

Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)
MAPPING THE KILLING FIELDS OF CAMBODIA, 1997: khet KAMPONG CHAM
[C-3-kampong Cham/a-cb-kc]

Location	Site Name/ Date	# of graves	Est. Victim	Witness	File # / ID Code	Latitude	Longitude
srok Pognea Krek	Phum Lor/ 15 March 1997			Ouk Soung អ៊ុក ស៊ីង	R031502A/ 31202	N11°47'5098"	E105°53' 2604"
srok Pognea Krek	Chong Phum lor/ 15 March 1997	20 pits		Ouk Soung អ៊ុក ស៊ីង	R031503A/ 31203	N11°47' 1891"	E105°53'4337"
srok Pognea Krek	Trapiang Sorgkai/ 15 March 1997	15 pits		Ouk Soung អ៊ុក ស៊ីង	R031503B/ 31204	N11°47' 8275"	E105°54' 3671"
srok Pognea Krek	Tra peang Rosey 15 March 1997	10 pits	2000	Yok Maove យ៉ុក ម៉ាវ៉េ	R 031503C/ 31205	N11°47' 5318"	E105°54' 0714"
srok Pognea Krek	Andaot/ 7 April 1997	4 pits	2348	Kiv Nol គីវ នុល	R040709A/ 31201	N11°51'3900"	E105°47' 0258"
srok Pognea Krek	Andaot/ 7 April 1997	185 pits	8946	Kiv Nol គីវ នុល	R040710A/ 31202	N11°51'3908"	E105°47' 0143"
srok Pognea Krek	Pry Stung Toch/ 8 April 1997	3 pits	1803	Norng Norn នង ណាន	R 040803A/ 31203	N11°44' 0625"	E105°51' 1750"
srok Pognea Krek	Stung Toch/ 8 April 1997	1pit		Seng Youn សេង យ៉ុង	R040804A/ 31204	N11°44'1334"	E105°51' 1956"
srok Pognea Krek	Stung Toch/ 8 April 1997	4 pits		Seng Youn សេង យ៉ុង	R040804B	N11°44'1783"	E105°51' 2886"
srok Pognea Krek	Lor 37/ 8 April 1997	5 pits	7286	Khoun Leng ខ្មែន ឡេង	R040808A	N11°42'4470"	E105°57' 4950"
srok Pognea Krek	Chum Kamaisak/ 15 March 1997	2 pits	600	Than Hourt ថាន់ ហ្គុត	R031501A/ 31201	N11°47 '7361"	E105°52' 6243"

srok Memot	Wat Krongaokchos/ 14 March 1997	1 pit	50	Bo Try បូ ទ្រី	R031408B/ 31002	N11°54'0810"	E106°04'9588"
srok Memot	Phum Krongaok/ 14 March 1997	2 pits	300	Bo Try បូ ទ្រី	R 031408A/ 31001	N 11°53'9013"	E106°04'8484"
srok Kampong Siem	Krok Preang 15 March 1997	50 pits	25000	Kak Sroeung កាក ស្រឿង	R031504A/ 30601	N12°00'2114"	E105°21'0970"

On March 13, 1997 at 8:00 AM, a team researching the genocide program of the Pol Pot clique in Kampong Cham province, led by Sim Khin, Pho Tip and Hak Sophal, traveled to khet Kompong Cham, which is 125 kilometers from the capital, Phnom Penh. We arrived at 10:00 AM, and discovered that the chief of cabinet and the governor were accompanying Samdech Hun Sen on his visit to srok Steung Treng. Subordinate officials in the provincial cabinet are not entitled to make any decisions on behalf of the chief of cabinet and the governor.

We also failed to meet officials at the provincial office of religious affairs and the office of culture. We decided phone ahead to Memut, Pognea Krek, and Kampong Siem to inform them that we were enroute, and to arrange a guide in each district who could facilitate our research there. At 2:00 p.m., we returned to await the chief of cabinet and the governor of the province. At 3:00 p.m., Excellency Mr. Hun Neng signed an authorization requiring certain officials to work with us. The officers are:

- 1- Mr. Nin Sinat, chief of the provincial office of religious affairs;
- 2- Mr. Keut Pat, deputy chief of provincial office of religious affairs; and
- 3- two security policemen.

