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Reports

on Field Study about Genocidal Crime of Pol Pot regime in Kampong Cham Province

On March 13, 1997 at 8 a.m., ~~Pol Pot's~~ a team research on the genocidal crime of Pol Pot regime in Kampong Cham province, led by Sin Hhinh, Poa Tip and Hak Sopha, travelled by taxi ^{down} along the National Road 6 bound for Kampong Cham province which is 125 kilometers far from the capital Phnom Penh. At 10 a.m. of the same day, we reached Kampong Cham provincial town and we went further on to the provincial cabinet in order to meet the chief cabinet and the provincial governor there.

Unfortunately, on that 13 March 1997, we have had met no any official and we just go some information that the chief cabinet and the governor had all gone to accompany Samdech Hun Sen visit at Srok Steung Treng. Officials under the cabinet of the province are not entitled to any decision ~~instead~~ of the problem instead of the chief of cabinet and the governor.

And then we went on to the provincial office of religious affairs and the office of culture, neither did this time. We still have not met the chiefs in charge. So we decided to ask for a fax accessible to 3 district namely Memut, Pogneakrek, and Kampong Siem so as to inform the districts to arrange and assign their responsible officials to facilitate our team ~~work~~ performance in each district of the districts as well as to let them know in advance our work project during the time we got to do there.

At 14 p.m of the same day, we again found our way to meet the chief of Cabinet and the governor of the province. Then, we had to wait a hour until 15 p.m when we met them. Excellency Mr. Hun Neng signed a paper of agreement to submit certain officials to work with us. The officials are:

- 1 - Mr. Nin Sinat, chief of the provincial office of religious affairs.
- 2 - Mr. Kent Pat, deputy chief of the provincial office (ឃុំ) of religious affairs.
- 3 - 2 security policemen

We then submitted this paper of permission approved by the provincial governor to the chiefs of the office of religious affairs and the office of culture and the provincial police commissary in order to ask for help from the people mentioned above to be ready for to get to Srok Hemut, Srok Pognea Krek and Srok Kampong Siem.

In addition, at the time in the meantime we have talked with ~~the~~ both of the chiefs of the offices, we took that opportunity to ask them and quote some important information as well as several other documents relevant to the genocidal crime throughout Kampong Cham province. We also asked them to fax to inform the three districts in advance. Anyway, it took us over half a day to have administrative work well successfully completed.

* Srok Pognea Krek:-

At 7 am on 14 March 1997, we travelled down the National Road (?) bound for Srok Pognea Krek and Srok Memut in the distance of 86 kilometers far from the provincial town - Kampong Cham.

At 10 a.m., we went to meet the chief of Srok Pognea Krek and administrative officials of the district in an intent to ask for permission to work in collaboration with officials of the culture and religious affairs in that district as well as to make plan for our research program for 15 March 1997 when we will be coming back from work in Srok Memut.

* Srok Memut:

Following After that, we continued our journey to Srok Memut. As we reached the district office, it was already 11.30 a.m. that is the break time and no one worked then. So, we got to the house of the chief of the office of district office of culture in order to inform about our research program in Srok Memut. In the same day, at 1 p.m., we went to the house of the deputy chief of Srok Memut to ask for collaboration to fulfil our work in that district.

During our talk with them, we quoted reports relevant to Pol Pot genocidal crime throughout Srok Memut in what we planned. Through the talk, we learned that there is only one site in Srok Memut. The site is in Phum Ka-Ngoak, Khum Kaki, Srok Memut, 25 kilometers far from the district office in the West, just 10 kilometers off from the National Road (?) passing the compound of Sa Leng Rubber plantation company.

+ ~~Geno~~

+ Geography of the district

In Pol Pot's time, this district was in region 21, Eastern zone 203. It shares borders with Vietnam on the South; with Srok Chhlong, Kratieh province on the North; with ~~Srok~~ Srok Pognea Krek on the West; and with Srok Shhol, Kratieh province on the East.

The majority of people living there are workers for rubber plantation. They also live on farms, plant potatoes, and grow some rice.

Next, we moved to the site situated in Phum Kra Ngoak, Kumm Kaki, and there we met a commune chief named Krug Leng. We then ~~arranged~~ talked with him about our work and following we went together to meet another one witness named Bo Try, male, aged 42, who is presently the chief of this commune.

