

DC. CAM

No. 06 JVN

Report

on activities in search of relevant
documents about genocidal crime of Pol Pot clique
in Kampong Cham (2nd time)
(Phnom Penh, 10 April 1997)

On 7 April 1997, DC. CAM assigned a research team of three people: ~~Sin~~ Mr. Sin Khin, Mr. Hak Sophal, and ~~Mr.~~ a driver to research documents related to genocidal crime of Pol Pot clique in Kampong Cham.

According to the documents of the office of culture of Srok Pogneakrek and those of our team research conducted at the first time, the ~~dis~~ executive director of DC. CAM reviewed and saw that there are considerable amounts of genocidal crime committed in all communes throughout Srok Pogneakrek, but our first-time team had done ~~the~~ some research in some communes only as we did not have enough time. Now, we are to go and examine the places again.

This time ~~there~~ there is no need to contact the provincial governor again as he already gave the approval. We then just went to communicate with the chief of Srok Pogneakrek. We travelled along the national road 6 to Kampong Cham, then departed from Kampong Cham on the national road 7 to Srok Pogneakrek. We arrived there at 11h30 a.m.

At 14h00 pm, we went to contact the office of Srok Pogneakrek to ask for 2 security policemen to follow us for protection and a cultural officer to work with us. But this did not help because no one was there.

We got administrative officers of this Srok to contact the commissariat of police, and we had to wait in vain for two hours having no one to help collaborate with our work. So, we decided to go to the criminal centres as

indicated in our existing documents.

At 16h30 p.m, we went to a eriminal centre between Phum Andoat, khum Kandoal Chrum and Phum Trapaeng Sangke khum Sra Lob in Srok Pognea Kreek, Khet Kampong Cham. First, we travelled 14 kilometers from the district office to the entrance way, then turned right another 2 kilometers. So, it took 16 kilometers to get to the eriminal centre which is located ~~at~~ South of the district office.

This eriminal centre was in region 21, Eastern zone (in Pol Pot's time). This centre comprised a security office and a prison, which was called a big place called security office, region 21, Eastern zone. This centre was formerly the coconut tree plantation of forestry chief Morn, which was called Prey Yeay Tet. Before Pol Pot's time, this place was full of coconut trees, according to the people in that commune.

We met and discussed our work with the chief of Phum Andoat, and he helped find a witness for us. The witness' name is Kiv Nol, male, aged 47, 1.60 meters high, black skin. In Pol Pot's time, he lived in Phum Andoat khum Kandoal Chrum, Srok Pognea Kreek, Khet Kampong Cham. Now, he is a deputy chief of group, living in the same Phum, khum, Srok and Khet.

This witness, the chief of Phum and us, we together got to the security office, the prison, and the site of killing. We examined and saw there are wells, pits, remains and cloths still remained ~~at~~ in there. Knowing clearly about these, we started asking the witness for more detailed information.

The witness clarified that the security office, the prison and the site of killing were built since 1975 until 1979. Before 1975, this location of the security office and the prison was in Srok Memot, but it was changed to be here in 1975. The prison was very big and ~~it was lit up with~~ by electric power it was full of electric light during the night time. The prison's chiefs were Yim Sophy and Ken who are now missing. At that time, this location was in the forest. The scope of the site of killing extended over 2 square kilometers. There were 4 big pits and 185 small pits.

According to the documents of the district office of culture, there are 11294 ^{dead} bodies and no museum for putting the remains of them.

kinds of victims killed in here:

There were 2 stages in which victims were taken to be killed in here.

1- From 1975-76, the victims were soldiers, policemen, military police, spies, custom officers, students, teacher, civil servants together with all their families. They were carried by trucks to be temporarily placed here. At 14th 00 to 15th 00 p.m.) Pol Pot's Lackeys started carrying out murder. While taking victims to be killed, bass speakers were turned on at high level of sound and pestles with mortars were also pound so loudly all over the place.

2- From 1977-78 until early 1979, the victims were Pol Pot's partisans. They were people from big and small units, chiefs and deputy chiefs of collectives, Pol Pot's soldiers, security forces in region 21 in Eastern zone, and some others from South western and Eastern parts. For those coming Eastern part, Pol Pot's hard-core soldiers were assigned to kill them.

Kiv Nol also mentioned that Eastern people, like people evacuated from Phnom Penh, ^{not only families of} were all killed; but also those from taken from Srok Stoung Trang, Srok Memot, Srok Kroch Chmar, Srok Dambe and people throughout Khet Kampony Cham were killed as well.

Concerning torturing, while being interrogated, victims were hanged up to the branches of tree and strung to let them fall down. Even worse, their fingernails and toenails were extracted while interrogated.

He added that during 1979-80 he saw some people secretly try to unearth remains in search of gold. There were then many pits and bodies littered everywhere, and up to now, remains were almost eaten by cattle.

As for victims taken to be here - said the witness, no one could ever have any chance to escape from their death.

We took photo of the witness, interviewed him, and got all information recorded in cassette for keeping as documents.

- At 10 ~~pm~~ to 9 o'clock on 8 April 1997, we left for Steung Toch criminal centre in Phum Steung Toch, Khum Kok, Srok Poghea Krek, Khet Kampong Cham.

About 10 kilometers from the district office and 4 kilometers from the national road 7, we first met the commune chief Norng Chhean accompanied by a militiaman.

In Phum Steung Trang, we met an old man ~~named~~ Nov No, aged 56, 1.65 meters high, white skin, some gray hair, and wearing a Chinese round-necked shirt. In Pol Pot's time, he lived in Phum Pon Lai, Khum Kok, and worked for collective. He was at that time arrested and ~~he~~ walked by Pol Pot's lackeys to be killed, but he luckily ran to escape from them with his hands tied. Now, he lives in Phum Pon Lai, Khum Kok, Srok Poghea Krek, Khet Kampong Cham.

Nov No recounted that 6 friends of his were taken to be killed by accusing of being Vietnamese enemies and supporting Vietnamese politics. He said he was the only one out of 8 friends of his, who escaped from their killing.

While he was being tied, he made his hands muscles bigger so that the tie would be loose when ~~the~~ the muscles turned back to normal. Fortunately, as he could untied the loose tie, he ran away with a pair of bullets fired behind his back. He was chased until it was getting dark that he was safely hid and could not be found.

~~Later on, he said, he saw many people being gathered and walked into the forest to be killed by telling lies that these people were traitors and Soa Phim's partisans who betrayed the country, ~~maltreated people~~ maltreated people, and did not ~~supp~~ allow to eat enough.~~

Later on, the witness ~~said~~ said, he saw many people who escaped into the forest be gathered to be killed by telling lies that Soa Phim ~~were~~ s partisans betrayed the country maltreated people, and did not allow people to have enough to eat. "But superior Angkar did not allow this to happen. So only traitors were to be killed, but for you people Angkar were going to let you off, thus you people

had to come ~~to~~ back to home villages», - Pol Pot's lackeys
tied to those who escape to live in the forest. Then, the people
believed and decided to come back home. Again, they were
cheated Angkar changed their dwellings, and then persuasively
carried by truck to be killed at ^{Prey} Steung Toek in Phum

Steung Toek, Khum Kok, situated 7 kilometers far from the
district office ~~and~~, 6 kilometers from Vietnamese border.

At 10h30 a.m., our team reached Steung Toek criminal
centre in Phum Steung Toek, Khum Krek, Srok Pogneakrek,
Khet Kampong Cham. And there, we met a witness named
Nong Norn, male, aged 44, 1.70 meters high, white skin,
some gray hair, good teeth. In Pol Pot's time, he was a
teacher for young children, and lived in Phum Ponlai,
Khum Kok. He is still alive because he fled to Vietnam
in 1977 and came back to Cambodia in 1977.

Then, we went with him to examine the location of
pits at Prey Steung Toek. We saw three ~~at~~ sites of
killing. In the first site of killing, there are 4 pits,
each of which is 3 meters wide, 4 meters long, 2 meters deep.
In the second one which is located 200 meters behind
Tim Neang's house, there are 1 pit of 2 to 3 square
meters with full of bodies. In the third one, there are
4 pits situated 500 meters far from the West pits,
turning right 100 meters into the forest. This location
was in the deep forest, comprising 4 big pits and many
small pits which ~~are~~ were military trenches. In 1979,
there were full of victims killed all over the location
which is located ~~right~~ 100 meters from the street 29.
we have got a witness named Sek Yon who ~~saw~~
first saw bodies in Prey Steung Toek. Now, this witness
lives in this Phum Steung Toek.

There are around 1803 victims killed here. The victims
were people ~~to~~ carried by trucks from Phum Bos, ~~Phum~~ Phum Ponlai,
Phum Teuk Long as well as base people throughout Srok Pogneak
Krek.

He went on by saying that victims taken to be placed here were the families and the wives and the children of Pol Pot's soldiers who escaped into the forest to join East soldiers, as well as ~~base people living~~ a number of base people. In some pits, there are full of East soldiers' bodies of East soldiers. The bodies were considered to be East soldiers because military uniforms, canteens, belts, and good shoes made of rubber tire provided for soldiers ~~were seen~~ (East soldiers) were seen pell-mell all over the place.

Carried by trucks to be killed, people were told lies that Angkar entailed them to ~~change~~ their move out to live in a new place, new collective, new syndicate or to ~~work~~ ^{be} as rubber plantation workers of rubber plantation, where there were enough to eat — 3 meals a day.

Soon after getting in the trucks, people had their legs shackled right away, being told to be released when reaching the destination and people were shackled ^{like this} just for fear ~~that~~ they might escape.

As getting to the site of killing, the people were pointed with guns, had their hands tied up ~~and~~ one to another, ^{without delay} and ~~forced~~ were forced to walk in lines to be killed.

At 14h30 p.m., we travelled to the criminal centre in a rubber plantation lot 37 in Khum Krek, and ~~is~~ situated on the edge of Phnom Baset (mountain). ~~XXX~~ If we went along the national road 7, ~~and~~ turned left, then we got to the centre:

(by departing from the district office to Srok Memut)
The centre ~~is~~ is on the East side 8 kilometers from the district office.

Then we went with Phum chief and Khum chief of Khum Krek to examine the criminal centre in rubber plantation lot 37 in Khum Krek. We found a witness named Khnon Leng, male, aged 45, 1.70 meters high, white skin, black hair. In Pol Pot's time, he was a soldier in ~~the~~ division of Chan Chakrey's division positioned in Srok Kien Svay, Khet Kamdal.

Presently, he is the chief of Phum Taset, Khum Krek, Srok Pongea Krek, Krat Kampong Cham. He came back to live in his birthplace in 1979. At that time, he first saw pits, swollen bodies, and blood near the edges of the pits. When he pushed a ~~a~~ wooden stick down into the area near the mouth of the pits ~~about~~, it was about 7 decimeters deep - this is not in the middle of the pits.

The ^{big} pit ~~was~~ the kind of B52 pits where victims were killed and thrown into. The pits were ~~The pits were~~ The pit ~~was~~ is 12 ~~meters~~ square meters, and approximately 6 to 10 meters deep, and it was fully covered with killed victims.

He told us he got information from people that victims taken here were mostly rubber plantation workers carried from Chub, Memut ~~by~~ truck. At one time, there were 10 big trucks full of victims. There was no any interrogation at all, ~~if~~ ~~no~~ victims taken here were only supposed to be killed.

(or re-education)

~~They~~ As for the killers who just waited there and took people to be killed, they built a house near the forest of rubber plantation on the west side. In 1978, it was the year of mass killing.

According to this witness, regarding the way of taking people to be killed, people were carried by trucks by being told lies that they were to move out from one to another rubber plantation, but in fact they were taken ~~to live in~~ killed instead.

All of the victims killed here were people from middle zone - not base people from Eastern zone.

Total death toll of victims at the criminal centre in ^{the} rubber plantation lot 37 is 7286 people.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, we have done research on genocidal crime of Pol Pot's clique in 3 criminal centres which are in 3 communes of Srok Pagnea Krek, Krat Kompong Cham. We have found out that the death toll outnumbers that of others places. That is why we go and check it out. Unfortunately, we could not be able to do ~~so~~ much more research than this, because it is quite a long way from the district office to the site of killing and the distance from a criminal centre to another one is far away, while the road is much difficult as well.

However, it is really quite a good thing to directly go to examine ~~and get~~ sites of killing, pits and death toll, and to get information right from witnesses and people because we would find out more accurate evidential ~~facts~~ facts than what documents from the office of culture were showed in.

For instance, in some places the documents proved there were 5 pits but when we got down to the places and examined we saw there were up to 9 pits. The figure is based on what we did research and what witnesses knew - unlike what were just estimated in the documents.

It is the fact that we dare to face 2 problems in going deep into deserted forest in far-flung rural areas. Firstly, we might be appearing to meet Pol Pot soldiers. Secondly, there might be armed robber. Apparently, in Srok Pagnea Krek, a group of 12 soldiers with guns rounded up and escaped to hide themselves in the forest. Recently, they robbed people, killed a medical worker in the district, and killed cattle of people to make food and sell the rest of it to Vietnam.

We have got some difficulties in following up ^{the administrative} procedure of communes and districts. As we did not meet ^{the} district chief because the chief was out to join a meeting, we went to contact the district administrative office in order to ask for some security forces to accompany us. But, again ~~we~~ it did not help. So, we made up our minds to ~~make our way to meet~~ go to find the commune chief for some militiamen to help work with us.

For now, regarding the procedure of administrative affairs subordinates mostly listen ~~to~~ directly to superiors. Orders are issued by ~~the~~ superiors through vertical lines straight to followers to carry out, ~~i.e.~~ For example, police listen to and carry out orders passed on by the ~~provincial~~ commissariat of provincial police. Going straight to make contact with lower administration affairs without first getting ~~any~~ access to their top leaders ~~&~~ is also a problem.

Anyway, our work is greatly important. It is not a simple one because it is historically integral for a country to take the responsibility.

Request: Please give us more corrective advice for better work achievement later.

Phnom Penh, 10 April 1997

Report Maker

Sin Khim