We then submitted this authorization to the chiefs of the office of religious affairs, the office of culture and the provincial police commissariat to ask for the assistance of the people mentioned above, and to inform them to get ready to go to srok Memut, srok Pognea Krek and srok Kampong Siem.

While we were waiting, we spoke with both chiefs. We had the opportunity to ask them questions about the locations of killing centers and prisons throughout Kampong Cham province, and obtained documents relating to genocide in the province. We also asked them to fax the three districts to inform them of our visit. These administrative duties consumed over half a day.

srok Pognea Krek

At 7:00 a.m. on 14 March 1997, we traveled down the National Road bound for srok Pognea Krek and srok Memot, 86 kilometers from the provincial town Kampong Cham.

At 10 a.m., we met the chief of srok Pognea Krek and an administrative officer of srok to ask for authorization to collaborate with the officers of culture and religious affairs in that district, and to plan our research program on 15 March 1997 when we will be returning from work in srok Memot.

srok Memot

Afterwards, we continued our journey to srok Memot. It was 11.30 a.m. by the time we reached munti of srok Memot, and everyone had gone to lunch. So, we visited the house of the chief of the district office of culture to inform him about our research program in srok Memot and to ask for his assistance in srok Memot.

During our talk with them, we took notes of Pol Pot's genocidal activities throughout srok Memot. We learned that there is only one site in srok Memot. The site is in phum Ka Ngoak, khum Kaki, srok Memot, 25 kilometers from munti srok in the wat, just 10 kilometers from the National Road passing the compound of Sa Long rubber plantation company.

Geographical Location of the District

In Pol Pot's time, this srok was in Region 21, Eastern Zone 203. It shares a border with Vietnam on the south, with srok Chhlong, Krek on the north, with srok Pognea Krek on the west, and with srok Snol, Kra on the east.

The majority of people living there are workers for rubber plantations. They also farm, plant potatoes, and grow some rice.

Next, we moved to the site in phum Kra Ngoak, khum Kaki, and met the commune chief Krui Leng. When we told him about our work, he lead us to a witness named Bo Try, male, age 42, who is presently the chief of this village.

During our meeting with the two, we took notes of our conversation with them and took a photograph of them as well. After visiting the sites they had mentioned, we interviewed the two witnesses in more detail because they had participated in excavating the remains of victims in 1986.

Bo Try, the first witness, indicated that there are 4 sites in this phum Kra Ngoak, of which 3 are 3 meters wide, about 5 to 6 meters long, and 1.5 meters deep. The other long one is 1 meter wide, 60 meters long and 1 meter deep. Previously, this place was a canal into which victims were thrown after being killed. Two hundred meters from the sites, there is a well approximately 3 to 4 meters deep, which was filled by victims killed by Pol Pot's men. Presently, people have planted two coconut trees nearby. Each site was filled with approximately 50 to 70 bodies. Including the bodies thrown into the well, the death toll approaches 300 people.

Memorial

There was only one memorial in Wat Chas. Some of the remains were unearthed and moved for religious ritual purposes, whereas the rest remained buried. Now, people have buried all the remains nearby. The memorial does not exist anymore because the old temple was rebuilt in a new place.

The witnesses made it clear that victims taken here were mostly crippled soldiers, medical workers and soldiers taken from the Vietnamese border. They were all killed here in 1978. In this phum Ka Ngoak, there is one regional office and one economic regional office nearby.

Krui Leng, the second witness, male, age 51, in Pol Pot's time was an ordinary person. From 1979 to the present he has been a chief of khum Kaki in srok Memot, khet Kampong Cham. In addition to verifying the content of Bo Try's testimony, he added that there were two more witnesses. The first is Gnagn Ren. The second is Tit Son, male, former combatant in srok Memut, and now a militiaman living in phum Kaki, khum Kaki, srok Memut. Unfortunately, time did not allow us to interview either of these witnesses.

srok Pognea Krek

At 5:00 p.m., we went on to srok Pognea Krek and stayed at the provincial governor's house for one night. At 7:00 a.m. the next day 15 March 1997, we met:

- 1- Mr.-----?
- 2- Mr.-----?

We tried to find information and documents regarding Pol Pot's genocidal crimes throughout the srok.

