

Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)
MAPPING THE KILLING FIELDS OF CAMBODIA, 1997: khet KAMPONG CHHNANG
[D-4-kampong Chhnang/ a-cb-kh]

Location	Site Name/Date	# of graves	Est. Victim	Witness	File #	Latitude	Longitude
srok Kampong Chhnang	Wat Ksam/ 6 March 1997		130	Sours Sophal ស៊ុន សុផល	R 030609A/ 40301	N 12°15' 4305"	E 104°39' 7519"
srok Teuk Phos	Bon Teay Chas/ 7 April 1997	4 pits	4000	Ki Song Chai គី សុំឡាយ	R 030702A/ 40801	N 12°03' 0261"	E 104°31' 2692"
srok Teuk Phos	Wat Sovanei/ 7 April 1997	16-20 pits	100	Chea Khim Lon ជា គឹមលុន	R 030703A/ 40802	N 13°03' 1087"	E 104°31' 7297"
srok Kampong Tralach	Wat Cham Pey/ 7 April 1997		120	Pov Korn ពៅ ខន	R 030710A/ 40501	N 11°56' 9636"	E 104°45' 6891"
srok Kamgpong Tralach	Wat Champa/ 7 April 1997			Tep Heun ទេព ហេ ន	R 030711A/ 40502	N 11°56' 8292"	E 104°45' 7883"
srok Kampong Tralach	Srae Ta Korn/ 7 April 1997	4 pits		Saom Chourn សោម ជួន	R 030803A/ 40503	N 11°56' 5552"	E 104°46' 0247"
srok Kampong Tralach	Veal Tkou/ 8 April 1997	7 pits		Saom Chourn សោម ជួន	R 030803B/ 40504	N 11°56' 6267"	E 104°45' 8763"

Location

Khet Kompong Chhnang is located 91 kilometers from the capital Phnom Penh, on National Road #5 to khet Battambang. It lies in the Region 31 in the western zone, and borders with khet Kandal and Kampong Cham in the east, with khet Pursat in the west, with khet Kampong Thom in the north, and with khet Kampong Speu in the south.

Population

The total death toll of victims throughout khet was 132,043 people, of whom 67,756 were peasants, 3,280 were civil servants, 925 were monks, 41,009 were ethnic minorities, and 29,123 were disabled. The number of people throughout the province filing the petition was 44,865, according to the Ronakse document.

srok Kampong Chhnang

The memorial Wat Ksam is situated in Wat Ksam in phum Ksam, khum Ksam, srok Kampong Chhnang, approximately 500 meters west of munit Kampong Chhnang . Approximately 130 remains have been deposited in a stupa in front of the temple. A witness named Sours Sophal, who is a chief of the Office of Regional Affairs and resides in Damnak Ampoul, khum Kampong Chhnang, srok Kampong Chhnang, reported that in 1982 he personally transported a total of 1,500 remains to be placed in Wat Ksam. Over the intervening years people have buried most of the remains, leaving only the 130 currently on display at the stupa.

srok Kampong Tralach

(From 7 March 97 to 8 March 97)

This district is situated 35 kilometers from the provincial town Kampong Chhnang, on National Road #5 leading to the capital Phnom Penh. It is bordered by khet Kampong Cham in the east, srok Samki Meanchey in the west, srok Rolea Phieat in the north, and Kandal province in the south. The total number of victims throughout the district was 22,519. The number of people making a petition throughout the district was 15,650, according to the document of the Office of Information in Kampong Chhnang.

Trapang Kok (a pond)

Trapang Kok lies in phum Ampil Tek, khum Ang Vek, srok Kampong Tra Lach, khet Kompong Chhnang . A witness named Soum Saly, male, age 35, who is presently a health functionary in srok Kompong Tra Lach and who resides in the headwater of srok Kompong Tra Lach, reported that he was one of the prisoners taken to be killed at Trapang Kok (pond) in phum Ampil, khum Lung vek, srok Kampong Tra Lach after the liberation of Phnom Penh city in 1975.

He and three of his friends were taken to be killed; only he survived. On the night in question, two men committed the killings. The witness was beaten over the head and left to die. When he awoke several hours later, he found himself surrounded by roughly 50 corpses. He still bears scars of the serious head wound and broken hand he suffered that night. After liberation day in 1979, this witness exacted revenge against his two would-be murderers by shooting them to death with an M16.

At around 3:00 P.M, we arrived at Wat Ang Serey in phum Ang Serey, khum Dom Et, srok Kampong Tra Lach, about 5 kilometers from the srok Kampong Tra Lach office, in order to interview a monk named Kim Morn, age 67.

According to a report of the Kampong Tra Lach provincial governor, Kim Morn was the former chief of Kring Ska prison in phum Boeung Kok, khum Kring Ska. He is presently the chief of Buddhist monks in Wat Ang Serey pagoda. The chief monk denied being the former prison chief. He testified that he had merely received the order from the commune chief (khum Kring Ska at that time) to open the prison and to release prisoners. The monk further added that one of the killers, a man named Tim who was a member of the militia in khum Kring Ska, is now living in phum Ampil Tek, khum Ampil Tek, srok Kampon Tra Lach. Another killer named Yan is now missing.

Wat Champei Memorial

At 5:45 PM, we arrived at Wat Champei memorial located in phum Chra Mos Chrouk, khum Chres, srok Kampong Tra Lach, about 19 kilometers from the office of srok Kampong Tra Lach. All the remains had been gathered from pits at Toul Sre Takon and Veal Thkov in phum Chork, khum Chhres, srok Kampong Tra Lach. We obtained all our information through Pov Phan, a chief of khum Ckres, who escorted us through this site and explained its contents.

Wat Champa prison

The prison Wat Champa is situated about 400 meters from Wat Champei (pagoda). The Wat Champa prison, according to two witnesses who had been held there, was a place for detaining victims captured from the district's security office and from khum Chres.

The witnesses:

1- Tep Hoeun is 60 years old, 1.70 meters tall, and has dark grey hair. He now lives in phum Chork, khum Chres, srok Kampong Tra Lach, Kampong Chhnang province. He was detained in the prison for 18 months. Between 1970-75, he was a chief of the liberation region committee(Region 31). He was imprisoned Wat Champa Prison in this province because his brothers had become Lon Nol's soldiers. Additionally, he had let some rice catch fire, and had let a cow fall into a bomb crater where it died. At the time he was imprisoned, from 18 to 25 prisoners were detained in the monk's building within the temple compound. Several hundred others were held in Preh Vihear prison. Prisoners were tortured in a number of ways: they were shackled, suffocated with plastic wrap, and stabbed with hot iron when interrogated.

2- Sim Son is 70 years old, 1.55 meters tall, has short-cut hair and a fairly black complexion. She now lives in phum Chra Moh Chrouk, khum Chres, srok Kampong Tra Lach. In Pol Pot's time, she was a chief in charge of a unit of 50 females (៥០ នាក់) and her assignment was to harvest rice in phum Chraa Moh Chrouk, khum Chres, srok Kampong Tra Lach. She was detained for 17 months for letting the rice she had just winnowed catch on fire. She was tortured in much the same fashion as the first witness. The first witness was imprisoned one month after the second. Both stressed that the murderers in the prison were:

- Chou Oeurrn, who now lives in phum Lvieng , khum Chres, srok Kampong Tra Lach.
- Chou Dan, who now lives in phum Lvieng , khum Chres, srok Kampong Tra Lach.
- Uk Oeurrn, who now lives in phum Lvieng , khum Chres, srok Kampong Tra Lach.

Site of the Killing:

- 1- At Toul Sre Takorn (hill) 700 meters south of Wat Champa in phum Chork, khum Chres, srok Kampong Tra Lach, located 19 kilometers from the district office, there are 4 pits.
- 2- At Veal Thkov in phum Chork, khum Chres, srok Kampong Tra Lach, 150 meters south of Wat Champa, is a site situated on the farms of people in phum Chork, near a pond with 3 bamboo trees. A witness named Som Chuon, male, age 57, was assigned in Pol Pot's time to tend buffaloes belonging to Pol Pot's cadres in phum Chork, khum Chres, srok Kampong Tra Lach,

the village where he now lives. He witnessed the killers walking prisoners whose hands had been tied from the Wat Champa prison and the office of Srok Kampong Tra Lach to be executed at this site.

srok Tek Phos(7 March 1997)

This district is situated 29 kilometers from the provincial town of Kampong Chhnang and leading to the Romeas Railway station. It shares borders with srok Samaki Meanchey and Rolea Phieat on the east, Pursat province on the west, srok Boribo in Pursat province on the north, and Kampong Speu province and srok Samaki Meanchey on the south, and it used to lie in Region 31, Western zone (in Pol Pot's time). According to documents in the provincial office of culture, 6,590 people were killed throughout the district during Pol Pot's time. There are 2,116 pits.

Site of the Killing

Banteay Chas (old fortress) is situated about 300 meters from and facing the office of srok Tek Phos. It has 4 big pits, each of which is 30 meters long, 5 meters wide, and 2 meters deep. There were 100 victims in each of the pits. The Banteay Chas memorial is near the Banteay Chas pits.

Prisons and Pits

The prison Wat Savan is 500 meters east of the office of srok Tek Phos in phum Ta Chey, khum Ak Pi Wat, srok Tek Phos. This prison was formerly a religious building within the compound of this wat. Behind the wat lie some 16 to 20 pits containing a total of roughly 100 victims.

Witnesses:

- 1- Ky Song Chhay, male, age 43, now is a chief of the Office of Culture in srok Tek Phos, and lives in phum Sre Ta Chey, khum Ak Pi Wat, srok Tek Phos. He joined in the excavation of the pits in 1982.

- 2- Chea Kim Lon, male, age 49, now is a Deputy Chief of the Office of Culture in srok Tek Phos, and lives in phun Sre Ta Chey, khum Ak Pi Wat, srok Tek Phos. He also joined in the excavation of these pits.

Conclusion

Reports from the Chief of the Office of Cults and Religions and the Office of Culture show that there are still many other important criminal sites. Therefore, if possible, it would be advisable to return to this province again, particularly in srok Boribo and srok Rolea Phieat.

Accordingly, we need more time for further research to complete an extensive investigation in this province. One expedition was insufficient. Our initial efforts in this province have secured the assistance of the local administrators and government officials. Successful and thorough completion of this research will require the continuing cooperation and support of this program's benefactors and contributors.