

**DC-Cam's Promoting Accountability Project  
A Field Trip's Report in Kamrieng, Phnom Proek and Sampov Loun Districts-  
Former Khmer Rouge Strongholds in Battambang Province  
Between 17 and 23 March 2011**

**By Long Dany**

**General Description and Brief History of Districts**

Kamrieng, Phnom Proek and Sampov Loun districts are located along the Cambodia -Thailand border. The districts were among four former Khmer Rouge strongholds (Koas Kralor, Kamreing, Phnom Proek and Sampov Loun areas within Battambang province) that the Khmer Rouge used as bases as part of its resistance against Vietnamese and PRK soldiers who were stationed along the Battambang battlefields from 1979 to the mid 1990s. Those areas were integrated with the Royal Government of Cambodia and formed as new districts within the Battambang province in 1998. The districts are approximately 430 to 460 km from Phnom Penh by National Road Number 5, down a road from Thma Kol to Ba Vil districts and then, to Kamrieng, Phnom Proek and Sampov Loun districts.

Before 1980s Kamrieng, Phnom Proek; and Sampov Loun covered a large span of valuable forest land consisting of mountains and wildlife animals, including but not limited to, elephants, tigers, wild oxen,



**Kamrieng District Hall**



**Sampov Loun District Hall**

wild buffalos, deer, boars and so on.

There were relatively few people who lived in those areas.

After the Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979, a majority of upper level Khmer Rouge cadres, top military leaders, workers from Phnom Penh city, cadres from various zones, and regional cadres escaped to the Khmer-Thai border. Kamrieng, Phnom Proek and Sampov Loun areas are former place where the Khmer Rouge soldiers hid and used guerrilla tactics to ambush the Vietnamese troops and

the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) troops who were stationed [in the inner part of the country].

There was one Khmer Rouge division, called Division 320, which was stationed along the Khmer-Thai border, starting from the Kamrieng to Phnom Proek and Sampov Loun areas. According to former Khmer Rouge cadres living in those districts, Son Sen was responsible for the areas. Ny Kan, one of Son Sen's relatives, was executive chief of the division. Ny Kan was a former officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Democratic of Kampuchea between 1975 and 1979. After integration with the Cambodian government in 1997, Ny Kan was assigned to act as an advisor of the Cambodian Ministry of National Defense. He is a Major General of the Royal Cambodian Armed forces (RCAF).

## **Methodology**

Our PA team consisted of three members—Long Dany, Sok Vannak and Sa Sengkea—for the trip to Kamrieng, Phnom Proek, and Sampov Loun districts from March 17 to 23, 2011, we prepared the following materials: a S.U.V, authority letters, notebooks, pens, booklets, copies of DC-Cam's magazine "Searching for the Truth", mp3 recorders, digital cameras, laptops, and a modem.

Similar to the previous PA field trip to Malai, Thma Puok and Svay Chek districts in Banteay Mean Chey province in late 2010, the team had two days to prepare for the field trip.

The team had one meeting session before traveling to the districts. The meeting covered the following:

- 1- Techniques in approaching and interviewing former KR cadres. Each PA member shared their experiences and what they learned from the previous field trips.
- 2- Methods in collecting geographical information of Kamrieng, Phnom Proek; and Sampov Loun districts before, during, and after the Democratic Kampuchea period.

## **Summary of interviews**

Between March 17 and 23, 2011, we interviewed 32 former KR cadres (12 females and 20 males) in O-Da –Leu, Daung, Svay Chrum; and O-Korky villages Boeng Raing and O-Da communes, Kamrieng district. Kandal, O-Romduol; Phnom Proek; and Pich Chenda villages, O-Romduol, Phnom Proek; and Pich Chenda communes, Phnom Proek district. Sa Sda village, Sa Sda commune, Sampov Loun district, Battambang Province. The summaries of these interviews are as below.

## 1. Phoak Khun (F)



**Phoak Khun**

Khun is 52 years old and lives in Daung village, Boeng Raing commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Khun was born in Ngeav village, Choam commune, Memot district, Kampong Cham province. Khun's father's name is Boek and her mother's name is Seng. They were died of illness since Sangkum Reastr Niyum (Sihanouk

regime). She has four siblings and one was died during the KR regime. Khun's husband's name is Noeun Khorn. He is 53 years old. She has 3 daughters and 1 son.

Khun studied in grade 9 (old system) and dropped out of school in 1970. Then, she lived with her siblings in her home village until 1974.

Khun volunteered to join the KR in 1974 when she was 15 years old. When the KR came to power in 1975, she was sent to Region 21 in the Prey Veng province. There, she stayed with thousands of young men and women in the region. She went to Phnom Penh (near Phsar Chass) after having stayed in the Region for a month. At the first time, the KR Angkar ordered Khun to clean flats and collect messy things and put into the warehouses.

In 1976, Khun and 30 young women in her unit were selected to work on the rice fields along National Road # 1 within the Kien Svay district, Kandal province.

Between 1977 and 1979, Khun was ordered to work as a worker at the Toek Thla Lathing factory, where the North Koreans were helping build the factory to lathe for tractor spares. Khun was never allowed to visit home villages even once during the rule of the KR regime.

After 1979, Khun and other workers fled to Cambodia-Thailand border along with KR soldiers and she came to live in Daung village in early 1990s.



**Tep Chhov**

## 2. Tep Chhov (M)

Chhov is 64 years old and lives in Svay Chrum village, O- Da commune Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Chhov was born in Prey Chek village Trapeang Raing commune Chhouk

district Kampot province. Chhov's father's name is Tep Kin and his mother's name is Prakk Sem. Chhov has four siblings and one died during KR period and another one died after 1979. His wife's name is Prakk Run. Chhov has 5 children.

Chhov dropped out of school in 1970 when he was in grade 9. At that time he volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution. Chhov was assigned to be a secret police (Kang Chhlorp) in Region 35, Southwest Zone from 1975 through 1976. Chhov said, the secret police had a list of people who would be arrested by the Angkar Khmer Rouge in a district or region 35 before Kang Chhlorp decided whether they should arrest or not. At that time, a security prison office was in Stoeng Phe where the security's chief's name was Not. Kang Chap was a chief of Region 35.