Geographical Location of srok Pognea Krek

Srok Pognea Krek is bordered by Vietnam on the east, srok Tbanung Khmum on the west, Dam Be and Tbaung Khmun on the north, srok Kam Chang 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 srok. At present, the population has reached 121,308, out of which 63,845 are women. This srok covers 77,370 hectares, of which 27,900 hectares are farms, and 19,155 hectares are rice fields.

Place of the Killing:

There are 4 killing sites:

- 1- At Chamka May Sak, now within the compound of munti srok;
- 2- In phum Lor, khum Koang Kang, srok Pongnea Krek;
- 3- At Trapang Sangke near the border between khum Veal Mlou and Kra Gngang; and
- 4- In phum Boss, khum Daun Tei, srok Pongnea Krek, 15 kilometers from the district office. Time did not permit us to visit this site.

As soon as we got the information, we asked if there were any witnesses. We found out there are 4 witnesses:

- 1- Mr. Khat Hut, age 35;
- 2- Mr. Out Soeurng, age 52;
- 3- Mr. Yim Seung, age 69; and
- 4- Mr. Yoak Mao, age 61.

Each of these witnesses knows different sites. So we interviewed each of them and asked each of them to accompany us to those sites.

Khat Hut (Than Hourt), the first witness, male, age 35, worked in a mobile work brigade during Pol Pot's time. From 1979 to now, he has been a worker on a May Sak plantation in Phum Lor, Khum Koang Kong, srok Pongnea Krek. He said he saw that pits dotted the entire compound there. He added he had once helped to dig a well in which remains of victims were discovered. Many of the pits are as big as bomb craters, into which victims were thrown.

This witness said, according the elderly people he asked, that the victims were killed in 197--, after Mr. Soa Phim, a chief of the Eastern zone, was arrested. Inside the plantation compound, we also saw a regional hospital. There are many other pits throughout the plantation; everywhere we dug, we saw remains.

Then, we interviewed Mr. Ouk Saung, the second witness, age 51, who was a chief of a unit that took care of buffaloes during Pol Pot's time. He escaped into Vietnam in 1978, and became a chief of srok Srey Santhor in Kompong Cham province in 1979. Presently, he is a policeman in phum Lor, khum Koang, srok Memot, khet Kampong Cham.

We took notes of the conversation, and recorded the interview on cassette. We also took several pictures and asked him to take us to examine the site of killing in Phum Lor, in the same khum, srok and khet, which is located 2 kilometers from the administration of munti srok, and 1.5 kilometers from the National Road. He said Pol Pot's men used two buildings with tile roofs (which are still in good condition we have pictures of them) as prisons for detaining victims taken from mobile work brigades and youth units at that time.

The prison was used to detain approximately 20-25 victims at a time. Once the prison was full, the victims were killed and new prisoners were brought in. Victims were killed from 1978 until 1979, and the pits of bodies are about 150 to 200 meters from the prison. There were 6 wells full of victims. There were also about 20-25 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 soil by tractors. Victims, other than those from mobile work brigades, included soldiers and other people living in the Eastern zone.

In total, between 500 to 1000 victims were killed there. While people were taken to be killed, the killers broadcast loud music throughout the compound to cover the screams of the victims, and to prevent discovery of the murders.

The third witness, named Yim Soeung, male, age 69, lived in khum Daun Tey, srok Pognea Krek, khet Kampong Cham, in Region 20 in Pol Pot's time. From 1979 until 1981, he was a governor of srok Pognea Krek. He retired in 1981. Presently, he lives in phum Lor, khum Koang Kang, srok Pognea Krek, khet Kampong Cham.

We took notes of our conversation with him and asked him to guide us to a site of killing at Tra Peang Sang Ke situated between khum Veal Mlor and Kra Gnong, 250 kilometers from administration of munti srok. There are around 10 to 15 pits, each of which is 4 meters wide and 5 to 6 meters long. In each pit, there are roughly 50 to 100 victims.

The victims here were people taken from phum Bos, khum Daun Tey. It is assumed that most of them were children and elderly people because many small skeletons and a small box of betel and areca palm leaves used by the old were found.

