?

- Hoeun: No, he didn't. *Ta* Mok might have told him something about me that he allowed me to work with him.
- Dany: Are you referring to the work at the warehouse?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am.
- Dany: What did you do in the warehouse?
- Hoeun: I was in charge of distributing the supplies to the soldiers and civilians. The supplies would be transported by trucks to distribute to them.
- Dany: Did you know SON Sen very well?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. I started to know him very well when I was on the Mountain.
- Dany: Could you describe his personality?
- Hoeun: He was very bad.
- Dany: How bad was he?
- Hoeun: He had killed his own people.
- Dany: Had he killed his own people?
- Hoeun: Yes, he had. As I said earlier his prison was huge. About 200 people were arrested and detained at a time. Landmines would then be planted at the bamboo bushes before the detainees were released to clear the bamboos. Many stepped on the landmines and got killed. Those who were not killed by the landmines were finished off.
- Dany: Where did it happen?
- Hoeun: It was at Corridor1001 near Kampong Ampil (កំពង់អំពិល) Hospital.
- Dany: What year was that?
- Hoeun: It started from 1982, 1983, 1984.
- Dany: Did he still kill people during those years?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did.
- Dany: Who were the detainees? Why were they treated as such?
- Hoeun: Those detainees were soldiers. Those who had been in the forest had collected some wildlife's bones, tusks, skin and tails which they traded with the Thais for clothes and blankets etc. To stop them from entering Thailand landmines were planted on their routes.
- Dany: Did SON Sen plant the landmines to stop them?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did.
- Dany: Had the landmines been planted to stop the soldiers from trading those items with the Thais?
- Hoeun: Yes, they had. They were also meant to kill those people.
- Dany: Please tell me more about SON Sen.
- Hoeun: He had arrested the soldiers and imprisoned them. He had also arrested a Vietnamese and detained him near his office. Later he was interviewed. That Vietnamese guy was not shackled while the Khmer detainees were shackled in their legs. I saw it when was out to relieve myself.
- Dany: Was a Vietnamese also arrested at 1001?
- Hoeun: The Vietnamese was arrested by the Laotians who brought him to *Ta* Khieu (ត្រីង) also known as *Ta* SON Sen.
- Dany: How many Vietnamese had been arrested?
- Hoeun: Only one was arrested. He was beaten in the head.
- Dany: Was the Vietnamese arrested by the Laotians and given to *Ta* SON Sen?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was. He was begging the Locations for some rice to eat. But he was beaten in the head.

Dany: Is he Vietnamese?
Hoeun: Yes, he is.
Dany: Was that Vietnamese a soldier or civilian?
Hoeun: He was a Vietnamese soldier in Lao.
Dany: Did SON Sen interrogate him?
Hoeun: Yes, he did. He interrogated and interviewed him.
Dany: Was he released after that?
Hoeun: No, he wasn't. He was brought to Huon, my nephew. Later Huon told me that there was an order to release the Vietnamese. However the Khmer detainees were not released.
Dany: What happened after that?
Hoeun: When the prison was full the prisoners they would be brought out to clear the bamboos which were in the fields the landmines had been planted earlier. The Type 69 Bounding Antipersonnel Landmines exploded killing many of them. Those who were injured but not killed by the landmines were finished off. This practice would repeat when the prison was full of prisoners again.
Dany: What had become of that Vietnamese soldier?
Hoeun: He ran to his country.
Dany: When did he run to his country?
Hoeun: Just a few days after his arrest.
Dany: How did you know it?
Hoeun: I knew it because my nephew was working near the place he had been detained.
Dany: Did anyone dare to ask SON Sen about this?
Hoeun: No, they didn't. No one would risk going near his place.
Dany: You mentioned yesterday that SON Sen was yelling at you when you told him about the Vietnamese. Can you elaborate further?
Hoeun: On one occasion soon after I had left the warehouse while transporting rice supplies to the people I saw a group of Vietnamese running across the road. When I met with *Ta* SON Sen I told him about this. He warned me not to exaggerate. He said he trusted Comrade Nhann to have protected the area very well. He argued that no Vietnamese could sneak in the area.
Dany: Who is Comrade Nhann?
Hoeun: *Ta* Nhann was from a Division in Koh Kong province.
Dany: Was *Ta* Nhann *Ta* Muth's deputy?
Hoeun: *Ta* Nhann was in charge of protecting the Corridor which was the only access to the Mountain.
Dany: Did SON Sen warn you not to exaggerate as he trusted that *Ta* Nhann with protecting the area very well and that no Vietnamese could sneak in?
Hoeun: Yes, he did. He said *Ta* Nhann was in good control of that access point. No Vietnamese could get through. Only the ox-carts which were carrying the Khmer Rouge booties would be allowed to access that Corridor.
Dany: Did you see the Vietnamese clearly?
Hoeun: No, I didn't. I only saw the Vietnamese guy who was arrested.
Dany: What about the Vietnamese you said you saw crossing the road?
Hoeun: I saw them running across the road in front of my truck.
Dany: What did they cross the road for?