In 1977, Chhov was sent to the Kampong Thom Province. There, Chhov was assigned as chief of the Tralaok village within the Baray district where Tep Pouch was chief of Baray district.

After Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979, Chhov and other KR cadres fled to Cambodia –Thailand border. Chhov lived in Son Sen's office near Tunle La-poeu at border Lao, Cambodia and Thailand until the 1990s. After having lived in Anlong Veng from 1991 to 1992, people in Son Sen's office were moved to Kamrieng area under the supervision by Ny Kan, who was one of Son Sen's relatives. Ever since integration with the Cambodian government in 1996, Chhov has been living in Svay Chrum village, O-Da commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province as a farmer.

### 3. Kang Sat (M)



**Kang Sat**

Sat is 69 years old and lives in Svay Chrum village, O-Da commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Sat was born in Chambakk Thom village, Poan Saing commune, Ang Snuol district, Kamdal province. Sat went to school for only one year, and afterward, worked with his parents on the rice fields.

Sat volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge soon after the coup d'etat in 1970.

Between 1970 and 1975, Sat was a soldier in the Southwest Zone.

After the liberation in 1975, Sat was assigned to work on the rice fields and dig canals in Stoeng Meanchey, Phnom Penh.

In 1976, Sat was sent to Ratanak Kiri province to join with Division 801. The Division was patrolled along Cambodia – Vietnam border. The Division’s office was in O Yadav, Ratanak Kiri province. [Ta] Saroeun (05) was a chief of the division.

Sat and other soldiers fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border, when Vietnamese soldier entered Cambodia in 1979.

Between the 1980s and 1990s, Sat stayed in Son Sen’s office at Tunle La-poeu near the border between Cambodia, Lao and Thailand.

In early 1990s Sat and other people in the office were sent to live in the Kamrieng district.

#### **4. Sim Rim (M)**



**Sim Rim**

Rim is 54 years old and lives in O-Korki village, O-Da commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Rim was born in Svay Char village, Char commune, Prey Kambas district, Takeo province. Rim’s father’s name is Sim and his mother’s name is Teng. Rim’s wife’s name is Kim Ret. She is 51 years old. Rim has 6 children.

Rim dropped out of school when he was in grade 9 in 1970. Then, he helped his parents in the rice fields. Rim volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1972 and was assigned to be a secret police of the KR (Kang Chhlorp) in the Char commune, Prey Kambas district. After then, Rim was sent to serve as a soldier in the Third Division where Mai was chief of the division.

In 1976, Rim was sent to Mondul Kiri province with Division 920. The division’s chief’s name was Chhin and was replaced by San (06) when Chhin was arrested by the Angkar Khmer Rouge in 1977. The division patrolled along the border between Mondul Kiri Province and Dac Lat Province of Vietnam.

In 1979, Rim fled to the Cambodia - Thailand border along with other Khmer Rouge soldiers because the Khmer Rouge made propagandas campaign against Vietnamese. They told their cadres, soldiers and people that they would be killed by Vietnamese if they returned to their home village during that time.

## 5. Suon Porn (M)



**Suon Porn**

Porn is 56 years old and lives in Kandal village O-Rumduol commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. Porn was born in Khnach Romeas village, Rong Chrey commune, Battambang province. His father's name is Him and his mother's name is Rin. Both died by illness during the Sihanouk regime. His wife's name is Sar Sing. She is 57 years old. Porn has 4 children.

Porn did not go to school when he was young and at the time he lived with his elder sister. Porn volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in Prey Liv village. Porn was assigned to be a messenger and then, was sent to fight against Lon Nol soldiers at the Battambang battlefield.

After 1975, Porn was assigned to work in a mobile brigade work unit and was assigned as a worker at irrigation construction sites. At that time, Porn knew that Ros Nhim aka Moul Sambatt was chief of the Northwest Zone and in 1977, the Khmer Rouge cadres came from the Southwest Zone to replace old cadres in the Northwest Zone.

In 1979, Porn and other workers fled to the Kamrieng Region. There he met with Ta Mok and became a Khmer Rouge soldier. His division's chief's name was Ny Kan and Son Sen was a senior leader in the region.

## 6. Sa Sing (F)



**Sa Sing**

Sing is 57 years old and lives in Kandal village, O-Rumduol commune, Phnom Proek district Battambang province. Sing was born in Kao Tay village, Koh Sampoieu commune, Peam chor district, Prey Veng province. Sing's father's name is Sa Sim and her mother's name is Prok Nuon. Sing has 11 siblings. Sing's husband's name is Suon Porn. He is 56 years old. Sing has 4 children.

Sing did not go to school when she was young. Sing lived with her parents and helped her parent's house work until the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975.

In 1975, Sing was assigned to work in a mobile brigade work unit in Koh Sampeou commune. In 1976, Sing was one among 60 young men and women, who were selected to work in Phnom Penh by Meng, chief of the Pean Chor district. At the time Chhouk was chief of Region 24.

In Phnom Penh, Sing was assigned to clean flats and eventually, was assigned to work at the Lathing Factory .

In 1977, Sing was among 4 women workers selected to be part of a medical staff that took care of workers in the factory. At the time, Sing was provided enough food (three meals every day). Sing knew that a few of the factory's leaders disappeared during DK.

After Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979, Sing fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border along with the factory's leaders. At the time, the KR told the workers that they would be killed by the Vietnamese soldier if they returned to their home village.

## **7. You Saren (F)**

Saren is 56 years old and lives in Phnom Proek village Phnom Proek commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. Saren was born in Sleng village, Trapeang Thom commune Tram Kak district, Takeo province. Saren's father's name is You Krip and her mother's name is Nget Run. She has 7 siblings. Saren's husband's name is No Na. He is 56 years old. Saren has only one daughter.



**You Saren**

Saren went to Thnaot Chrum Primary School when she was young and she quit school after 1970 because it had no teachers came to teach students. Saren said, she had 4 elder brothers who volunteered to join the KR soldiers and were killed during the civil war between 1970 and 1975.

After the KR came to power in 1975, Saren was assigned to serve as part of the medical staff at the Koh Kong Hospital. Patients who were in the hospital were soldiers who were injured on the battlefield and those who were suffering from "swollen" body. She said that the medical staff had no problem with food during the KR period. The hospital's chief was the daughter of Ta Mok.

After 1979, Saren could not find a way back to her home village. So, Saren and other medical staffs fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border along with the KR. Then, she moved to live along Lem and Chakry. At the time Saren worked as a medic and learned operation skills from Dr. Chuon Choeun. She worked at the D 25 hospital until the KR integrated with the Cambodian government in 1996.

## 8. Suon Sun (M)



**Suon Sun**

Sun is 55 years old and lives in Wat Kampheng village, Svay Pao commune, Svay Pao district, Battambang Provincial Town. Sun was born in Battambang province. Sun's father's name is Tep Suon and his mother's name is Ngom Khann. They were killed during the DK period. Sun's wife's name is Hy Lang. Sun has 3 children.

Sun dropped out of School when he was in grade 9 because his father was a Lon Nol soldier and the family had to move with father to Pailin and other Lon Nol bases located across the country. Sun served as a Lon Nol soldier with his father when he was 17 years old.

When the KR came to power in 1975, Sun saw KR soldiers killed many Lon Nol soldiers near the Battambang town. Between 1975 and 1979, Sun's family was evacuated to live in Region 3. There, almost his family members were killed by the KR.

When Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979, Sun returned to live in his home town in the Battambang province and volunteered to join the PRK force in 1982. Currently, Sun is captain of Battalion 506 of border protection. The unit patrols the Cambodia -Thailand border between Phnom Proek and Sampov Loun districts.

## 9. Um Hoeun (M)



**Um Hoeun**

Hoeun is 53 years old and lives in Sa Sda village, Sa Sda commune, Sampov Loun dsitric, Battambang province. Hoeun was born in Prey Chamkar village, Speu "Kh" commune, Ba Phnom district, Battambang province. Hoeun's father's name is Ham and his mother's name is Sin Kit. Hoeun has 7

siblings. Hoeun's wife's name is Chum Nav. She is 54 years old. Hoeun has 6 children.

Hoeun went to school for only a year. Then, he helped his parents on the rice fields until 1975.

Between 1975 and 1977, Hoeun was assigned to work in the mobile work brigade unit in his hometown.

In mid 1977, Hoeun was selected to serve as a soldier and was trained in tactical military in the Prey Veng provincial town. Then, Hoeun was sent to fight against the Vietnamese near Cambodia-Vietnam border.

In 1978, Hoeun was injured and sent to be treated at the 17 Mesa Hospital (April 17 Hospital). Hoeun knew that the KR arrested and killed people during DK, especially Hoeun's brother, Horn (who had volunteered to join the KR revolution in 1973 but was eventually arrested and never heard from again).

The Angkar KR transported injured soldiers from Phnom Penh to Western parts of the country two days before the Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979. Then, Hoeun went to live in the Srah Keo refugee camp within the Thailand territory. In 1985 Hoeun returned to join the KR and served as a security guard at KR's warehouse 405 until the KR integrated with the Cambodian government in 1996.

## 10. Kan Em (F)



**Kan Em**

Em is 52 years old and lives in Pech Chenda village, Pech Chenda commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. Em was born in Cham Huk village, Sambo commune, Kampong Siem district, Kampong Cham province. Em's father's name is Kan Met and her mother's name is Ros Sim. Em has 5 sisters and two brothers. Em's husband's name is Chhim Ieng. He is 58 years old. Em has 2 children.

En went to school for only 3 years when she was young because of the civil war. After Em quit from school, she helped her parents on rice field. In 1973, the KR evacuated her family and villagers to the Stoeng Trang district.

In 1975, Em volunteered to join the KR revolution with 200 women in the State Rubber Plantation's office.

After the KR came to power in 1975, Em was sent to Phnom Penh. At first, he stayed at Tuol Kok and was assigned to grow cabbages and guard Warehouse's State near the old Olympic Stadium.

Em was then assigned as a garment worker at the O-Russey Market from 1976 through 1979.

When the Vietnamese entered Cambodia in 1979, Em fled to the Cambodia -Thailand border along with other cadres and workers, told by the KR that the Vietnamese would kill them if they returned to their hometowns. Em married Ros Sim in 1981. At the time, Sim was a KR soldier and was in the transportation unit.

### **11. Chea Bunlong (M)**



**Chea Bunlong**

Bunlong is 53 years old and in O-Da Leu village, Beong Raing commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Bunlong was born in Trapeang Chungruk village, Boseth commune, Kang Pisey district, Kampong Speu province. Bunlong's father's name is Chea Dan and his mother's name is Set Phat. She is 80 years old and lives in Trapeang Chungruk village.

Bunlong has 4 brothers. Bunlong's wife's name is Kim Vet. She is 56 years old. Bunlong has 2 sons and 1 daughter.

Bunlong is second in his family. Bunlong studied in grade 10 (old system) when he was young. Bunlong dropped out of school in 1970 and helped his parents on the rice fields until 1972.

In 1972, Bunlong volunteered as a KR soldier and was sent to Wat Sleng for training of tactical military. After that, he joined Company 51, Battalion 320, Regiment 14, 2nd Division, South West Zone. Bunlong was a messenger of Company 51 and fought against Lon Nol soldiers along the Wat Sleng, Stoeng Kantuot battlefields. His division eventually entered Phnom Penh at Chaom Chao.

After the liberation in April 1975, Bunlong's division was ordered to help with farming in the Koh Andet district and patrolled along the Cambodia – Vietnam border at the Koh Andet district. In August 1978 Bunlong was sent to fight against Vietnamese soldiers along the border of Svay Rieng and Tay Ninh, Vietnam.

## 12. Chu Yorn (M)



**Chu Yorn**

She died 10 years ago. Yorn has 2 daughters and 4 sons.

Yorn is 65 years old and lives in Daung village, Boeng Raing commune, Kamreing district, Battambang province. Yorn was born in Andaung Praing village, Srang commune, Kang Pisey district, Kampong Speu province. Yorn's father's name is Suos Yeun. He died in 1975. Yorn's mother's name is Uok Kea. She is over 90 years old and lives in Daung village. Yorn has 4 sisters and 2 brothers. Yorn's wife's name is Pe Mit.

Yorn is first in his family. He studied in grade 7 (old system) at Ang Taphem Secondary School. Yorn dropped out of school in 1964 and went to live as a Buddhist monk for a year at Wat Ang Taphem. After Yorn resigned from monkhood, he helped his parents on the rice field.

In 1968, Yorn married Pe Mit who was born in the Andaung Praing village and Yorn's family worked on the rice fields in the village until 1970.

After March 1970, Yorn volunteered to join the KR revolution and served as a member of the secret police in the Srang commune until 1975.

After April 1975, Yorn was promoted to chief of the mobile brigade work in Kang Piseay district, Region 32, South West Zone. At the time, Yorn managed young men and women to dig canals and build dams within Kang Pisey district.

In June, 1977, Yorn was told by Nuon Pho who was chief of the Srang commune that «the Angkar will send you to work as cadres in North West Zone as soon as [possible]». Yorn was sent to the Takeo province for a two-week leadership training program. There, Ta Mok advised participants that "all of you have to serve as cadres in North West zone and you must to know who are friend and enemies when you work in that zone".

Yorn was served as a chief of Daun Tev commune and Ta En was chief of Daun Tev district. Yorn said, all cadres had meet with Ta Mok or Ta Sean in North West Zone's office once or twice a month. At the time, Yorn saw [Ta] Tith and [Yeay] Chem who attended the meeting with Ta Mok.

### 13. Kao Son (M)



**Kao Son**

Son is 53 years old and lives in Svay Chrum village, O-Da commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Son was born in Khpoap Tanguon village, Khpoap Tanguon commune, Stoeng Trang district, Kampong Cham province. Son's father's name is Kao Sokh and his mother's name is Chhann Soeu. Son has 2 sisters and 4 brothers. Son's wife's name is Prak Nik. She is 54 years old. Son has 1 daughter and 2 sons.

Son is first in his family. Son went to Wat Khpoap Tanguon Primary School for only three years and then worked with his parents on the rice fields until 1973.

In 1973, Son volunteered to join a soldier of the KR. First, Son was a soldier in the Prek Sangke district for two months and was eventually worked to work in Region 42. In 1974, Son's unit merged with 304 Zone. Son was a soldier in the 2nd Division led by Chhin.

After the liberation in April 1975, Son's division was stationed near Wat Phnom in Phnom Penh. Son stayed in Phnom Penh for a few months and then, his division was promoted to act as a part of the general staff (Division 920). Son was sent to the Koh Nhek, Mondulkiri province in late 1975. There, he was assigned to patrol the border between Mondul Kiri and Dac Lak, Vietanme. At the time, Son was promoted chief of the division company.

In 1977, when cadres in the division were accused as traitors, and Son was ordered by the KR commanders from Division 801 in Ratanak Kiri province to arrest his old commanders; such colleagues and his subordinators were sent to the Division 920's office in Koh Nhek.

In late 1978, Son was seriously injured when his unit fought against Vietnamese soldiers and was brought to Phnom Penh by helicopter to be treated. Son stayed in the 17 Measa Hospital until the Vietnamese soldiers entered Phnom Penh in January 1979.

#### 14. Prakk Nik (F)



**Prakk Nit**

Nik is 54 years old and lives in Svay Chrum village, O-Da commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Nik was born in Baray village, Baray commune, Baray district, Kampong Thom province. Nik's father's name is Kan and her mother's name is Yim. She died 3 years ago. Nik has 2 sisters and 4 brothers. Nik's husband's name is Kao Son. He is 53 years old. Nik has 1 daughter and 2 sons.

Nik is the second oldest in her family. Nik did not go to school when she was young. In 1973, Nik was selected to be part of the medical staff in Samrong near Baray commune for 5 months. After that, Nik was sent to take care of patients in the Baray commune for a year. Afterward, she became a woman soldier in the 2nd Division of 304 Zone.

After April 1975, Nik stayed in Phnom Penh for a few months and was eventually sent to the Mondul Kiri province. There, she was part of the medical unit of Division 920. Nik stayed in the Koh Nhek district with Vin who was chief of the medical unit until 1979.

#### 15. Mak Sarin (M)



**Makk Sarin**

Sarin is 49 years old and lives in O-Korky village, O-Da commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Sarin was born in Tateong Thngay village, Veal Poan commune, Thporng district, Kampong Speu province. Sarin's father's name is Set. He died in 1982 and his mother's name is Meak Kang. She died in 1999. Sarin has 2 sisters and 3 brothers. Sarin's wife's name is Hen Sokhom. She is 46 years old. Sarin has 4 sons and 1 daughter.

Sarin is first in his family. Sarin studied in grade 10 (old system) when he was young at Wat Roleang Neak Primary School. Sarin dropped out of school in 1970. Then, Sarin helped his parents on the rice field and tended cattle until 1975.

After the liberation in April 1975, Sarin was taken to Phnom Penh by his uncle, Roeung, who was the chief of the state warehouse. At the time, Roeung worked very close with Vann Rith, chief of commercial state. Sarin was a messenger and a driver of Roeung. Sarin used to meet with Van Vet, Cheng On and other senior Khmer Rouge leaders.

### **16. Thip Oeun (M)**



**Thip Oeun**

Oeun is 51 years old and lives in Kandal village, O-Rumdual commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. Oeun was born in Ang village, Ta Meun commune, Thma Kol district, Battambang province. Oeun's father's name is Thip Dok and his mother's name is Pring Lim. They live in Ang village. Oeun has 5 brothers and 2 sisters. Oeun's wife's name is Sao Saran. She is 50 years old. Oeun has 2 sons and 2 daughters.

Oeun is third in his family. He did not go to school when he was young. At that time, Oeun helped his parents on rice field.

After April 1975, Oeun was forced to join the mobile brigade work unit in the Ang village. Oeun was forced to dig canals and farm.

In 1976 Oeun was taken to stay with his uncle, Pring Chuon, who was chief of the mobile brigade work unit in North West Zone to supervise people in Veal Trea, O-Take and O-Rokar. Chuon supervised around 1000 young men and women at those sides. At that time Oeun stayed in Chuon's house to cook and clean the house for him.

In 1978, Oeun was sent to join another mobile brigade work unit in the Prey Toteong village in Thma Kol district, when his uncle (Chuon) was arrested and killed by the cadres from South West Zone.

## 17. Vang San (M)



**Vang San**

San is 49 years old and lives in Kandal village, O-Rumdual commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. San was born in Ponley village, Ponley commune, Prey Kabas district, Takeo province. San's father's name is Soth and his mother's name is Saing. San has 3 sisters and 1 brother. San's wife's name is Chhun Ren. She is 50 years old. San has 1 daughter and 2 sons.

San is the youngest in his family. San went to school for only one year when he was young. He can read and write only a little bit.

After April 1975, San was selected to join the children unit and was forced to dig canal and work on the rice fields. After that, Sam was sent to join the art unit in the Ponley commune.

In early 1977, San served as a soldier at Phnom Tep near the Angkor Borei district, transported bulleting to Ka-orm Samnor. In late 1977, San was sent to the Battambang province. There, he was assigned to work in a security guard unit of a sugar factory in Kampong Kul.

## 18. Sum Maly (M)



**Sum Maly**

Maly is 64 years old and lives in Phnom Proek village, Phnom Proek commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. Maly was born in Trapeang Thom village, Trapeang Thom commune, Tram Kak district, Takeo province. Maly's father's name is Sum and his mother's name is Sing. Maly has 2 sisters and 3 brothers. Maly's wife's name is Khim Mann. She is 61 years old. Maly has 2 daughters and 2 sons.

Maly is second in his family. Maly studied in grade 7 (old system) at Trapeang Thom Secondary School when he was young. Maly dropped out of school in 1967. Then, Maly's family moved to live in Posat province. At the time Maly helped his family on

the rice fields. In 1969, Maly married Khim Mann who was born in the Trapeang Thom village. In 1970, Maly farmed in the Kravanh district.

In the mid 1970s, Maly joined the KR revolution. At the time, Maly was one of the KR activists who prepared to welcome to Khieu Samphan who had traveled to Phnom Kravanh in 1970.

In 1973, Maly served as a soldier in Region 2, North West Zone and his unit fought against Lon Nol along the Posat and Maung Russey district, Battambang province.

In 1975, Maly was promoted to act as chief of the special secret police of North West Zone. His unit operated within the Battambang and Pailin areas. In particular, Maly's subordinates spied on people who were forced to work at the Ang Kamping Puoy construction dam.

In 1977, Maly was brought to work at Phleung Chheh Roteh near Phnom Thipade. Then, he was arrested and imprisoned there until 1979.

### **19. Vong Khan (M)**



**Vong Khan**

Khan is 60 years old and lives in Phnom Proek village, Phnom Proek commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. Khan was born in Pong Toek village, Kous commune, Tram Kak district, Takeo province. Khan's father's name is Vong Kheng. He lives in Pong Toek village and his mother's name is Neang Khem. Khan's wife's name is Prum Voeun. She is 54 years old. Khan has 2 sons and 1 daughter.

Khan is the oldest in his family. Khan studied in grade 7 when he was young. Khan dropped out of school in 1970.

In 1971, Khan was selected to serve as a soldier in the Tram Kak district and was promoted to serve as a soldier in Region 13 in 1972. Khan then joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the Southwest Zone in 1973.

After April 1975, Khan was sent to patrol along the Cambodia – Vietnam border at Phnom Din, Takeo province. There, his unit worked on rice fields, grew vegetables, and patrolled along the border.

In late 1977, Khan was promoted to serve as chief of the division company. After that, Khan was sent to fight against Vietnamese soldiers in Snuol, Kratie province. There, Khan was seriously injured and was brought to the Kratie Hospital. Khan stayed in the hospital until the Vietnamese entered Cambodia in early January 1979.

## 20. Kung Voeun (M)



**Kung Voeun**

Voeun is 56 years old and lives in Sa Sdar village, Sa Sdar commune, Sampov Loun district, Battambang province. Voeun was born in Preah Sre village, Boeng Preah commune, Ba Phnom district, Prey Veng province. Voeun's father's name is Preap Kung and his mother's name is Nuon Noeun. She died in 2009. Voeun has 1 sister and 2 brothers. Voeun's wife's name is Rath Roeun. She is 55 years old. Voeun has 4 sons and 1 daughter.

Voeun is the third oldest in his family. Voeun went to Wat Preah Sre Primary School in 1966 and he dropped out of the school in 1969. He helped his parents in the rice fields until 1973.

In 1973, Voeun volunteered to serve as a soldier of the KR with other 3 young men in his village. Voeun was sent to be trained in tactical military in Region 24 in Prey Veng for 3 months and was eventually sent to the military unit in Region 24.

After April 1975, Voeun was promoted to serve as chief of a platoon within the military unit in Region 24. Voeun was assigned to work on the rice fields near Neak Loeung. Then, Voeun was assigned to serve as a driver for his unit until 1977.

In mid 1977, Voeun was sent to fight against Vietnamese soldiers along the Cambodia – Vietnam border at Svay Rieng province. Voeun was in the battlefield until the Vietnamese marched toward Cambodia in early January 1979.



**Tit Im**

## 21. Tith Im (F)

Im is 50 years old and lives in Pich Chenda village, Pich Chenda commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. Im was born in Thlok

Daunsokh village, Kraing Ampil commune, Samrong Torng district, Kampong Speu province. Im's father's name is Patt and her mother's name is Ven. She lives in her home village. Im has 2 sisters and 1 brother. Im's husband's name is Sokh Sam-nang. He is 45 years old. Im has 2 daughters and 1 son.

Im is the youngest in her family. Im did not go to school when she was young. Im stayed with her parents and helped them in the rice fields until 1975.

After April 1975, Im was selected to serve in the mobile brigade work unit at Daem Russey village in Kandal province. At that time, her unit helped people to plant and harvest rice.

In late 1978, Im was sent to serve in the general staff's logistic unit in Phnom Penh until the Vietnamese entered Cambodia in 1979.

## **22. Sann Sim (F)**

Sim is 52 years old and lives in O-Da Leu village, Boengraing commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Sim was born in Traey Tring village, Prek Ambil commune, Sa-Ang district, Kamdal province. Sim's father's name is Soup Ho and her mother's name is Pen Im. Sim has 2 sisters and 3 brothers. Sim's husband's name is Khann Sam On. Sim has only 1 son.

Sim dropped out of school when she studied in grade 8 in 1970. Then, Sim's family moved to live with her uncle, Pen Ye in Khpap village, Cham commune, Kampong Speu province after her father died and in 1973, Sim's family returned to their home village. At the time, the United States dropped bombs on her village and Sim's family fled to live on a farm about 4 to 5 km from the village (for 2 years).

After the KR came to power in 1975, Sim was ordered to work at a salt marsh with 30 other young ladies in her village. Sim worked in the salt marsh unit in Traey Koh village, Kampot district, Kampot province. At the time, Phal was chief of the salt marsh unit. Sim worked at the salt marsh until late 1978.

When Vietnamese entered Cambodia in 1979, Sim and other workers feared that they would be arrested, tortured or killed by Vietnamese soldiers. So, they fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border along with the KR soldiers. Sim stayed in Khlang Yay refugee camp within Thailand territory for more than one month, and then Ny Kan aka (Bang 32) who was chief of Division 320 took Sim and other workers back to live on the Khmer territory. Sim lived near the Lem, Kamrieng area.

After the KR integrated with the Cambodian government in 1996, Sim moved to live in O-Da Leu village.

### 23. Saing Khon (F)



**Saing Khon**

Khon is 55 years old and lives in Daung village, Boengraing commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Khon was born in Borm village, Kdanh commune, Prey Kambas district, Takeo province. Khon's father's name is Saing Tauch and her mother's name is Men. Her parents died after 1979. Khon has 5 sisters. Khon's husband's name is Pol Phan who is a chief of Kamrieng district. Khon has 4 daughters.

Khon did not go to school when she was young because her family was too poor. In 1974, Khon and 30 other young girls were selected to be part of the militia that protected her village by Borm village chief. Five months later, Khon volunteered to serve as a soldier at the Prey Kambas district's office.

In late 1974, Chong, who was the younger brother of Ta Mok, ordered Sorn and Lang, who were chief and deputy chief (respectively) of the women soldiers in the Prey Kambas district, to take all the women soldiers to the salt marsh unit of the Southwest Zone; Khon worked at the salt marsh unit in the Sre Yol village, located near Kep town. At the time Sean was chief of the salt marsh unit and Rim was deputy.

In 1978, Ta Mok ordered Sean to take all workers from Dam Nak Chang-ae, Kep to Battambang province by train. When they got to Battambang, Ta Mok gathered together and assigned them to supervise people in communes or districts within the Northwest Zone. Khon and other 10 women were assigned to supervise in the Prek Norin commune. Khon was there for only one week, her nephew in law, Ret who was a chief of regiment sent Khon to Peak Sbek Cheung village, Beong Prey commune, Ratanak Mondul district. There, she was assigned to act as cooperative chief in the Beong Prey commune.

In 1979, Khon joined the KR soldiers at Sdao commune, Ratanak Mondul district with Vy and Run, who were the chief and deputy chief (respectively) of the tank unit, to fight against Vietnamese soldiers at Sdao and Khon (which run across border to Chanbori, Thailand territory). A few days later, Thai soldiers took them to a Khmer Refugee camp, and Khon was eventually placed in the Kamrieng area. After the KR in Kamrieng integrated with the Cambodian government, Khon and other KR came to live in O-Da Leu village.

#### 24. Prak Run (F)

Run is 56 years old and lives in Svay Chrum O-Da commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Run was born in Prey Chek village, Prey Chek commune, Chum Kiri district, Kampot province. Run's father's name is Prak Tun and her mother's name



**Prakk Run**

is Khat Tun. Her parents died after 1979. Run has 2 sisters and 5 brothers. Run's husband's name is Tep Chhov. Run has 2 daughters and 4 sons.

Run married Tep Chhov in 1972. Chhov was a KR soldier and was sent to fight against Lon Nol soldier in Baray district, Kampong Thom province. At the time, Run moved to live along with her husband.

After the KR came to power in 1975, Run's family was evacuated to live in Taing Kok village, Baray district, Kampong Thom province. There, she met with her husband and she moved to live with her husband in the KR military base in the Baray district.

In 1979 Run family fled to live in the Anglong Veng along with KR soldiers; Run moved to live in Kamrieng district, Battambang province in 1991.

#### 25. Pok Senghan (F)



**Pok Senghan**

Senghan is 55 years old and lived in Svay Chrum village, O-Da commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Senghan was born in Tunlea village, Kantuot commune, Kandal Stoeng district, Kandal province. Senghan's father's name is Pol Pok and her mother's name is Tuy Hung. Senghan has 2 sisters. Senghan's husband's name is Tin Bunthan. Senghan has 3 daughters and 6 sons.

Senghan dropped out of School when she was in grade 10 (old system). In 1969 her step father took her family to visit their relatives in Kraham Ka village, Tamao commune, Prek Prasap district, Kratie province. Accidentally, Lon Nol coup against Prince Sihanouk in 1970, Senghan's family decided to live there permanently.

During the DK regime between 1975 and 1979, Senghan lived in a cooperative Tamao, Prekprasap district, Kratie province. At the time Ta Oeun was chief of the Tamao cooperative.

When the Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979, Senghan and other villagers fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border. Sanghan lived in Anglong Veng and her family moved to live in the Kamreing district in 2000.

## **26. Svay But (M)**

But is 76 years old and lives in Svay Chrum village, O-Da commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. But was born in Prek Char village, Cheung Prey commune,



**Svay But**

Cheung Prey district, Kampong Cham province. But's father's name is Svay and her mother's name is Sim. But has three brothers and four sisters. But's wife's name Man. But has 2 daughters.

In 1960, But lived with his elder brother who was a fisherman in the Kratie province. When Lon Nol did the coup against Prince Sihanouk in 1970, But's family moved to live in Trapeang Phlong village, Trapeang Phlong commune, Pon-nheakrek district,

Kampong Cham province for three years. In 1974, But's family moved to live in Ampil Tapork commune, O-Raing Ov district. There, But was assigned to work in a cooperative and his wife was a chef in the cooperative. His first son was selected to serve as a soldier of the KR.

In 1979, But and his family fled to the Cambodia –Thailand border along with the KR soldiers and his family moved to live in the Kamrieng district in 1991.

## **27. Ky Saingheng (M)**

Saingheng is 56 years old and lives in O-Korky village, O-Da commune, Kamrieng district, Battambang province. Saingheng was born in Basing village, Basre commune, Prey Kambas, Takeo province. Saingheng's father's name is Ky Sreng and his mother's name is Lakk Prim. Saingheng has 1 brother and 3 sisters. Saingheng's wife's name is Sorn Ry. He has 4 sons and 1 daughter.

Saingheng dropped out of school following the coup d'etat in 1970.

In 1971, Saingheng volunteered to join the KR revolution and was assigned to join art unit in the Prey Lvea village. Lam was chief of the unit.

In 1972, Sangheng was assigned to serve as a soldier of the KR in Prey Khmeng, Kampong Speu province. Saingheng was a messenger of Phal, deputy chief of the company. In 1974, Saingheng was sent to join the special mobile brigade work unit. The unit fought against Lon Nol soldiers along National Road Number #2 and Road # 38.

When the KR entered Phnom Penh in 1975, Saingheng and other two KR soldiers were injured by Lon Nol bombings. Saingheng was sent to the 17 Mesa Hospital for 2 months.

Saom, deputy chief of KR army, assigned Keo Saroeun to serve as chief of division 801; Ta Mao, Ta Khorn, and Ta Nuon were chiefs of Regiments in the division. Saroeun was ordered to take the division to the Ratanakiri province. Saingheng was assigned to serve as chief of the company.

In 1977, Ta Khorn assigned Saingheng and other two messengers to take a letter to Ta Em who was chief of the battalion. On the way Saingheng and other two soldiers fought against Vietnamese soldiers. As result, Saingheng was seriously injured and the other two were killed. After coming out of the hospital, Saingheng served as a medic in the division until 1979.

In 1979, Saroeun ordered his subordinates to pull back to the Cambodia-Thailand border. There they met with Son Sen and the other KR leaders. Saingheng married Sorn Vy in 1987 and moved to live in Lem, Kamrieng in 1992.

## 28. Thuy Poeu (F)



**Thuy Poeu**

Poeu is 55 years old and lives in O-rumduol village, O-rumduol commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. Poeu was born in Ang village Ta Meun commune, Thma Kol district, Battambang province. Poeu's father's name is Sakk Chhem and her mother's name is Uy Se. Poeu has 3 brothers and 2 sisters. Poeu's husband's name is Em Lay. She has 3 sons and 4 daughters.

Poeu dropped out of school following the coup d'etat in 1970.

In 1973, Phouk Sary aka Tom forced Poeu and other Kok Khmum villagers to join the KR in the forest near Ang Kamping Puoy (Ta Phde mountain). There, Peou was assigned to serve as a woman soldier and stayed with Ros Nhim's unit.

After the KR came to power in 1975, Phouk Sary assigned Poeu to serve as a midwife in the agricultural office located in Thma Kol district. In 1976, Ta Yuom, chief of the agricultural office, asked Poeu to marry Em Lay who was responsible for repairing engines in the office. At the time Poeu married Em Lay together with 5 other pairs at the agricultural office.

In July 1977, many Northwest cadres were replaced by Southwest Cadres, especially, Rang and Yean who came from Sre Ambil, Southwest Zone were became Thma Kol district' chief and deputy chief. Rang and Yean arrested and killed several of old cadres in the district. Poeu and her husband were fortunately spared, because of villagers loved them and tried to hide them from the new cadres.

When the Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia, Poeu's husband was arrested and detained for five days by the Vietnamese. After released from the prison Poeu and her husband fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border and joined the KR until the integration with the Cambodian government in 1996.

## 29. Em Lay (M)



**Em Lay**

Lay is 58 years old and lives in O-Rumduol village, O-Rumduol commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. Lay was born in Prey Dach village, Kdol commune, Battambang province, Battambang province. Lay's father's name is Ling Lao and His mother's name is Em Ling. Lay has four brothers and three sisters. Lay's wife's name is Thuy Poeu. Lay has 3 sons and 4 daughters.

Lay was an orphan and lived with monks in Ek Phnom pagoda. There, he went to school for 2 years. Then, Lay moved to live with his elder sister until 1968. Em Lay was assigned by Chhuong, the village chief, to serve as a Lon Nol soldier at Veal Bek Chan in 1969. After being trained in tactical military for 7 or 8 days, Lay heard that he would be sent to train in Lam Son, Vietnam; Lay escaped to his home village and tried to hide himself in the village.

In 1970, Lay decided to leave his home village to join the KR. Lay served as a soldier in a division led by Ros Nhim. After the KR came to power in 1975, Lay was stationed in Kob village, Kob Nimit commune, Mongkul Borey district for two months and was sent back to the Thma Kol district because he was a former Lon Nol soldier. In 1976, Lay was assigned to repair engines in the agricultural office of the Thma Kol district by Yuom, chief of the agricultural office.

In September, 1978 Rang and Yean who came from Sre Ambil to Southwest Zone became Thma Kol district' chief and deputy chief. Rang and Yean arrested and killed several old cadres in the district. Lay and his husband tried to hide their identity and villagers also assisted to hide them from the new cadres.

When the Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia, Lay was arrested and detained for five days by the Vietnamese. After being released from prison, Lay fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border and joined the KR until the integration with the Cambodian government in 1996.

### **30. Im Dorn (M)**



**Im Dorn**

Dorn is 58 years old and lives in Sra Lao village, Phnom Proek commune Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. Dorn was born in Khpoap Run village, Boeng Srange commune, Chum Kiri district, Kampot province. Dorn's father's name is Im Dim and his mother's name is Sao Poeu. Dorn has 3 brothers and 1 sister. Dorn's wife's name is Sokh Pan. She is 56 years old. Dorn has 4 sons and 1 daughter.

1965, Dorn went to Amporwoan Yuthearam Primary school in Svay Thom, Sre Cheng commune, Chum Kiri district, Kampot province; he dropped out of school when he was in grade 8. After the coup d'état in 1970, the KR took control the village and forced the villagers to work on the rice fields in collective units; this meant that villagers could be able to help each other in their farms.

After the KR came to power in 1975, Dorn was forced to join a cooperative in the Khpoap Run village and remained there until 1979.

After 1979 Dorn fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border because he heard that the Vietnamese soldiers would kill Cambodian people if they returned their home village.

In 1980, Dorn stayed in the Srah Keo refugee camp for three months and eventually moved to live in the Sampov Loun, Battambang province.

### **31. Tep Thoeun (M)**

Thoeun is 57 years old and lives in Sa Sda village, Sa Sda commune, Sampov Loun district, Battambang province. Thoeun was born in Kra Kor village, Kra Kor commune, Kratie district, Kratie province. Thoeun's father's name is Tep. He died in 1978 and her mother's name is Tat Thim. Thoeun has 6 brothers and 5 sisters. Thoeun's wife's name is Sun Rat. Thoeun has 2 sons and 1 daughter.

Following the coup d'état in 1970, Thoeun dropped out of school when he was in grade 4 (old system) in Preah Kosamak High School, Kratie province.

Thoeun volunteered to serve as a soldier of the KR in 1974 and Thoeun was sent to serve as a soldier in the logistic unit in Autonomous Region 505 where Yi and Kaun were chief and deputy chief of the region. In 1978, Thoeun was sent to supervise a mobile brigade work unit in the Kratie district. After that, Thoeun was arrested and detained at Khvan Pi within the Kratie district.

In 1979, Thoeun joined the other KR soldiers and stayed with Beun, chief of the regiment. They were stationed along the border between the Kratie and Stoeng Treng provinces.

In 1981, when Vietnamese soldier took control of the areas, Theoun and other soldiers ran to Preah Vihear. He stayed in Son Sen's office at a border between Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, located near Tunle La-poeu within the Preah Vihea province.

In 1990 Thoeun and his family moved to live in Sampov Loun.

### **32. Soy Chhuon (F)**



**Soy Chhuon**

Chhuon is 51 years old and lives in Pech Chenda village, Pech Chenda commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. She was born in Chung Rok village, Ta Tou commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province. Chhuon's father's name is Soy and her mother's name is Yoeum. She is an only child. Chhuon's husband's name is Sim, he died in 1990. Chhuon has a daughter.

In 1970, Chhuon went to school in a jungle until grade 4 with her teachers Leng, Kim, Soy and another teacher.

In 1974, Chhuon mother died and she moved to live with her uncle Chay for nearly one year; she then volunteered to serve as a soldier of the KR in the Special Zone. Her commander was Long and the deputy commander was Khon. At the time, Chhuon was assigned to buy and collect rice for the Special Zone.

After the KR came to power in 1975, Chhuon was assigned to stay at Tuol Kok for 3 or 4 days. Then, Chhuon and other several cadres were sent to the Kratie province and continued to the Stoeng Treng province by truck. There, Chhuon and other cadres took rice to Ratanakiri by ship.

In February 1976, Chhuon was sent to work in the logistic unit in Phnom Penh under the supervision of Ta Sao, Ta Hakk and Pang. In 1977, Pang sent Chhuon to work in S-80 under the supervision of Kan (He lives in Pailin now).

When Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979, Chhuon and other 1000 KR soldiers ran to Kravanh Mountain, and Chhuon crossed the Cambodia -Thailand border to the refugee camp at Khlang Yay. There, he met Ta Thim, deputy chief of the logistic unit in Phnom Penh in the camp. Ta Thim took Chhuon to the Cambodian territory in O-Anluok village, Ta Sen commune Kamrieng district Battambang province.

1983, Son Sen moved Chhuon and other people to live in Phleung Chhah village, Pech Chenda commune, Phnom Proek district, Battambang province.

## **Observation**

We learnt that the former Khmer Rouge cadres feared being linked to certain crimes and they still have emotional attachments to their former supervisors. Moreover, they also learnt from Mam Nay aka Chan who was deputy chief of S-21. Chan lives in Sampov Loun district and he was invited as a witness of case 001 at ECCC. However, our team also found cadres who could potentially be involved in case 004. Detailed information is provided below:

- First, in Kamrieng, we met with [Ta] An (full name **Aom An**) who is living his second wife, **Prum Ran**. [Ta] An has 2 sons with his first wife and another daughter (around 15 or 16 years old) with his second wife. [Ta] An was a high cadre during DK. Sarin, chief of the O-Korky village, told us that after Vietnamese soldiers had entered Cambodia in 1979, [Ta] An and his subordinates fled to stay in the office of Son Sen at 1002. The office was in Preah Vihear (near Tunle La-poeu at a border between

Cambodia, Thailand and Lao). There, [Ta] An managed people in the office of Son Sen.

During 1990 and 1991, people in the office were moved to live in the Anlong Veng area and [Ta] An lived near his younger sister, Vin, who was the wife of [Ta] San (06) (chief of Division 920). When [Ta] Mok arrested and killed Saroeun (05), San (06), and other KR cadres in 1997, [Ta] An fled to Thailand and his family moved to live in the Kamrieng district.

- Second, in Phnom Proek, we met with Ream and his wife's name Kha. Ream was a cadre of the KR who came from the Southwest Zone and was sent to manage people in the Preah Neth Preah district with [Yeay] Chem (Im Chem). Ream was promoted to serve as chief of Thma Puok district in 1978. Ream is alleged to be responsible for death of many people in 1978 in Thma Puok district.

## **Challenges**

The former KR cadres were busy with their farm and we had to wait for hours to interview them in their villages. Some cadres tried to hide their biographies because they were afraid that their cases would link them to the crimes that are being prosecuted at the ECCC.