The fourth witness was named Yoak Mao, male, age 61, Islamic. In Pol Pot's time, he was evacuated to srok Chhlaung, khet Kratie. After 1979, he came back to live at his birth place. Now, he lives in phum Tar Peonage Khchorng, khum Kong Kang, srok Pognea Krek, khet Kampong Cham.

Yoak Mao was the first person who returned and discovered the sites of killing at Tra Peang Reussey, Chamkar Thmor Da presently situated between khum Veal Mlor and Kra Gnaung, 600 meters from the site of killing at Tra Peang Sung Ke. Without delay, we asked him to take us to examine the place. Also, we interviewed him and took some photos at the site of killing after examining it closely. He indicated that he had seen pits full of swollen bodies covered by tree branches. He also found near the wells and pits several devices used to kill victims, such as iron bars and bamboo sticks with thorns the length of a person's forearm. This witness

added that there were around 2000 victims here. The victims were ordinary people taken from phum Bos, khum Daun Tey , srok Pognea Krek, khet Kampong Cham. The site contains a total of 10 pits 2 of which are big together with 3 wells.

In phum Bos, khum Daun Tey of this srok Pognea Krek, there's another bigger site of killing. One survivor still remains, a man named Krou Kun, who was left for dead after being beaten unconscious by the killers. He crawled and escaped from his death after he regained consciousness. Presently, he lives in phum Bos, khum Daun Tey. We did not have the time to go there. We obtained a set of documents from the office of culture of srok Krek. The documents were compiled in 1989-88, and relate to genocidal crimes of Pol Pot's clique throughout srok Pognea Krek.

srok Kampong Seim

At 2:00 p.m., we traveled to srok Kampong Seim. At 5: 00 p.m., we reached khum Vihear Yhom, 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 met the chief of khum Vihear Suor in order to proceed with our work there. We asked about sites of killing, pits and witnesses. We found out that there is a site of killing at the edge of Boeung Thom and a witness named Kak Srieng, male, age 42. In Pol Pot's time, he was an ordinary person. Now, he is the chief of phum Kok Krem, khum Vihear Thom, srok Kampong Seim, khet Kompong Cham.

Geographical location of srok Kompong Seim

Srok Kampong Seim is bordered by srok Kroch Chhmar on the east, sroks Prey Chhor and Kang Meas on the west, sroks Steung Trang and Chamkar Leu on the north, and srok Koh Sotin on the south.

Most families in Kampong Seim plant rice, grow other subsidiary crops, and fish to make a living. The great lake (Boung Thom) is rich in fish.

The commune chief and witness led us to examine the site of killing. We counted between 50 to 70 pits scattered near Tuol Deun Ampil Chou, Deun Ampil Takhek, and Tuol Takhek where there are 2 palm trees standing nearby. The jungle of high trees that

once covered the site has been cut, leaving only dense bush. Many of the pits are very difficult to find. Each pit is 5 meters square and 1.5 meters deep. Presumably, approximately 25,000 victims of both sexes, young and old, were killed here between 1975 and 1979.

Kak Sroeung added that there are 9 phums in khum Vihear Suor. Every night, one of the phums were selected for liquidation. All of its inhabitants were then taken to be killed. This process continued until everyone from the 9 phum in khum Vihear Suor had been killed. People from other places throughout srok Kampong Siem were then relocated to the 9 phum, and the process began again. To lure people to the 9 phum, they were told that Angkar had arranged for boats to take them to live at the other edge of the Boeung Thom, where there was sufficient food to eat.

This witness stressed that the perpetrators were the unit chiefs of the 9 phum together with deputy unit chief of khum Vihear Thom, and their advisor Ta Chea, a chief of a big unit (the chief of khum Vihear Thom and the deputy chief of srok Kampong Seim). In Pol Pot's time, khum Vihear Suor was a model commune, held up as an example by the Khmer Rouge leadership.

The witness also claimed that the perpetrator who was the unit chief at that time is named In. He now lives in srok Suong working in the committee of religion temple. He still returns here from time to time.

Since our team did not contact the commune chief and the witness in advance, we did not know precisely where the perpetrator In currently lives. However, thanks to the fact that the perpetrator has relatives in phum Kok Krem, khum Vihear Thom, the commune chief promised to clarify his whereabouts later. The witness identified another unit chief named Khloak Lim, who is still alive and is a chief of phum Totea, khum Vihear Thom, srok Kampong Seim, khet Kompong Cham. He survived because he did not get involved in criminal acts or join in the killing at that time.