- Hoeun: Those Vietnamese were armed. They sneaked into *Ta Khiev's* area. Having seen this I told him. I was not praised but reprimanded. He said there was no Vietnamese here. Comrade Nhann did a very good job in protecting this area from the Vietnamese. Later on while driving I saw another group of Vietnamese running into a nearby house. I went back to report this to him. I told him I just saw another group of Vietnamese in the bamboo bush. I told him that the Vietnamese must have sneaked into his area. He didn't believe me. He said I was exaggerating. I didn't care to tell him again. I got home that day. The next day the area was filled with the Vietnamese. The fighting erupted.
- Dany: Did the Vietnamese open fire?
- Hoeun: Yes, they did.
- Dany: Did they fire at *Ta SON Sen's* troops?
- Hoeun: They were fighting the Laotians who were the resistance groups. The gunfire was so loud that we couldn't hear our conversation. Artilleries were shelling the 130 mm and 150 mm mortars. My warehouse was burnt down. The thick smoke blocked my vision.
- Dany: Was *Ta Khieu* injured?
- Hoeun: No, he wasn't. *Ta Khieu* had no more tears to cry.
- Dany: Why did he have no more tears to cry?
- Hoeun: *Ta Khy* (ឃី) was in charge of guarding at the food supply route near *Ta SON Sen's* house. *Ta Khy* has gun.
- Dany: Were *Ta Khy* and *Ta Khieu* two different people?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were. *Ta Khy* was the chief of the police. *Ta SON Sen* was also known as *Ta Khieu*.
- Dany: Was *Ta SON Sen* arrested by the Vietnamese?
- Hoeun: No, he wasn't. No one could arrest him. He was well protected by his forces.
- Dany: Did *SON Sen* have secret connections with the Vietnamese?
- Hoeun: No, he didn't. I hadn't heard any news about him since then. Later I contacted *Ta Khy* who said he told *Ta SON Sen* that he would no longer be able to resist the Vietnamese troops. He said most of their military bases were conquered by them.
- Dany: Was that what *Ta Khy* report to *SON Sen*?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. *Ta Khy* asked *Ta SON Sen* whether he considered retreating sooner than later. He said if *Ta SON Sen* didn't retreat he would. Later *Ta SON Sen* contacted *Ta Khy* but all to no avail because he had withdrawn. *Ta Khieu* then retreated. They met again at Tonle L'pov. There were no people there as the Vietnamese had evacuated them. Many ox-carts were used to transport goods.
- Dany: Where did you go then?
- Hoeun: We ran to the North. It took us a month before we could reach Thailand. While in Thailand some minivans were arranged to transport all the people to Corridors 1001 and 1002 where *Ta Mok* was in charge. That's the end of it.
- Dany: You have mentioned about the Laotians who arrested the Vietnamese and sent him to Khmers. Can you tell us more about that?
- Hoeun: Those people were the Red Laotians. They were part of their internal resistance movement.

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- Dany: Are you talking about the Laotians who were part of their internal resistance movement against their own government?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am. There were two types of Laotians. The Red ones were those who went out to start their resistance movement while the White ones were those who were inside Lao.
- Dany: Was *Ta An* also with you when you were in Thailand?
- Hoeun: Yes, he was.
- Dany: Did he manage to get to Thailand also?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. There were tens of thousands of Cambodians over there.
- Dany: Where did you go from there?
- Hoeun: We took the minivans to *Ta Mok's Corridor 1002*. Our people were all transported to that area. Finally we did the head count of our remaining fighters. Out of the 50,000 soldiers we used to have only 10,000 were accounted for.
- Dany: Why?
- Hoeun: Most of them had been killed. *Ta Khiev's* troops were killed in large number. Their bodies scattered everywhere that we could find it hard not to step on them while walking.
- Dany: Where did they die?
- Hoeun: They died in the jungle of Tonle L'pov village.
- Dany: How did they die?
- Hoeun: They had been killed by the Vietnamese. The Red Thais had joined hands with the Vietnamese to attack Khmers. They had attacked the POL Pot's forces.
- Dany: Were the Red Thais collaborating with the Vietnamese to attack Khmers?
- Hoeun: Yes, they were. The Red Thais collaborated with the Vietnamese and attacked us. For example the Red Thais would cover the path with some leaves and lying to us that landmines had been planted on that path. We then had to use another path. We didn't know that we were tricked to walk into the Vietnamese troops who launched a stormy attack on us.
- Dany: Were you attacked by the Red Thais?
- Hoeun: No, we weren't. We were attacked by the Vietnamese. The Red Thais were collaborating with them to attack us.
- Dany: Were you deceived by the Red Thais?
- Hoeun: Yes, we were. They were deceitful. They lied to us that if we took that path we would step on the landmines. They said there were many landmines. They tricked us to use the path which leads to the waiting Vietnamese troops. We were attacked. Many of our troops had been killed.
- Dany: Were there only 10,000 people accounted for out of the 50,000 people?
- Hoeun: Yes, there were.
- Dany: Did you move to *Ta Mok's Corridor 1002* after you had been in Thailand?
- Hoeun: Yes, we did.
- Dany: What year was that?
- Hoeun: It was in 1985.
- Dany: Was it in 1985?
- Hoeun: The French had brought in supplies when we were there.
- Dany: Was 1001 abandoned?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was. However *Ta Nhann* and his troops had remained at the Corridor to fend it off from the Vietnamese. They killed a lot of them.

- Dany: Did *Ta Nhann* engage in the fire with them?
Hoeun: Yes, he did. *Ta Khy's* Division was engaged in this attack. They had killed many of them.
- Dany: Did they kill many Vietnamese troops?
Hoeun: Yes, they did.
- Dany: Was 1001 abandoned 1985?
Hoeun: Yes, it was. On the first and second day in 1985 we had retreated and abandoned our base.
- Dany: What month was that?
Hoeun: It was in January or February 1985. The fighting started in 1984.
- Dany: How long had you remained in Thailand before reuniting with *Ta Mok*?
Hoeun: I had been in Thailand for one month before *Ta SON Sen* emerged from the jungle and saw the people who had escaped from the fighting. Then he arranged the Thai trucks to transport them to *Ta Mok's* place.
- Dany: Were all of the people brought to *Ta Mok's* place?
Hoeun: Yes, they were.
- Dany: Was *Ta An* also there at that time?
Hoeun: Yes, he was. He managed to get to Thailand with us too.
- Dany: Was *Ta An* transported to *Ta Mok's* place?
Hoeun: Yes, he was. All the people including the soldiers, civilians and villagers from the Tonle L'pov village were brought to *Ta Mok's* place.
- Dany: What happened when you arrived at *Ta Mok's* place?
Hoeun: After arriving at *Ta Mok's* place when we had not managed to build our shelters we were bombarded by the Vietnamese again.
- Dany: Where did you go in order to escape from the shelling?
Hoeun: We had to be relocated and found ourselves in Thai's territory again. While in Thailand we were shelled again. Unfortunately there was nowhere else we could move to. Against all odds we had to remain in that place which was called Dang Tung (ដងតុង).
- Dany: Was Dang Tung in Thailand?
Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: Was 1002 also seized by the Vietnamese in 1085?
Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: Did the Vietnamese troops manage to seize all the military bases?
Hoeun: Yes, they did. Even 1000 which was under *Ta Mok's* control was also seized by the Vietnamese.
- Dany: What about 1003?
Hoeun: 1003 and 1001 were also seized by the Vietnamese.
- Dany: Is that true that 1001, 1002, 1003 and 808 were all seized by the Vietnamese?
Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: Did the Vietnamese take full control of those places?
Hoeun: Yes, they did. Khmers had to take refuge in the refugee camps in Thailand. We were provided with everything by the French.
- Dany: How long had you remained in Dang Tung before you were relocated again?
Hoeun: I had been there for a very long time. *Ta Mok* made us move to a new location to get away from the French. He didn't want the French to have access to our place. He would make us fall some trees to block the roads so

that they could restrain the French's access to our area. This situation frustrated some villagers also. They said while they were running away from the Vietnamese they shouldn't be supposed to keep hiding from the French. I asked an elder woman why she was mentioning that. She challenged me to wake up and smell the coffee. She asked me whether I noted that *Ta Mok* had been trying to deprive people of their supplies provided by the French when he kept evacuating people to a new place each time the French found us.

Dany: What did the French bring to the people?

Hoeun: They would bring rice, beans, sugar and vegetables of all kinds.

Dany: Did *Ta Mok* refuse to receive those supplies?

Hoeun: Yes, he did. The supplies were dumped and stacked like a hill as *Ta Mok* refused the offers. He would always evacuate us to a new location to get away from the French. The paths would be removed or blocked by some fell trees so that the French would not be able to get access to the area. When the French managed to bring more supplies to a new location he would then evacuate us to another place.

Dany: Was *Ta Mok* afraid that the French would take all the people with them?

Hoeun: Yes, he was.

Dany: The reason he kept evacuating from the French was that he wanted to make sure that they were not taken away. Is that correct?

Hoeun: Yes, it is. He didn't want the French to meet with him. He didn't want them to feed us. However by 1988 he had felt the world's pressure. I knew about this because I was with him. He had me planted some peppercorns in Au-Ta-Chak village. I remember when I was watering the peppercorns plants I heard he called a representative of each Divisions and Unit and told them that all the people would have to be transported into the camp. He said the world was exerting pressure on him. At that time he said the world gave him 24 hours to bring all the refugees back from Thailand or risk being destroyed. To that effect he arranged to have all the people transported to Au Trav camp where the French started counting our heads. That was the time we moved back into Cambodia.

Dany: Was that in 1988?

Hoeun: I don't remember the exact year. It was in 1980s. The French had fed us for two years before they brought us to HUN Sen. After the soldiers had been repatriated they started to turn their weapons against us.

Dany: From where were you transported by the French as part of the repatriation process?

Hoeun: I had settled in Along Veng with *Ta Mok*.

Dany: Until when had you remained in Along Veng?

Hoeun: Until 1989. I then asked for permission to live in Au Ruth Kroh village.

Dany: In 1989 why did you choose to move to this area?

Hoeun: By 1989 I had left Along Veng.

Dany: Is that correct that you were no longer in Anlong Veng by 1989?

Hoeun: Yes, it is. SAOM Dân (ស្រី ដំ) brought me by truck to Border Post 70.

Dany: Why did you decide to come here?

Hoeun: I had no farmland in Au Ruth Kroh. I asked *Ta Dân* to bring me here so that I could have land on which I could do rice farming.

Dany: Why did you move from *Ta Mok*'s place to live in Au Ruth Kroh?

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- Hoeun: I was brought into the camp because *Ta Mok* wanted all the white-headed people like me to be in the camp. He wanted the dark-headed people [young people] to continue fighting the Vietnamese. As I was one of the white-headed persons I was brought by truck to Au Ta Trav where the French had registered me.
- Dany: Did SAOM Dân go to pick you up from there?
- Hoeun: Yes, he did. *Ta Dân* was at Border Post 70. He visited the camp. When I met him at the camp I asked him to let me come with him as I needed someone I could rely on like him. He asked me to wait for his decision. Less than a month later someone was coming to pick me. I came with them.
- Dany: Did you have any position when you were working with *Ta Mok*?
- Hoeun: No, I didn't. We had become civilians. No one was holding any position.
- Dany: Did you move to live here in 1989?
- Hoeun: Yes, I did. I came to live at Border Post 70.
- Dany: Where is Border Post 70?
- Hoeun: It's located to the West of Au Ruth Kroh in Thailand.
- Dany: How long had you remained there?
- Hoeun: After being at Border Post 70 for a week I moved to Au Ruth Kroh where I had remained until 1992. By then there was a preparation for the elections. By 1993 I moved to live in *Ta Sanh* where I did farming. I didn't have a farmland when I was at Au Ruth Kroh.
- Dany: When did you meet your wife and children again?
- Hoeun: I met her in late 1984 at *Ta Khiev's* warehouse at Dangrek Mountain. When I was reunited with her I was building a new house. By early 1985 when the house was not complete the Vietnamese attacked us again.
- Dany: Did you wife go to her home village before she went back to find you?
- Hoeun: Yes, she did. When she was at her home village she was persecuted because she was not with me. She was accused of being the wife of a POL Pot's soldier. It was presumed that only a woman whose husband was a POL Pot's soldier would come home without her husband. She was wanted for the arrest. She ran to Phnom Penh and remained in hiding for a year. Even in Phnom Penh she was after. She took the advantage of the occasion when meeting with *Tâk*, her brother, a taxi driver. He was in Phnom Penh looking for workers to work in Thailand. That evening she and all our children came with him to my place.
- Dany: What year was it?
- Hoeun: I don't remember the exact year. However she came to see me in late 1984.
- Dany: Was it in late 1984?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: Where did she meet you?
- Hoeun: We met at K-7 (គ-៧), 1001.
- Dany: Did she find you?
- Hoeun: Yes, she did. But first she got lost. The drivers of the trucks that transported rice to 20 families at *Ta Mok's* Corridor 1001 got lost. They ended up being at *Ta SON Sen's* place instead. I didn't know my family was among those people. At 9 am I got ready to go with another truck to

- bring the rice to the families. Then I found my wife who was standing near the fence.
- Dany: In all those days when you had moved to 1002 which was under *Ta Mok* before you were relocated to Au Ruth Kroh were you with your family?
- Hoeun: Yes, I was. We had been reunited.
- Dany: Did you first come to live in Au Ruth Kroh?
- Hoeun: Yes, we did. By 1991 we moved from Au Ruth Kroh to this place. It was the year in which the preparation for the national elections was under way.
- Dany: Who were in charge at the Frontlines in Samlot?
- Hoeun: *Ta Meth* was the most senior leader.
- Dany: Who was under *Ta Meth*?
- Hoeun: *Ta SAOM Dân* was. He was in charge of the Southern territory.
- Dany: What about *Ta Tith*?
- Hoeun: *Ta Tith* was in charge at Sen Chao (សែនច្បារ). He also oversaw the Southern territory. *Ta Dân* was his deputy.
- Dany: What battlefield is that?
- Hoeun: I don't know. It was at Koh Kong Corridor.
- Dany: What Corridor is this?
- Hoeun: *Ta Muth's* jurisdiction covered from Pailin to Koh Kong-Kampong Som. *Ta Mok's* jurisdiction covered from Pailin to Ratanakiri. They started to split this jurisdiction after *Ta Mok* got one of his legs amputated.
- Dany: Is that correct that *Ta Muth* had the jurisdiction over the area that stretched from Pailin to Koh Kong?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is.
- Dany: Was it under MEAS Muth's jurisdiction?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: What about *Ta Meth*?
- Hoeun: *Ta Meth* was in charge of this Corridor. I don't remember its name.
- Dany: Between *Ta Meth* and *Ta Muth* who was more superior in rank?
- Hoeun: *Ta Muth* was more superior to *Ta Meth*. *Ta Muth* was in charge of half of the country while *Ta Meth* was in charge of the Division.
- Dany: Are you referring to *Ta Meth* who was in charge of only the Division?
- Hoeun: Yes, I am. *Ta Muth* was in charge of half of the country. Even *Ta Mok's* son in law was also holding a senior position.
- Dany: What about *Ta Tith*? When did you get to know him?
- Hoeun: I met him at Border Post 70. He went to that area.
- Dany: How many Divisions were deployed to that area?
- Hoeun: Are you talking about Division under *Ta Tith*?
- Dany: No, I don't. I was asking you about how many Divisions were deployed to cover the areas from Koh Kong to Pailin.
- Hoeun: There were too many Divisions to count. *Ta Muth* was the most senior leader. There were IENG Phan's Division, *Ta Meung's* (តាម៉ឺង) Division and so on and so forth. There were a lot of Divisions which were deployed from here to Koh Kong. I can't recall them all.
- Dany: Have you remained in this place since 1992?
- Hoeun: Yes, I have.
- Dany: You were offered a plot of land in 1992. How big was it?

- Hoeun: It was big at the beginning. The size of the land used to be from that road to my veranda. It bordered the pagoda's wall to the South. However it was grabbed by *Ta Muth*. I know live on my son's piece of land.
- Dany: Was your land grabbed entirely?
- Hoeun: Yes, it was.
- Dany: When was it grabbed?
- Hoeun: It was grabbed in 2000.
- Dany: Who grabbed it?
- Hoeun: *Ta Muth* ordered the commune chief to make me give away my land to him.
- Dany: Who was the commune chief?
- Hoeun: It was *Ta Mai*. He was the first assistant to the commune chief.
- Dany: Why did they take your land?
- Hoeun: It was taken to give to the pagoda. No compensation has ever been made to me.
- Dany: Is the pagoda situated on the piece of land that used to be yours?
- Hoeun: Yes, it is. The land used to be in my possession and that of my other two children's. It is a huge piece of land.
- Dany: What is the size of the land in square meters?
- Hoeun: I don't know. I have no measurement tool to measure it. I have never measured it.
- Dany: Have you ever filed a complaint regarding the loss of your land?
- Hoeun: No, I haven't. I was warned not say a word about this or I would be in big trouble.
- Dany: Who warned you?
- Hoeun: *Ta Muth* did. He was very threatening.
- Dany: When did he warn you?
- Hoeun: It was in 2000. He brought in the police, the commune chief and the village chief to talk about that land. I told him I wouldn't give this land to him. I said you gave it to me. If you wanted to have it back you would have to give me some compensation. That's what I said to him. Then I walked home. That's when he warned me.
- Dany: What did he say?
- Hoeun: After I had left they continue their meeting. Before I left I said that I wouldn't give this land to him. I had worked hard to clear the landmines from the land. I told him that when there were no people living in this area he wanted me to come and live here. Now the area had become more populated he wanted to get the land back from me. I said I wouldn't give it to him. Then I walked home.
- Dany: What did he say next?
- Hoeun: He didn't say anything.
- Dany: Has he provided you with any compensation?
- Hoeun: No, he hasn't. The land was grabbed arbitrarily. My children have not received any compensation either. First he grabbed the villagers' land and built a cooperative on it. Then he grabbed mine and built the pagoda on it. Soon he will grab another piece of land.
- Dany: Whose land would he grab soon?
- Hoeun: Soon he will grab the lands surrounding his house. He is grabbing everybody's land. He even used to grab his daughter's land. Her name is

Pheap. Her husband's name is Thun. He had some big arguments with her over that piece of land. Fortunately his daughter won the case. She has now built the fence on the land. He had given this land to me. Then he took it from me.

- Dany: What is *Ta* Muth's wife name?
 Hoeun: Her name is Kha(ខ្មែរ). I don't remember her full name.
 Dany: Where is she from?
 Hoeun: She is from the same village as his?
 Dany: How many children do they have?
 Hoeun: They have four or five children. None of them would want to visit them. I have also hated them since he has grabbed my land.
 Dany: What is his first child's name?
 Hoeun: His first daughter, when he got married with *Yeay* Khom, is Pheap.
 Dany: Is Pheap his first daughter when he married *Yeay* Khom?
 Hoeun: Yes, she is.
 Dany: Is Pheap the only child he's got with *Yeay* Khom?
 Hoeun: No, she isn't the only child. They got a son also. He's in Anglung Trakuon.
 Dany: What is his name?
 Hoeun: His name is Vuth.
 Dany: Are Vuth and Pheap his children of his previous marriage with *Yeay* Khom?
 Hoeun: Yes, they are.
 Dany: How many children does he have with his second marriage?
 Hoeun: I don't know the names of the children of his second marriage. There are four to five of them.
 Dany: Does he have four to five children during his second marriage?
 Hoeun: Yes, he does. But I have never wanted to associate with him and his family. I hate him for stealing my land.
 Dany: Have you hated him and his family since he grabbed your land?
 Hoeun: Yes, I have. Even he has attempted to talk with me I would never want to.
 Dany: Haven't you talked to each other?
 Hoeun: No, I haven't. Before yesterday he came to buy some cookies from my wife. I asked her whether she had talked with him earlier that he came to buy the cookies. She said she had not talked with him. He just came to spend 90 Baht for the cookies.
 Dany: Did he say anything when buying the cookies?
 Hoeun: No one talked with him. I just asked my wife what made him come to buy our cookies. I told my wife that now he was wanted for the trials that's why he perhaps tried to be nice to us for he might want me not to tell people about his story.
 Dany: What trials are you talking about?
 Hoeun: I am talking about the Khmer Rouge trials.
 Dany: Have you also heard about the trials?
 Hoeun: Yes, I have. He has been interviewed a few times already.
 Dany: Has he been interviewed for a few times already? Who interviewed him?
 Hoeun: Yes, he has. He has been interviewed by Mayarith.
 Dany: Have you ever been interviewed?
 Hoeun: No, I haven't. I have never been interviewed before except with you now.

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Transcribed by CHHAY Davin, RY Leakhena and SOKH Vannak - 87/88

Dany: Is this interview with me the first interview you have ever given?
Hoeun: Yes, it is.
Dany: It's now getting too late at night for you. I thank you very much for your time. Thank you very much for allowing me to interview you.
Hoeun: Sure.
Dany: Thank you very much.

The End