During our meeting with the two, we quoted some information from them and we ~~also~~ took photograph of them as well. And then, we got right down to the site to see and check it. After that, we interviewed the two witness for details because they saw and joined themselves unearthing the remains of victims in 1986 (?).

⊗ big Bo Try, the first witness, indicated that there are 4 sites in this Phum Kra Ngoak, of which 3 are 3 meters wide and about 5 to 6 meters long each, while the other ~~one~~ long one is one meter wide and 60 meters long and 1.5 meters deep.

and 1.5 meters deep

Previously, this place was a canal into which victims were killed and thrown.

At 200 meters far from the sites, there is a well of around 3 to 4 meters deep, which was filled by victims killed by Pol Potists. Presently, people planted two coconut trees right above nearby.

Each site was filled with approximately 50 to 70 bodies, all together with bodies thrown into the well, the number goes to 300 people.

Museum:

There was only one museum situated in Wat Chas. Some of the remains were unearthed and taken to ~~deposite~~ be deposited for religious ritual purpose, whereas the rest remained undigged. Now, people buried all the remains nearby and we can see no museum any more because the old temple was rebuilt in a new place around here.

The witness made it clear that victims taken here were mostly cripple soldiers, medical workers and soldiers taken from the Vietnamese border, that were all killed here in 1978. In this Phum Ka Ngoak, there are one regional office and one ~~else~~ economic regional office nearby.

⊗ Krug Leng, the second witness, male, aged 51, in Pol Pot's time he was an ordinary person, after 1979 up to the present he has been a chief of Khum Kaki in Srok Memut, Kampong Cham province, and now he lives in ~~Phum Kaki~~ the same place as above. He also indicated the same as did the first witness, but ~~add~~ just added some more that there were two witness. The first is Gnagn Ren, and the second is Tit Son, male, former-combatant in Srok Memut, and now a militia living in Phum Kaki, Khum ~~Kaki~~ Srok Memut. Unfortunately, ~~we~~ it was not possible for us to get information and make interview with them since the time did not allow.

* Srok Pognea Krek:

At 17 p.m, we went on to Srok Pognea Krek and we stayed at the provincial governor's house for one night. At 7 a.m of the next day 15 March 1997, we had to meet:

1 - Mr. - - - - - ?

2 - Mr. - - - - - ?

We tried to find information and documents regarding Pol Pot's genocidal crime throughout this district.

+ Geography of Srok Pognea Krek:

Srok Pognea Krek is bordered by Vietnam on the East, Srok Tbaung Khmum ^{45° 51'} on the West, Dam Be and Tbaung Khmum on the North, Srok Kam Chay Meas and Srok Prey Veng in Prey Veng province on the South.

Srok Pognea Krek, in Pol Pot's time, was in region 21, Eastern zone (203). In 1979, there were 53 700 people living in this district. At present, the population reaches 121 308 people out of which 63 845 are women.

The whole area of the district extends on 77370 hectares, of which 27 900 hectares are planting area, 9 773 hectares are farms, 19 155 hectares are rice fields.

+ Places of the killing:

There are 4 places of the killing:

- 1- At ~~May Sak~~ Chamka May Sak, now ~~in~~ within the compound of the district office.
- 2- In Phum Lor, Khum Koang Kang, Srok Pognea Krek.
- 3- At Trapang Sangke near the border between Khum Veal Mlou and Kra Gnaung.
- 4- At Trapang Reussey in Chamka Thmor Da between the border of Khum Veal Mlou and Kra Gnaung.

And there is another one site in Phum Boss, Khum Daun Tei, Srok Pognea Krek, 15 kilometers far from the district office, but we ~~can not~~ fail to go there as time does not permit.

As soon as we got the information, we were going to
went to ask to see if there are witnesses and we then
found out there are 4 witnesses:

- 1- Mr. Khat Hut, ~~male~~, aged 35
- 2- Mr. Duk Soeung, ~~male~~, aged 52
- 3- Mr. Yim Soeung, aged 69
- 4- Mr. Yoak Mao, aged 61

Each of these witnesses respectively knows all different
sites, so we went to them for making interview and asking
them to help accompany us to see those sites.

Khat Hut, the first witness, male, aged 35, working in
mobile work brigade, during Pol Pot's time, and since 1979
up to now being a worker for May Sak plantation in Phum Lor,
Khum Koang Kang, Srok Pagnea Krek, said he saw with his
own eyes pits dotted the entire compound of the plantation
at the time when he first reached there. He also added that
he joined digging well in which remains of victims were
discovered. There are many pits and they are very big such as
B52 pits, where victims were killed and dropped into.
To figure out, there are - - - - - victims, and - - - - - pits
each of which contained roughly - - - - - people. 129

This witness said, according to the elderly people he asked,
the victims were killed in 1977 after Mr. Soa Phim, a chief
of Eastern zone, was arrested. Inside the same contour of
the plantation, saw as well a regional hospital. There are
many other pits throughout the plantation and it was all
seen remains everywhere unearthed. (= excavated)

Then, we came to meet Mr. Duk Soeung, the second
witness, aged 51, who was a chief of unit in charge of
buffaloes during Pol Pot's time, who escaped into Vietnam in 1978,
and who was a chief of Srok Srey Santhor in Kampong Cham
province in 1979. Presently, he is a policeman in Phum Lor,
Khum Koang Kang, Srok Mamot, Kampong Cham province.

We quoted some information, then made interviewed and got it recorded in cassette. We also took several pictures and asked him to take us to examine the site of killing in Phnum Lor, in the same Khum, Srok and Khet, which is located 2 kilometers far from the district administrative office, and 1.5 kilometers from the national road.

He said Pl Pst's Lackeys used 2 buildings with tile roof (presently the buildings are still in good condition - we have picture of them) as prison for detaining victims from mobile work brigades and youths at that time. The prison was used to put victims many times - each time, there were approximately from 20 to 25 prisoners. After taking them all to be killed, ~~the~~ new prisoners were taken to be detained there. Victims were killed since 1978 until 1979, and the pits of bodies are about 150 to 200 meters far from the prison.

There were 6 wells ~~where~~ full of victims killed ~~and~~ thrown into. There were also about 20 to 25 big pits, each of which was around 3 to 4 meters wide, and 5 to 6 meters long. After being killed, victims were pushed and covered with land by tractors. Victims other than ~~from~~ those from mobile work brigade, included people and soldiers in that very Eastern zone. The killing ~~it~~ started from 1978 until 1979.

Totally, there were around 500 to 1000 victims who were killed there. At the same time ~~that~~ of taking people to be killed, the killers turned on bass speakers at high level of sound throughout the place so that no one would take notice of their act of killing.

We have got the third witness named Yim Soeung, male, aged 69. In Pl Pst's time, he lived in Khum Daun Tey, Srok Pognea ~~Krek~~ Krek, Khet Kampong Cham, in region 20. From 1979 until 1981, he was a governor of Srok Pognea Krek. and he retired in ~~1981~~ 1981. Presently, he lived in Phnum Lor, Khum, Koang Kang, ~~the~~ Srok Pognea Krek, Khet Kampong Cham.

We quoted some relevant information from him and asked him to take us to examine a site of killing at Tra Paeng Sang Ke situated between Khum Veal Mlou and Kra Grong, 2.50 kilometers far from the district administrative office.

There are around 10 to 15 pits, of each of which is 4 meters wide, 3 to 6 meters long. In each pit, there are roughly 50 to 100 victims, that makes a total of about 500 to 1000 victims.

The victims here were people taken from Phum Bos, Khum Dam Tey and most of them were children and old-aged people because it was generally seen of small skeletons and small boxes of betel and areca palm leaves used by the old. This witness said he eye-witnessed those things in 1979. At that time, there were some people trying to unearth the pits with the purpose of seeking gold.

Next then, we found the 4th witness, named Yoak Mao, male, aged 61, Islamic. In Pol Pot's time, he was evacuated to Srok Chhlaung, Khet Kratieh. After 1979, he came back to live at his birth place. Now, he lives in Phum Tra Paeng Khehorng, Khum Koang Kang, Srok Pagnea Kret, Khet Kampong Cham.

Yoak Mao is the first person who came and eye-witnessed the site of killing at Tra Paeng Renssey, Chamkar Thmor Da- presently situated between Khum Veal Mlou and Kra Grong 600 meters far from the site of killing at Tra Paeng Sang Ke.

Without delay, we asked him to take us to examine the place. Also, we made interview with him and took some photos at the site of killing after having close examination of the site. He indicated that he saw pits full of ~~swollen~~ swollen bodies covered by tree branches. It was also seen several ~~devices used to kill victims~~ left near the wells and pits several devices used to kill victims such as iron bars, and bamboo sticks with thorns in the size of person's forearms.

This witness further added that there are around 2000 victims here and the victims were ordinary people taken from Phum Bos, Khum Dam Tey, Srok Pagnea Kret, Khet Kampong Cham. As for pit, there are totally 10 pits, 2 of which are big together with 3 wells.

In Phum Bos, Khum Daun Tey of this Srok Pogneak Ktek, there is another one bigger site of killing, which still has remained a survivor named Krou Kun thought to be dead after being hit unconscious by the killers. He crawled and escaped from his death after he came back to life again. And presently, he lives in Phum Bos, Khum Daun Tey. We could not go there because we did not have time.

Concerning documents, we obtained a set of documents from the office of culture of Srok Pogneak Ktek. The documents were compiled in 1987-88 regarding genocidal crime of Pol Pot's clique throughout Srok Pogneak Ktek along with statistics and detailed information clearly identified as well.

* Srok Kampong Siem

At 14h00 p.m on --- 1997, we travelled to the district down of Srok Kampong Siem. At 17,400 pm, we reached Khum Vihear Thom, Phum Kok Krem. The distance from the national road 6 to the site of killing at the edge of Boeung Thom (great lake) is about 9 to 10 Kilometers.

We went to meet the chief of Khum Vihear Suor in order to proceed with our work there. We tried to find out information about sites of killing, pits and witnesses. Then, we found out that there is a site of killing at the edge of Boeung Thom and a witness named Kak Sreng, maly aged 42, In Pol Pot's time, he ~~lived~~ was an ordinary ~~people~~ person. Now, he is the chief of Phum Kok ~~Th~~ Krem, Khum Vihear Thom, Srok Kampong Siem, Khet Kampong Cham.

- Geographical location of Srok Kampong Siem.

Srok Kampong Siem is bordered by Srok Kroeh Chhmar on the East, Srok Prey Chhor and Kang Meas on the West, Srok Steung Trang and Chamkar Leu on the North, and Srok Koh Sotin on the South.

Most people plant rice ~~and~~, grow other subsidiary crops as well as do fishing to make their living because the great lake (Boeung Thom) is rich in fish.

Together we, the ~~chief~~ commune chief and the witness went to examine the site of killing. We counted and saw that there are ~~50 to~~ around 30 to 70 pits scattering everywhere near Tuol Deum Ampil Chou, Deum Ampil Takhek, and Tuol Takhek ~~which where~~ there are 2 palm trees standing nearby. ~~But now,~~ Previously, ~~this place~~ it was a jungle of high trees, but now the place is a dense bush. And ^{some of} the pits now left with are still visible, while a number of others are invisible. Each pit is 5 square meters and 1.5 meters deep. Presumably, there are approximately 25000 victims of both sexes and young and old. The victims were killed during 1975-79.

Kak Sroeng also added that there are 9 Phum in Khum Vihear Suor. Every night, all people from one Phum were taken to be killed at one time. Finally, the whole people of the 9 Phum in Khum Vihear Suor were taken to be killed, and people from other places throughout Srok Kampong Siem were taken to live in lieu of the 9 Phum. Then the old method of killing was again carried out, taking people from one entire Phum to be killed at one time every night like before. People we told a lie that Angkar took them to live at the other edge of the Boeung Thom (great lake) where there were sufficient food to eat and there ~~were~~ boats waiting for them there.

This witness stressed that the perpetrators were the unit chiefs of the 9 Phum together with the deputy unit chief of Khum Vihear Thom, who were ordered by Ta Chea, a chief of big unit (the chief of Khum Vihear Thom and the deputy chief of Srok Kampong Siem). In Pol Pot's time, Khum Vihear Suor was a model commune to be taken as example.

The witness also clarified that the perpetrator's name who was the unit chief at that time is In~~na~~ and now he lives in Srok Suong working in the committee of religious temple. He came here off and on.

As our team did not have time to contact the ~~chief~~ commune chief and the witness for long in advance, we and the commune chief and the witness have not known clearly where ~~In~~ the perpetrator lives. But, thanks to the source that the perpetrator has got his relatives living in Phum Kok Krem, Khum Vihear Suor, the commune chief promised ^{us} to ask for more clear information about the ~~per~~ In's address later.

Besides, the witness made clear that there is another unit chief named Khloak Lim who ~~is now living~~ still survived is now still alive and he is a chief of Phum Totea, Khum Vihear Thom, Srok Kampong Siem, Khut Kampong Cham. The reason why he has still survived is that he did not get involved in ~~a~~ criminal acts or jointly killing victims at that time.

As time did not permit, we failed to get information and make interview with Khloak Lim and in the meantime we were still at the site of killing at 19h00 p.m.

Our team then finished up our last work at 19h00 p.m. and got going back to Kampong Cham province.

* Conclusion:

With our work experience in Kampong Cham and Kampong Chhnang provinces, the work of Cambodia Genocide Program is of great importance even though we inevitably have some difficulties facing.

However, the problems were made ^{much} easier due to great effort and supporting spirit of the ~~governor~~ provincial governor, ~~officers~~ collaborative officers, and various other official throughout Srok Kampong Siem as well as the people of those provinces.

Through our survey, we know that in their mind they bear unforgetfully hatred with Pol Pot's killers. But they said they are really sorry that it ~~has been~~ ^{has been} so late till our team came to conduct research that evidences such as pits, location of prisons and sites of killing ~~almost~~ are almost missing.

As a result, we have done fairly a good job in accordance with the given time thanks to our great effort in performing ~~the~~ work without thinking of having a rest.

With regards to difficulties, CGP allowed only a period of 3 to 4 days for us to go for research in each province. And in some provinces, we had to go to 3 districts for research. So, our work had to be completed in such a rush because the working days were counted starting from the departure day. It also took us long time travelling very far on the difficult road from provinces to districts; for example, we had to travel on a very bad road from Khet Kampong Cham to Srok Menot in the distance of 86 kilometers. That was leading to low result both in quantity and quality, and ^{the} information obtained were not clear and in detail yet.

There are some opinions such as those of the chief of the office of religious affairs of Khet Kampong Cham wondering ~~if~~ that previously the work of CGP was done by foreigners, but now by farmers instead. They said perhaps it was a private organization. They recommended their subordinates to deal with these things for a long time ago but it had no effect. They wanted ~~any~~ ^{some} superior institution to regulate clear principles so that it would be easier for them to make collaboration in ~~the~~ next days.

We however solved these problems, depending on the principles of the ~~council~~ of ministers of the ministry of interior etc. Particularly, we introduced new principles of our CGP that asked to collaborate with the national archive and showed them mission order issued by the council of ministers of the ministry of interior.

Moreover, our working duration did not include the time we used to contact our work with governors or officers in charge in provinces. For instance, in Kampong Cham, the governor, the chief of the office were all busy going to ~~any~~ some district or going to accompany top leaders. Therefore, we had to wait for a ~~half~~ half day and it took us a whole day including the time of travelling. This made our time shorter and we had to hurry up.

We request to CGP give us enough time if facing any problems in order to handle the work more effectively both in quantity and quality.

Not different from us, people in provinces said there are lots of information else. So if we need more considerable and better information, we should allow long enough time going to stak and khet throughout Cambodia.

Phnom Penh 18 March 1997

Report Maker

Sin Khin

* The number of people filing petition throughout Kampong Cham province is 79 450.

* The number of victims killed in Pol Pot regime throughout Kampong Cham province is 158 549, of whom:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----|--------|---------|
| • peasants | are | 7 233 | people |
| • civil servants | are | 34 207 | people |
| • monks | are | 3 960 | people |
| • ethnic people | are | 74 017 | people |
| • eripple people | are | 21 | people. |
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