We did not have time to interview Khloak Lim

Our team stopped working at 5: 00 p.m. and returned to Kampong Cham province.

Conclusion

Based upon our work experience in khet Kompong Cham and khet Kampong Chhnang, the Cambodia Genocide Program is of great importance though we inevitably face significant difficulties. However, the problems were made much easier due to great effort and support of the provincial governor, collaborative officers, and various other officials throughout srok Kampong Seim, as well as the people of that province. Based upon the results of our survey, we know that they bear hatred for Pol Pot's killers. They expressed regret that much of the evidence our research hopes to uncover – locations of pits, prisons or killing sites – is now missing.

The chief of the office of religious affairs of khet Kampong Cham expressed a concern common throughout khet when he questioned why the work of the CGP, which was previously done by foreigners, is now done instead by Khmer. He thought that we were a private organization. He had recommended to his subordinates that they cooperate with these foreign organizations in the past, but their efforts had no apparent effect. He wanted an order from a government agency directing him to cooperate with our research mission, an order that would confirm our legitimacy. However, in the absence of any such order, we depended upon the authority we had received from the council of ministers of the ministry of interior. Particularly, we showed him the mission order directing the national archives to collaborate and cooperate with the CGP.

CGP allowed only 3 to 4 days for research in each province, some of which contained 3 districts. Consequently, we often felt as if we were rushing to complete our work. Traveling on difficult roads from khet to srok also took an inordinate amount of time. For example, we had to travel on a very bad road from khet Kampong Cham to srok Memot, a distance of 86 kilometers. The time constraints we worked under diminished both the quality and quantity of our work; much of the information obtained was necessarily vague and imprecise.

Moreover, our allotted time did not account for the possibility that we might be delayed in coordinating with provincial governors or officers. For instance, in Kampong Cham, the governor and the chief of the office were both busy traveling in the district or accompanying top leaders. Therefore, we wasted half day while waiting, a whole day including travel time. This unforeseen delay consumed made our time shorter and we had to hurry up. We request CGP allow us enough time to negotiate these problems.

People in the khet claimed that considerably more information exists. If we need better – and more -- information, we should be allowed enough time to investigate each srok and khet throughout Cambodia.

Phnom Penh 18 March 1997

Report Maker

Sin Khin

The number of people filing petitions throughout khet Kampong Cham is 79,450.

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

- 7,233 were peasants
- 34,207 were civil servants
- 3,960 were monks
- 74,017 were ethnic minorities and
- 21 were crippled people.

Report

On activities in search of relevant documents about the genocidal activities of the Pol Pot clique in Kampong Cham (2 Time)
Phnom Penh, 10 April 1997.

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

Based upon the document of the office of culture of srok Pognea Krek, and upon those documents our team discovered on the first effort, the executive director of DC-CAM estimated that a considerable amount of genocidal activity had taken place in all communes throughout srok Pognea Krek. Our first team, limited by time constraints, conducted research in only some of the communes. This trip is a follow-up visit to supplement the findings from our first trip.

Since the provincial governor had already given his approval to our research, further contact with him was unnecessary. We traveled along national road 7 directly to srok Pognea Krek. We arrived at 11:30 a.m.

At 2:00 p.m., we tried to contact the office of srok Pognea Krek to request two policemen to provide security and a cultural officer to work with us. But no one was there. Although the administrative officer of this srok contacted the commissariat of police, we waited in vain for two hours before deciding to go to the criminal centers as indicated in our existing documents.

At 4:30 p.m., we went to a criminal center between phum Andaot, khum Kamdoal Chrum and phum Trapang Sang Ke, khum Sralob in srok Pognea Krek, khet Kampong Cham.

First, we traveled 14 kilometers south from the district office to the entrance way, then turned right another 2 kilometers. This criminal center was in Region 21, Eastern zone in Pol Pot's time. This center contained a security office and a prison. This center was formerly the coconut tree plantation of forestry chief Morn, which was called Prey Yeay Tet, according to people in that commune.

We met and discussed our work with the chief of phum Andaot, and he helped us find a witness. The witness' name is Kiv Nol, male, age 47, 1.6 (1.62) meters tall, black skin. He is a deputy chief of a group in phum Andaot, khum Kandoal Chrum, srok Pognea Krek, khet Kampong Cham, where he lived in Pol Pot's time.

This witness, the chief of phum and our team went to the security office, the prison, and the site of killing. Wells, pits, remains and cloths can still be found at the site.

We asked the witness for more detailed information. The witness clarified that the security office, the prison and the site of killing were built from 1975 to 1979. Before 1975, the security office and the prison were located in srok Memot, but it was moved here in 1975. The prison was very big and lit with electric lights at night. The prison's chiefs were Yim Sophy and Ken, who are now missing. At that time, this location was forested. 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 11,294 dead bodies. No memorial has been erected for housing their remains.

Types of Victims

Two stage of victims were killed here:

1. From 1975 to 1976, the victims were soldiers, policemen, military police, spies, customs officers, teachers, civil servants and all their families. They were carried by trucks to be temporarily placed here. At 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., Pol Pot's men started killing the victims. While taking victims to be killed, bass speakers played loud music to cover the sound of the killing.
2. From 1977 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 the eastern zone, and others from southwestern and eastern parts. Pol Pot's hard-core soldiers were assigned to kill the soldiers coming from the eastern part.

Kiv Nol mentioned that not only families of eastern people, like people evacuated from Phnom Phen, were killed, but also those taken from srok Streung Trang, srok Memut, srok Kroch Chmar, srok Dambe and throughout khet Kampong Cham were killed as well.

While being interrogated, victims were hung from the branch of a tree. Even worse, their fingernails and toenails were extracted while being interrogated. During 1979-80, he saw some people secretly unearthing remains in search of gold. Many pits and bodies littered the site, and up to now, most of the remains were eaten by cattle. Prisoners brought here, said the witness, could never have a chance to escape their deaths. We photographed the witness, interviewed him, and recorded his interview on cassette.

At 10 minutes to 9:00 o'clock on 8 April 1997, we left for Steung Toch criminal center in phum Steung Toch, khet Kampong Cham. About 10 kilometers from munti srok 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, age 56, 1.65 meters tall, white skin, some gray hair, and wearing a Chinese round-necked shirt. In Pol Pot's time, he lived in phum Pon Lai, khum Kor, and worked for a collective. He was at that time arrested, bound, and marched by Pol Pot's men to be killed, but he escaped by outrunning his guards. Now, he lives in phum Pon Lai, khum Kor, srok Pognea Krek, khet Kampong Cham.

Nov No recounted that 6 friends of his were accused of being Vietnamese enemies and of supporting Vietnamese politics. They were taken to be killed. He said he was the only one out of 8 of his friends who escaped from their killing. While he was being tied, he flexed his hand muscles so that the tie would be loose when he relaxed. After slipping his hands out of his ropes, he ran away as soldiers fired a burst of bullets at his back. He was chased until darkness fell. He managed to hide in the darkness, and the soldiers never found him.

Later on, the witness said, he saw many villagers who had fled into the forest gathered to be killed. The Khmer Rouge told them that only Soa Phim's partisans had betrayed the country, maltreated people, and starved people. "But superior Angkar," they said, "does not allow these things to happen. So only traitors will be killed. But for you people, Angkar is going to let you off. Thus, come back to your home villages." The people believed and decided to come back home. Again, they were transported by truck to be killed at Prey Steung Toch in Steung Toch, khum Kok, situated 7 kilometers from munti srok, 6 kilometers from the Vietnamese border.

At 10: 30 a.m., our team reached Stueng Toch criminal center in phum Steung Toch, khum Krek, srok Pognea Krek, khet Kompong Cham.

We met a witness named Norng Norn, male, age 44, 1.70 meters tall, white skin, some gray hair, good teeth. In Pol Pot's time, he was a teacher for young children, and lived in phum Pon Lai, khum Kor. He is still alive because he fled to Vietnam in 1977 and came back to Cambodia in 1979. Then we went with him to examine the pits at Prey Steung Toch. We saw three sites of killing. In the first site, there were 4 pits, each of which was 3 meters wide, 4 meters long, and 2 meters deep. In the second one, which was located 200 meters behind Tim Neang's house, there was one pit measuring 2-3 meters on each dimension which was full of bodies. The third one was situated 500 meters from the west pits, 100 meters into the forest to the right. It contained 4 big pits and many small pits which were military trenches. In 1979, they were full of victims.

We found a witness named Sek Yon, who first saw bodies in Prey Steng Toch. He now lives in phum Steung Toch. Approximately 1803 victims were killed here. The victims were people carried by trucks from phum Bos, phum Ponlai, phum Teuk Long as well as base people throughout srok Pognea. He went on by saying that the victims relocated to live here were the immediate and extended families of Pol Pot's soldiers who had escaped into the forest to join eastern soldiers, and base people.

Some pits were full of bodies of eastern soldiers, who could be identified by their military uniforms, canteens, belts, and good shoes made of rubber tire provided by Angkar strewn liberally about the site.

While being transported on trucks to be killed, people were told that Angkar required them to move to live in a new place, a new collective, or a new syndicate, or to be workers on a rubber plantation, where there would be enough food to eat three meals a day. Soon after getting in the trucks, people had their legs shackled, and were told they would be released after reaching the destination. Upon arrival, the people were immediately herded together at gun point and tied by the hands to a common tether. They were then forced to march to the killing site.

At 2:30 p.m., we traveled to the criminal center in rubber plantation lot 37 in khum Krek, on the edge of Phnom Baset, by turning left off of national road 7 at srok Memot. The center is on the east side, 8 kilometers from the district office. The phum chief and khum chief accompanied us to examine the criminal center.

We found a witness named Khuom Leng, male, age 45, 1.7 meters tall, white skin, black hair. In Pol Pot's time, he was a soldier in Chan Chakrey's division positioned in srok Kien Svay, khet Kandal. Presently he is the chief of phum Taset, khum Krek, srok Pognea Krek, khet Kampong Cham. He came back to live in his birth place in 1979.

At that time, he first saw pits, swollen bodies, and blood near the edges of the pits. When he pushed a wooden stick down into the area near the mouth of the pits, they measured about 7 decimeters deep at the edges.

The big pit resembled a bomb crater. The pit was 12 meters on each side, and approximately 6 to 10 meters deep. It was completely filled with corpses. The witness told us that victims brought here were mostly rubber plantation workers carried from Chub, Memot, 10 big truckloads at a time. These victims were not interrogated or reeducated prior to being killed. The killers lived in a house they had built near the west side of the rubber plantation. 1978 was the year of mass killing. According to this witness, victims were told while being transported to the killing site that they were moving from one plantation to another. All of the killers here were people from the middle zone not base people from the eastern zone.

The total death toll at this site was 7,286 people.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we have researched the genocidal crimes of Pol Pot's clique in 3 criminal centers in 3 communes of srok Pognea Krek, khet Kampong Cham. We have found that the death toll outnumbers that of other provinces, which was our primary reason for returning to investigate. Once again, our research was limited somewhat by the distances involved, and by the road conditions between each of the sites. However, the opportunity to personally inspect the killing sites and the pits, to verify the death toll, and to directly receive witness' testimony was irreplaceable, much more valuable than gleaning information from documents from the office of culture. For instance, in some places the documents indicated that only 5 pits existed; upon examination, we found up to 9 pits. The figure is based on what was estimated in the documents.

We are likely to face two problems in going deep into deserted forest in rural areas, neither of which will deter us. First, we may meet Pol Pot's soldiers. Second, there might be armed robbers. Apparently, in srok Pognea Krek, a group of 12 soldiers with guns banded together and escaped to the forest. Recently, they have robbed people, killed a medical worker in the district, and stolen cattle for food or for sale to Vietnam. We encountered some difficulties in following up the administrative procedures of communes and districts. Because neither the district chief nor the district administrative office was able to provide us with security forces, we decided to ask the commune chief for some militiamen to help us.

For now, regarding the procedure of administrative affairs, subordinates mostly listen directly to superiors. Orders are issued by superiors directly to followers to carry out. For example, police listen to and carry out orders passed on by the commissariat of provincial police. Contacting lower administration officers without first getting access to their superiors is also a problem. Anyway, our work is very important. It is an integral step for a country trying to responsibility for its history.

1. Renakse [Petition] Summary Report:
2. Map of locations: (original or copy Photo) can be scanned: