

ប្រជុំមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

DC-Cam's Promoting Accountability Report Svay Chek and Thmar Puok Districts, Banteay Meanchey Province December 6-13, 2010

Long Dany, Team Leader

General Description and Brief History of Districts

Before 1988, Svay Chek was a commune within Thmar Puok district, Battambang province. In 1988, Banteay Meanchey was established as a new province. The province was separated from Battambang province and Thmar Puok was integrated as a district within Banteay Meanchey. Svay Chek commune then became a district of Banteay Meanchey province.

Svay Chek and Thmar Puok districts are approximately 420 to 440 km from Phnom Penh by National Road #5, which connects to a road in the provincial town of Svay Chek (Phkorm commune) and another road in Thmar Puok.



Between 1970 and 1975, Thmar Puok district was a military base of the Lon Nol regime. The Khmer Rouge (KR) could not control the district during this period. When the KR took over the country in 1975, Lon Nol soldiers in Thmar Puok district disarmed and joined the KR. A few days later, KR soldiers arrested and killed all of these soldiers.

During the DK period, Thmar Puok district was within Region 5, Northwest Zone. Ros Nhim was the chief of the Northwest Zone. Hing was the chief of Region 5. Ieng Lai and Chiel were the deputy chiefs of Region 5. Chhat was the chief of Thmar Puok district. Huot was the deputy chief of Thmar Puok district.

In 1977, most KR cadres were arrested and killed. Ros Nhim and his subordinates in the zone were replaced by cadres from the Southwest Zone. Remaining cadres and villagers who used to serve as officers under the Lon Nol regime or the non-communist Khmer forces fled to Thailand.

Svay Chek and Thmar Puok districts were former hot battlefields between the tripartite party (which included the KR, Funcinpec, and KPNLF) and the PRK, which was supported by Vietnamese soldiers in the 1980s. Sometimes the tripartite members also fought against each other within the districts. The tripartite soldiers were based in the forests near the districts. Frequently these forces entered the neighboring villages to fight each other, steal food, and capture villagers they suspected of joining or spying for the other sides.

The Paris Peace Accord was signed in October 1991 in order to supervise the cease-fire and ensure a path for a general election that was held in 1993. However, people who lived in Svay Chek and Thmar Puok districts experienced great turmoil (frequent robberies and fighting between the KR and government) until 1996. After, the districts became stable. Following the 1998 general election, villagers finally lived in peace.

Methodology

Our PA team consists of five members: Dany Long (leader), Vannak Sok, Sotheany Hin, Bunthorn Som, Phalla Chea, and Sothida Sin. For the trip to Svay Chek and Thmar Puok districts from Dec 6-13, 2010, 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 district in October, the team had four days to prepare for this field trip. Theany Hin and Vannak Sok prepared documents necessary for the trip. They also compiled information on Svay Chek, Thmar Puok and the surrounding areas, including maps and transcripts of previous PA interviews, information from DC-Cam databases, and notes from local contacts.

The team had one meeting and several training sessions before travelling to Svay Chek and Thmar Puok. The objectives of meeting and trainings were to teach and discuss:

- Techniques in approaching and interviewing former KR cadres. Each PA member shared their experiences and what they learned from the last field trip to Malai.
- Methods in collecting geographical information of Svay Chek and Thmar Puok districts before, during, and after the Democratic Kampuchea period.

Interview Summaries

Between December 6 and 13, 2010, we interviewed 55 former KR cadres (9 females and 46 males) in Phkorm, Mao, Yeang Vean villages in Phkorm communes, Svay Chek district, and in Chamleas Day, Svay, Kumru, Thma Dekeh, Svay, Banteay Chhmar Khang Lech, and in Banteay Chhmar Khang Cheung villages, Thmar Puok, Kumru, Kouk Kathin and Banteay Chhmar communes, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. The summaries of these interviews are below.

1- Srey Soul

Srey Soul, male, 49 years old, lives in Phkorm village Phkorm commune Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. Soul and his wife, Ban Biet, 48 years old, were born in Phkorm village. Soul has two sons and a daughter. He is farmer in Phkorm village. Soul's father, Srey Sann, lives in Phkorm village. His mother, Tann Siem, she died from a disease after 1979. Soul has two sisters and one brother. Soul is the first child. He dropped out of Phkorm Primary School in grade 11 in 1975.

Soul told us that one hundred new people families were evacuated to live in Phkorm in late 1975 and early 1976. Those people were forced to work hard. At that time, Soul was assigned to produce fertilizer and herd cows.



In 1977, Soul was sent to work in a mobile brigade unit at Trapeang Cheng and saw the KR military arrest and kill a dozen new people families. The KR suspected them of spying for Vietnam.

In 1979, when Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia, the chief of Phkorm cooperative (Kouk, a cadre from the Southwest zone) was killed by villagers because he had killed many of their relatives during the DK regime.

Soul told us that he knew Hang Pin (aka Duch) in the early 1990s when Duch's family came to live in Phkorm village. Duch's family stayed at Teacher Gnat's house for the first year, and then Duch bought a plot of land and built his own house. The house is close to Soul's house. Duch's wife is Rom, aka Mao. He has four children: Hing (female), Aun (male), Nin (male) and Makk (male). Duch was a teacher at Phkorm Secondary School and operated a rice grinding machine in his house. Sometimes, Soul and other neighbors came to talk to Duch. Duch never told his neighbors about his background under the DK regime. Soul did not know who Duch really was until he was arrested by the government in 1999.

2- Sem Hoeun



Sem Hoeun, 51 years old, lives in Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. Hoeun's birthplace is Thormneath village, Taing Trasaing commune, Santuk district Kampong Thom province.

Hoeun's wife, Tun Sera, 49 years old, was born in Phkorm village. They have four sons and one daughter. Hoeun was chief of a regiment in Division 51, Military Zone 5.

Hoeun's father, Sem Phon (now living in Thormneath village), was the Taing Trasaing commune chief during the KR regime. Hoeun's mother, Pov Pheap, died when Hoeun was young. Hoeun has two brothers. He is the eldest son. Hoeun dropped out of Thormneath Primary school in 1970 in grade 11 and helped his parents grow rice fields until 1975 when the KR took power.

In 1976, Hoeun's father heard that the KR sent children to study abroad, including to China. Hoeun's father wanted to send Hoeun to study in China. However, when Hoeun arrived in the Kampong Cham provincial town, he was sent to train in military tactics at Prey Daem Chan (near the provincial town) for six months. Then he was sent to the battlefield on the Cambodia-Vietnam border. Hoeun's unit was stationed in Memot district (Tuol 50) in Division 108. The division's chief was Chhay.

In 1978, Hoeun got injured and he was sent for treatment at 17 Mesa Hospital in Phnom Penh. After three months of treatment, Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia and Hoeun

was transported by train to Battambang province. Afterward, he walked along the road to Bavi and Pailin.

In 1979 and 1980, Hoeun lived in Chamkar Kor and Phnom Chhatt. There, he volunteered to be a KR soldier in Division 519. The division's committee members were Dul Sarouen, Pen Voy, Mao Vong, Long Them, Prum Sou. The division was based in and controlled the northern Sisophon area.

In 1987, So Hong, who is a Pol Pot's relative, was promoted to division chief. Ieng Sary was a senior leader responsible for both north and south of Sisophon which included the Pailin area. At that time, Hoeun was deputy chief of Regiment 105, Division 519. His regiment was in charge of fighting along the eastern part of Thmar Puok, Svay Chek; and Phnom Srok districts. Hoeun used to attend meetings with Ieng Sary at Th 100 and Th 85 in Thailand.

In the early 1990s Dul Saroeun ordered Hoeun's unit to indirectly guard Hang Pin (aka Duch) who came to live in Phkorm village. Hoeun added that Duch was a cadre of "Angkar Leu" (Pol Pot, Nuon Chea, and Ieng Sary). Duch was transported from Th 100 by the KR. He lived in Phkorm village and he continued to work for the KR.

3- Chap San



Chap San, 47 years old, lives in Chamleas Day village Kouk Kathin commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. San's birthplace is Sdok Klouk village, Preah Mlou commune, Bakan district, Pursat province.

San's wife, Keo Sarap, 38 years old, was born in Chamleas Day village. San has two sons and one daughter. San is a soldier at the Financial Office of the Military Department in Banteay Meanchey province.

San's father, Chap Phon, died three years ago. San's mother, Neak Va, died from an illness in 1975. San has three sisters and one brother. San is the fifth child. San went to school for only a few years in the early 1980s.

1984, San and his father met with San's elder brother, Chap Sao who served as a commander of the KR soldier Division 519 at Phnom Chhat. At that time, Chap Sao was Division 519's chief of Thai-Khmer liaison. After meeting with Sao and other KR commanders, San's father left San with Division 519. San was assigned to be a messenger of the division's committee chiefs (Dul Saroeun, Prum Sou, Pen Voy, and Long Them) and stayed with Long Them who was the deputy chief of the division.

In 1987, the Angkar Leu sent So Hong to supervise the division. At the time, Ieng Sary was in Malai, Phnom Chhat and Ang Kbal Leav.

From 1990-91, when the KR controlled Svay Chek, Angkar sent Hang Pin and his family to the division. Pin came to live in Phkorm village. Pin's wife was called "Yeay Rom." Yeay Rom and Yeay Moeun, the wife of Pich Cheang, were leaders of the women's council in

Thmar Puok and Svay Chek districts. The KR provided money to the community to assist local people in raising cows and growing rice.

Long Them, a member of the division committee, ordered San to drive a Jeep A2 Ford to take Yeay Rom from Phkorm village to meet with Ieng Sary in Chup Korki (along the Cambodian-Thai border) several times in 1991 and 1992.

4- Orm Mot

Orm Mot, 53 years old, is a farmer who lives in Chamleas Day village, Kouk Kathin commune, Thmar Pouk district, Banteay Meanchey province. Mot's birthplace is Prey Khvav village, Sdok commune, Kang Pisey district, Kampong Speu province.



Mot's husband, Keo Suong, 55 years old, was born in Chamleas Day village. They have one daughter.

Mot's father, Um Nget, died of tuberculosis when she was young. Mot's mother, Kang May, currently lives in Prey Khvav village. Mot has five brothers and three sisters. Mot is the seventh child. Mot went to school for only one year (grade 12) because after her father died, she did not have enough money to attend school. Presently, she can read and write at an elementary level.

Mot's home village was controlled by the KR soon after the coup d'état in 1970.

In 1972 Mot was assigned to work in a children unit and lived far away from her family. Her unit worked on building a dam called "Tum Norpp Kat Phlok" and a channel called "Prek Phnom Kakk". In 1973, when U.S. air forces dropped bombs in Kang Pisey, Mot was recruited to serve as a KR female soldier in Region 33. At that time, Mot's mother cried because she did not want Mot to serve as a soldier. However she did not dare refuse the KR.

In 1975, Mot was sent to work in a salt marsh at Taey Koh, Kampot province. In late 1976 Mot and other workers were taken by train to Phnom Penh. Mot was never allowed to visit her home village during the DK regime.

When Vietnamese soldiers took over Cambodia in 1979, Mot ran past her home village. She did not dare go to her house because the KR said that if Vietnamese soldiers caught a person, they will kill them by cutting their stomach open and stuffing it with grass.

Mot's unit ran across Kandieng, Posat province to Koh Kong, Sting Metik. About seven months later, Mot's unit met KR soldiers from Division 3 and stayed with them until 1983. In 1983, Mot was selected to work in the transportation unit transporting bullets and weapons from Trat province, Thailand to Division 2 and 3 in Koh Kong province.

In 1991, Mot and another 11 women were assigned by Ta Seng, chief of Division 3, to educate and help people in Chamleas Day village grow rice. In 1996, Mot got married to a man from Chamlea Day village and went to live there. As for the 11 other women, they returned to the Division in Pailin province in 1997.

5- Rem Kung



Rem Kung, 56 years old, lives in Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. Kung's birthplace is in Phkorm village. Kung's wife, Pring Chiem, 54 years old, was born in Phkorm village. Kung has two daughters and one son. Kung's father, Chun Rem, died in 1979 and his mother, Muok Chum died in 1970. Kung has two sisters and one brother. Kung is the second child. He dropped out of school in grade 8 in 1968. After, he became a monk for four years at Phkorm pagoda. Kung disrobed when in April 1975.

In 1975, Kung was assigned to work in a mobile work unit. His unit worked on building the Trapeang Thmar dam. Kung got married in late 1975. Later, he was sent to cut trees and build huts for "new people" (people who evacuated from Phnom Penh and Battambang provincial towns). In mid 1976, Kung was promoted to chief a plowing group in Svay SaSar, Cheung Kruos, and Prek Sangha villages.

When Vietnamese soldiers took over Cambodia in 1979, Kung was assigned Chief of Administrative Police in Phkorm commune. At that time, he did not dare stay at his house for long periods of time because his fellow villagers, KR soldiers, Funcinpec soldiers, and KPNLF soldiers sought to arrest and kill him. So he spent most of time with PRK and Vietnamese soldiers, who were stationed to protect Phkorm commune.

In 1995, Kung was accused of being involved in the robbery of Duch's family. Duch's wife was killed by robbers and Duch's back was seriously injured. Soon, Kung was arrested and sent to the military police department in the Banteay Meanchey provincial town for provisional detention. According to villagers in Phkorm village, after Duch got better from his injury, he refused to cooperate with the police and court on the robbery case and moved to Svay Chek town. Later, Duch moved to Samlot district, Battambang province. As a result, the military police released Kung after two months of being held in the provisional detention.

6- Samay Toeu



Samay Toeu, 45 years old, lives in Mao village, Phkoam commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. Toeu's birthplace is Mao village. Toeu's wife, Lach Sidea, 39 years old, was born in Mao village. They have one daughter and one son together.

Toeu's father, Siev Samay, and his mother, Ngan Ngam, were killed by the KR in late 1978 because the KR knew that his father was a Lon Nol soldier and had trained in military strategies in Vietnam for a few months before 1975. Toeu has two sisters and two brothers. They also were killed at the same time with his parents. As for Toeu,

he was hidden from the KR by his relatives and moved from one place to another until the Vietnamese entered Cambodia in 1979.

After the KR regime collapsed in 1979, Toeu moved to live with his half-brother in Prey village and dropped out of school in 1981 in grade 4. He became a soldier in KR Division 519. Toeu said at the time he saw many young men in his village join at Phnom Chhat so he decided to follow them. After joined the KR, Toeu was assigned to be a messenger of Dul Saroeun, chief of Division 519.

Toeu used to see Hang Pin come to attend several meetings with division leaders and the senior KR leaders at the division office. In 1992, Toeu went to Phnom Penh with Dul Saroeun. He also visited the Tuol Sleng Museum and saw Pin's photographs at the museum. When he returned to Phkorm and met with Hang Pin, he told Pin, "I saw your photographs at the Tuol Sleng Museum and Pin replied, 'please shut up and keep it confidential'". Toeu did not publically identify Duch until he was arrested by the government in 1999.

7- Ty Moeun



Ty Moeun, male, 63 years old, lives in Yieng Vien village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. Moeun's birthplace is Dak Sasar village, Omal commune, Battambang district, Battambang province. Moeun's wife, Vorn Voeut, 48 years old, was born in Yieng Vien village. They have two daughters and two sons. He is a farmer in Yieng Vien village.

Moeun's father, Suon Nhep, was killed by KR cadres from the Southwest Zone in 1978. His mother, Ty Hach, died in 1979. Moeun has two sisters. Moeun is the second child. He studied at Angdaung Pring Primary School and Ieb Khut Secondary School. He dropped out of school in grade 6 and then he became a monk at Beong Raing pagoda for three years. He disrobed in 1975.

After the KR came to power, Moeun was assigned to work at a mobile work brigade unit at Ortaky. There, Moeun was forced to plow farm lands in Otaky during the rainy season and build a dam at Kamping Puoy in the dry season.

Moeun said that he was arrested and tied to a big mango tree in Otaky for one day and one night and tortured because the KR alleged that he ignored tending cows, allowing them to eat rice grains. A day later, Chhaim, chief of Phnom Sam Pov district, upon seeing Moeun tied to the mango tree, ordered his bodyguards to release Moeun and allowed him to return to his unit.

From 1976-78, Moeun saw KR soldiers take people to kill near Otaky Bridge almost every day. Some people were accused of being former regime officials or soldiers, some of breaking agricultural materials, and others of committing a moral offense.

When Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia, Moeun and other people in his unit fled to the Cambodian-Thai border with the KR. In 1980, Moeun left the KR to join the KPNLF forces at Phnom Chhat. He was a KPNLF soldier until the general election of 1993.

8- Chap Sao

Chap Sao, male, 50 years old, lives in the Prasat Pheas pagoda in Pheas Khang Tbaung village, Sarang commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. His birthplace is Sdok Klouk village, Preah Mlou commune, Bakan district, Posat province. He is now the head of monks at Prasat Pheas pagoda. He has been a monk since 2005. His former wife, Yan Phea, was born in Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province. She is now living with her new husband in her home village. He has three sons and one daughter.

Sao's father, Chap Phong, died in 2002 and his mother, Neak Va, died in 1977. Sao has three sisters and one brother. He is the fourth child. Sao dropped out of Sdok Khouk Primary School in 1972 in grade 8. In the same year (1972), Sao and his family moved to live in Poipet. Sao's father worked as a security guard at a sugar warehouse in Poipet.



When the KR came to power in 1975, Sao's family was evacuated to live in Dak Bouk village, Lvea commune, Mongkul Borei district, Battered bang province. In July 1975, Sao was assigned to a mobile work brigade unit in Kaun Darei (Nimitt) in Orchrov district until January 1979.

In early January 1979, Sao saw several cars and vans transporting foreigners and diplomats to the Cambodian-Thai border.

In 1979, some KR commanders including So Hong, Ret, Pech Cheang, Ny Kan, and their soldiers arrived in Kaun Damrei, Nimitt. At that time, the KR announced that Vietnam had invaded Cambodia and requested all young men and women in the mobile units to serve as soldiers to fight against the Vietnamese. Sao became a KR soldier and went to Phnom Chhat.

In 1985, Sao was promoted to lead Division 519 and the Thailand Liaison. Sao worked very close with KR leaders; he frequently had meeting with So Hong, Ieng Sary, Ieng Vuth and other KR leaders. Sometimes, he accompanied these leaders from Cambodia to Thailand. Sao can speak proper Thai.

In 1990s, Sao saw Hang Pin staying with Pol Pot in the Chup Korki office. At that time, Sao heard Pol Pot ask Pin, "Do you want to stay inside or outside?" Hang Pin replied that he wanted to stay inside. Afterward, *Angkar Leu* sent Hang Pin and his family to live in Phkorm village and also provided him a budget to help people in Svay Chek and Thmar Puok districts. The KR wanted to win over people's hearts and think that they were good.

9- Dos Reav

Dos Reav, 68 years old, lives in Svay village, Thmar Puok commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. Reav's birthplace is Svay village. Reav's wife, Suy Sophal, 61

years old, was born in Svay village. Reav has four daughters and one son. Reav's parents died before the KR regime. Reav has one sister and two brothers. Reav is the first child. Reav dropped out of Thmar Puok Secondary School in 1962 in grade 7.

Reav got married in 1969. His family farmed rice paddies until the KR came to power in 1975. The KR assigned him to produce fertilizer and a few months later they evacuated Reav and his family to Svay Sisophon. Later, they were relocated to Phnom Chanh Chaing to clear forests and grow cotton.



In 1976, Reav was assigned to be a traditional medicine man and treated people with common illnesses and diseases like malaria and diarrhea. In late 1976, Reav's family returned to his home village and Reav was assigned chief of the spy unit (*chhlorp*) in Thmar Puok commune. Reav said that the *chhlorp*'s purpose was to investigate whether people in their villages or communes were enemies of Angkar. Reav added that the village's *chhlorp* had the responsibility to arrest and kill the people deemed enemies of Angkar.

In mid 1977, cadres from the Southwest Zone came to take control in the Northwest Zone. They accused cadres in the Northwest Zone of betraying Angkar and most of them were arrested and killed. Chiep, deputy chief of the Thmar Puok commune, was arrested and almost killed. Luckily, he escaped from under a mass grave and informed all of the remaining cadres. On 22 July 1977, 18 cadres including Reav fled to Thailand. After being imprisoned in Thailand for a few months, they worked as manual laborers in Thailand until 1979.

In 1980, Reav joined the KPNLF and stayed at Phnom Chhat. He was a KPNLF soldier until the 1993 general election.

10- Ouk Chhan aka Duong Samol



Ouk Chhan (aka Duong Samol), male, 56 years old, lives in Thmar Dek Kheh village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. Samol's birthplace is Chang Kran Dek village, Samraong Tang commune, Samraong Tang district, Kampong Speu province. He is the chief of Thmar Dek Keh village. Samol's wife, In Samen aka Mao, 49 years old, was born in Prey Cheung village, Kaok Prich commune, Kiri Vong district, Takeo province. They have has five sons and one daughter.

Samol's father, Ouk Chhon, died before the coup d'etat in 1970. His mother, Phan Malis, died in a traffic accident at Chaom Chao, Phnom Penh in 1970. Samol has one brother and one sister. Samol is the first son. Samol dropped out of Watt Ang Chrey Primary School in grade 10 during the coup d'etat in 1970. Soon after, Samol left his home to stay in the Tum

Pong pagoda for several days. In late March 1970, Samol volunteered to join the KR revolution and was trained in military tactics in Samraong Tang commune.

In 1971, Samol was sent to Division 1 in Am Leang. When the KR fought against Lon Nol soldiers at Smat Pang, Trapeangpo in 1972, Samol was responsible for radio communication for the division. In early 1975, Samol's division fought in Phnom Penh, before moving through Ang Snuol and then to Pochentong. After April 1975, Samol's unit was stationed at the Kralengkeng pagoda in Kampong Chhnang province.

In 1976, Samol's unit was sent to patrol Prey Nop in Kampong Som with the mission to defend the Cambodian coast. In 1977, Samol's unit was sent to Cambodian-Vietnamese border at Memot, Kampong Cham province where the KR were fighting against Vietnamese soldiers. In late 1978, Samol was wounded and sent to 17 Mesa Hospital in Phnom Penh for treatment.

When Vietnamese soldiers entered Phnom Penh, Somal and other soldiers fled to western Cambodia. There, he joined Division 519 at Phnom Chhat. Samol was chief of the radio communication unit until the general election of 1993.

11- Chann Ratana



Chann Ratana, male, 54 years old, lives in Banteay Chhmar Khang Lech village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. Ratana's birthplace is Beong village, Ra Laing commune, Sangkum Thmei town, Preah Vihear province. Ratana's wife, Phsaing Huoy, 41 years old, was born in Sasar Sdam village, Puok district, Siem Reap province. They have three daughters and three sons. He is currently a farmer.

Ratana's father, Mean Cheat, died in 1970. His mother, Dos Lat, died in 1973. Ratana has one brother and one sister. Ratana is the youngest child. Ratana dropped out of Beong Primary School in 1970 in grade 9. A few months after the coup d'état, Ratana volunteered to join the KR revolution.

Ratana served as a soldier on the Cambodian-Lao border in Kampong Sralao district, Preah Vihear province. His unit was under the control of Region 103. Ratana and another nine soldiers were assigned to catch fish and make fish paste (*prahok*). Ratana said that the soldiers in his unit also worked on the rice fields when they patrolled Kampong Sralao district.

In 1976, when the KR arrested Hang who was the secretary of Region 103, all of the soldiers in Ratana's unit were sent back to Siem Reap province. At that time, Ratana and other soldiers were forced to build the Spean Sreng dam in Sralanh district. The working conditions were horrible; they worked like prisoners and some of them were arrested and killed.

In 1979, Ratana escaped to Thailand where he was arrested and imprisoned for two months at the Kabcheung office. In 1981, Ratana returned to the Cambodian-Thai and joined the

KPNLF. His unit operated along Phnom Chhat and the northern part of Sisophon district. Ratana left KPNLF after the general election in 1993.

12- Loch Chuop



Loch Chuop, male, 55 years old, lives in Banteay Chhmar Khang Lech village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. Chuop's birthplace is Ta Pho village, Ta Pho commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Chuop's wife, Un Dam, is 58 years old. Her birthplace is also Ta Pho village. They have one daughter and three sons. Chuop is a farmer.

Chuop's father, Loch Chum, died three years ago. His mother, Min Vang, died in 2008. Chuop has four sisters and two brothers. Chuop is the third child. Chuop dropped out of Ta Pho Primary School in grade 8. In 1969, Chuop's family moved to live in Bateay Chhmar Khang Lech village.

Chuop was assigned to be a military secret agent (*chhlorp*) in Kouk Treng village. Chuop said his duty was to observe and arrest people suspected of being enemies of Angkar. Chuop said his colleagues arrested several new people (people who were evacuated from Phnom Penh and Battambang). These people were usually accused of stealing food or being former regime officials.

In 1977, Chuop got married and was assigned to be the chief of a mobile work brigade unit. His unit worked on building the Trapeang Thmar Dam and growing cassava and cotton.

After 1979, Chuop was assigned to be chief of police in Ta Pho commune by Vietnamese soldiers. However he resigned from this position because his wife didn't want him to go to work far away from home. Afterward, he grew rice.

13- Mean Sambat aka Lim Hong aka Aun



Mean Sambat (aka Lim Hong, aka Aun), male, 55 years old, lives in Pi village, Kampong Svay commune, Serei Sophoan town, Banteay Meanchey province. Sambat's birthplace is Ra Luos village, Svay Chek commune, Thmar Puok district, Battambang province.

Sambat's wife, Bou Pheatt, was also born in Ra Luos village. They have three daughters. Sambat is the Deputy of Office 3 at the military department in Banteay Meanchey province. Sambat's father, Tuy Vuth, now deceased, was a Lon Nol soldier in Svay Daunkeo, Posat province. Sambat's mother, Chiem Nil, currently lives in Sophy village, Kampong Svay commune, Serei

Sophoan town, Banteay Meanchey province. Sambat has four brothers and one sister. Sambat is the second child. He dropped out of Svay Chek Primary School in 1970 in grade 9. In 1970 he became a monk and three years later, Sambat disrobed and grew rice until 1975.

In April 1975, Mean Sambat was recruited to join the KR revolution. He served as a soldier in Regiment 425, Region 5. Soon after, Sambat was sent to Thmar Puok where he was the deputy chief of security at the Thmar Puok prison. Sambat said those arrested and sent to the prison were Lon Nol officials and those who tried to escape to Thailand. All prisoners were interrogated and either taken to Serey Sophoan or executed at the site. Sambat said that sometimes he directly took prisoners to kill at a mass grave near the prison. Sometimes he ordered his subordinates to take prisoners to kill. Sambat said around 200 people were killed under his authority from 1975-77.

Sambat was then sent to serve as the deputy chief of mobile work brigade unit in Thmar Puok district when Southwest Zone cadres came to replace Northwest zone cadres accused of betraying Angkar. In 1978, Sambat supervised his unit to work on the Trapeang Thmar Dam construction site. He also held several meetings with Yeay Chem (chief of Preahnet Preah district) and Ream (chief of and Thmar Puok district) about work plans during 1977- 1978.

14- Man Chuon



Chuon is 54 years old. He was born in Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. He completed grade 6 (old system). In 1971, he left his home village to live with his father who was a Lon Nol soldier stationed in Phnom Penh. In the same year, his father died of a disease. Chuon replaced his father as a soldier. After he trained for three months, he was assigned to fight against KR forces in Kampong Thom and Siem Reap provinces. When

KR forces entered Damdek, 15 km from Siem Reap city, he left the unit and returned to his home village, which was controlled by the KR.

Later, the KR recruited him to work in a militia unit to protect the village from enemy fighting. In 1975, the KR sent him to Poipet, O-Chrov district. Later, because of his background as a former Lon Nol soldier, his commander Comrade Latt accused him of being an enemy and sent him to Banteay Neang prison, Mongkul Bory district. There, the commander of the security unit, comrade Mao, released him from prison and sent him to the Doung collective. Not long, he was rearrested for rejecting Angkar's order and sent to Battambang prison. There, comrade Mao released him from prison again and sent him to the Ka Koh collective, Moang Russey district where he became secretary district chief.

When Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia, he was assigned to be the deputy commander-in-chief and fought in Moang Russy. At that time, Northwestern Zone cadres came to capture him from his unit and sent him to be killed in Anlong Vil, Kampong Kor. Fortunately he fled to his wife's home village at Leach district. However, he was captured by Vietnamese soldiers and imprisoned. Later, he was released from prison went to live in Phkorm village with his wife.

In 1981, he was accused of robbery and fled to join the KR at Prey Moan, Phnom Chhat. Pen Voy was chief of the unit. Two years later, he returned to Phkorm village. He lived in the village for short time and then joined Funcinpec, led by Commander-in-Chief Nhik Bunchay. He lost an eye at this time. Chuon got remarried in 1985.

15- Lat Ngat



Ngat is 63 years old and has six siblings. He was born in Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province.

In 1965, he dropped out of Phkorm Secondary School in grade 7 (old system) to help his parents farm.

At the end of Lon Nol regime, KR soldiers entered Phkorm village and evacuated him and his family to the liberated zone in Phnet village (near the Svay Sisophon provincial town). During the evacuation, his house was destroyed by Lon Nol and American air forces.

When the KR took power in 1975, he and his family returned to their home village. Angkar promoted “base people” and cadres from the Southwest Zone to be leaders, but people from the liberated zone (such his family) were considered “17 April people”.

Later on, Angkar began collecting all personal possessions and properties for collective use. Angkar also began collective eating. At that time, Angkar exported more rice to China causing a shortage of food in his village.

In 1976, Angkar assigned him to work in a transportation unit. He transported rice from the village to the cooperative storage. A year later, he was relocated to transport stones and other materials to Ta-meng village for dam and water pipe construction.

When the Vietnamese soldiers defeated KR in 1979, the KR evacuated his family to Thnal Dach and assigned him to collect rice from the collective’s warehouse, and then transport the rice to Ta-Meng dam. At that time, Non-communist Khmer Forces (Funcinpec), led by Prince Ranaridh, came to Ta-Meng to liberate people and the KR forces fled to the jungle.

Vietnamese soldiers based in Thmar Puok district called for his family to return to Phkorm village. Later on, he was recruited to be a militiaman and commune chief, to protect the people from the enemies. His village was unstable until 1993 because there were many forces (Vietnamese soldiers, Funcinpec, KPNLF, and KR) fighting each other. Later on, he resigned from his position as a commune chief because it was very dangerous to be a PRK official. He then became a teacher at Phkorm Primary School. Now he is retired.

16- Chhak Ching

Ching is 49 years old and has four siblings. He was born in Sdoa village, Kouk Kathin commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. He dropped out of Sdoa Primary School in grade 3 (old system).



When the KR took control of the country, Angkar assigned him to a mobile unit; his unit farmed under the regime.

In 1981, he volunteered to join the KR at Phnom Dang Rek. He was in Battalion 36, Division 37, led by Mr. Dul Saroeun, the commander-in-chief.

In 1984, he was restationed to Andoung Bar, and assigned to spy on the areas controlled by Vietnamese soldiers. He also fought Vietnamese soldiers stationed in Thmar Puok, Svay Chek commune, Battambang province. Then, he withdrew his unit to Phnom Chhat.

When the Non-communist Khmer Forces and Cambodian government soldiers integrated and attacked his unit at Phnom Chhat, he and some KR soldiers fled to the village. His legs were injured by Vietnamese bombing while helping his relatives build a new house. After he recovered, he decided to join the KR again in Touch Theng's Battalion.

In 1989, he got married and remained a KR soldier until 1996. Now he lives in Phkorm village, Phkorm Commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province.

17- Khan Chamroeu



Chamroeu is 47 years old and has four siblings. He was born in Doun Tri village, Chrey commune, Moang Russey district, Battambang province.

In 1975, he dropped out of school in grade 10 (old system) to help his parents farm. Then the KR evacuated him and his families to Ma-Noak village, located in Ta-Lors commune. The KR sent him to a child unit and let him live in a child center. Since then, he has never met his father.

Later on, Angkar assigned him to clear grass and collect cow excrement, but he was given only porridge to eat.

In 1979, he left Ta-Lors village to join the KR at Chamka Kor, Phnom Chhat. He was in Division 519, led by Mr. Dul Saroeun, the commander-in-chief.

In 1983, when Vietnamese soldiers defeated KR forces stationed in Chamkar Kor and Phnom Chhat, he fled to Thailand. There, the KR drove him and other people to sanctuary Th-85 in Thailand, near Malai district. A few months later, he returned to Phnom Chhat. The commander of the division put him in Battalion 340 and assigned him to spy on Vietnamese bases located next to the Tonle Sap Lake, Mongkul Borey district.

In 1985, his battalion withdrew to Phkorm commune and his unit was responsible for patrolling villages. Sometimes his unit was appointed to attack Vietnamese soldiers. The attack did not lead to injuries. While fighting against Vietnamese soldiers, he lost an eye.

When the UN called for all parties to centralize and prepare for voting, *Para* forces (non-communist Khmer forces) started to attack KR soldiers. KR soldiers moved to the Cambodian-Thai border, but he did not go with them. He got married then. Now he lives in Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Thmar Puok district.

18- An Sam On



Sam On is 47 years old. He was born in Yeang Vean village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Bateay Meanchey province. In 1974, he dropped out of school in grade 11 (old system) because Lon Nol and American air forces bombed his village in search for KR forces. Later, he helped his parents to farm.

In 1975, he was assigned to a mobile unit. The KR accused his parents of being enemies (because his father was a Lon Nol soldier) and took his parents and all his siblings to kill at a field in the village. Only he survived.

After his parents were killed, he was moved to a transportation unit and he had to transport rice, meat, and vegetables from the village to the collective.

When Vietnamese soldiers attacked the KR in 1979, he fled to join KPNLF at Ampil sanctuary, led by Son San. He was in Battalion 207. Then his unit integrated with the Cambodian government. He was in division 7, led by Kouv Cheang and So Chanheng, the commander-in-chief. Later, he was assigned to fight against the KR at Malai, Phnom Chhat. He lost a leg there.

19- Reum Saret



Saret is 52 years old and was born in Krala Pies village, Bay Damram commune, Banan district, Battambang province.

He has six siblings. When he was 14 years old, he went to study with monks at a pagoda. After he returned home, Lon Nol authorities forced him to become a soldier.

In 1974, his relative who was a Lon Nol lieutenant asked him to come home. In the village, he was assigned to work in a militia unit, protecting the village and people from KR invasion.

In 1975, KR soldiers confiscated his weapons and then sent him to a child unit. There, he led the children in the village to work. Later on, Angkar assigned him and his team to the Trapeang Thmar collective. There, he was forced to work very hard. One day, he and others pretended to be sick and went to stay at a hospital. Unfortunately, those people were all captured by the KR soldiers and killed.

In the village, his parents wanted him to get married because they did not want him to work far away from home. However, after he got married Angkar assigned him and his wife to a mobile unit.

In 1979, he and his parents returned to their home village, then controlled by Vietnamese soldiers. At that time, Vietnamese businessmen asked him to work in the provincial hall. He became the assistant of the provincial governor, Mr. Kong Sar. When Mr. Kong was accused of having connections to KPNLF, Saret fled to the Thai border and joined KPNLF.

Three years later, he resigned from his position and worked in the agricultural department in the sanctuary, led by Son Sann. Now he lives in Mao village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province.

20- So Bi



Bi is 56 years old and was born in Yeang Vean village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province.

In the Lon Nol regime, he became a monk at the Phkorm pagoda. When the KR took power in 1975, they called for all the monks in Thmar Puok district to join a meeting in Wat Dambok Khpuos (in Kouk Kathin commune). At that time, the KR forced him and other monks to disrobe.

He then helped his father farmed and got married. Later, Angkar assigned him to be a youth unit chief. He listed the names of the villagers and reported them to Angkar. A few months later, Angkar promoted him to be a fifty-member unit chief and then a hundred-member unit chief. He led his unit to build the Trapaing Thmar and Phkorm dams.

There, he was able to complete all of the tasks assigned by Angkar, but his unit did not get enough food to eat. In 1977, Angkar removed him to a mobile unit to farm in the village. He decided to escape to Thailand, but KR soldiers stopped him at the Cambodian-Thai border. So, he fled to live in the forest for a while.

When Vietnamese soldiers took control of Cambodia in 1979, he returned to his home village. He was recruited to assist Vietnamese soldiers. Now he is an *achar* (a person who organizes Buddhist ceremonies) and collects funds to build roads in his village.

21- Thim Bi

Bi is 60 years old and was born in Koasin village, Thmar Puok commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. He has six siblings and is the third child.



In 1968, his family moved from Koasin village to Kumru village. He dropped out of Thmar Puok Primary School in grade 8 (old system).

After, he ordained as a monk at Thmar Puok pagoda. In 1974, he left monkhood and was recruited to work in a militia unit to protect the village and people from KR invasion.

In 1975, he got married and Angkar assigned him to be chief of a fifty-member unit in Ta Yoeng village. He led the base people and 17 April people from Phnom Penh to construct the dams and farm. Later, Angkar removed him from Ta Yoeng to Kruos village. There, he led the women unit to construct the dam.

When Vietnamese soldiers entered Thmar Puok district, some KR cadres fled to the jungle, but he decided to return to his home village.

22- Yim Veuy



Veuy is 60 years old and was born in Svay village, Thmar Puok commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. While studying at Thmar Puok Primary School, KR forces entered Treas, Phkorm and mobilized people to fight Lon Nol forces. He dropped out of school in 1975. Then, many KR cadres entered his village announcing the victory of revolution.

The KR recruited him to a militia unit and assigned him to observe villagers, list their names, and report to Angkar. Six months later, Angkar promoted him to a fifty-member unit chief and assigned his unit to build the Trapaing Thmar dam in Phnom Srok district. There, the collective chief gave him more work but his unit did not have enough food to eat, so he escaped to his home village.

He was able to stay home for a short time. The village chief assigned him to an old men unit and he grew vegetables. Then, he fled to the village and gathered people to go to Thailand. In Thailand, he joined with the non-communist Khmer forces, called *Para*, in order to fight against the KR.

In 1979, his unit, led by Mr. Luot, was stationed in Boeng Trakuon. He fought against KR and Vietnamese soldiers. He returned to his home village in 1993.

23- Lim Vuthdy

Vuthdy is 65 years old and was born in Tumloap village, Sangke commune, Steuk district, Borei Rom province, Thailand.

When he was seven years old, his parents moved to Kbal Tunsoang village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. At that time, his parents raised animals and farmed.



He has 12 siblings. He dropped out of Bateay Chhmar Pagoda School in grade 9. Later, he joined the Khmer Serey (Non-communist Khmer Forces) at Smach, led by Loek Sam Eoun. After

his unit integrated into the Lon Nol government, he became a Lon Nol soldier.

In 1975, he fled to Thailand and joined the Non-communist Khmer Forces, led by Son San. He was assigned to fight against Vietnamese forces and the KR.

When Vietnamese soldiers attacked the KR in 1979, his unit stationed in Banteay Chhmar, fled to a sanctuary in Thailand. In 1991, he went to live in Banteay Chhmar Khang Cheung village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province.

24- Meas Savoeun



Savoeun was the Deputy of Division 1, West Zone, Democratic Kampuchea. Now he is a Christian leader in Thmar Dek Keh village, Banteay Chhmar commune. He is 67 years old and was born in Sre Khlong village, O commune, Phnom Sruoch, Kampong Speu province. He went to school until grade 8 during the Sihanouk constitutional monarchy (1950s-1960s). Later he became a monk in the Prey Romeat pagoda. Five years later, he left monkhood and went to help his parents farm.

In 1968, he decided to join the KR revolution in the jungle. At that time, he was promoted to lead the youth unit in his village. He distributed political documents to villagers.

When Lon Nol ousted King Sihanouk in 1970, the government accused his brother of being a KR and sent him to be killed in O commune, while other relatives were arrested. Later, he became a messenger for Ho Yun and Khiev Samphan and a guide for revolutionists who fled Phnom Penh to the jungle including Von Vet, Cheng An and other high-ranking cadres. He was then promoted to battalion chief and then deputy chief of Division 1, West Zone. He led his division against Lon Nol forces until the KR victory of 17 April 1975.

His division was stationed at the Pochentong airport and then in Phnom Penh. A few weeks later, Son Sen ordered his division to be stationed in Kampot province. There, they built a railroad. After constructing the railroad, his division withdrew to Koh Kong province.

In 1979, he led his unit to Malai and integrated it into Division 450. He became deputy chief of the division and Sok Pheap was chief. After staying there for a while, Ieng Sary asked him to lead Division 519 with Dul Saroeun and Yorn in a battlefield north of Svay Sisophon because the division lacked skillful leaders. His division fought in Banteay Meachey, Phnom Srok, Phreahnet Phreah, Prey Moan and Phnom Chhat. Phnom Chhat was the meeting place for KR leaders such as Pol Pot, Khiev Samphan, Ieng Sary, Ieng Thirith and Duch to create new policies. Voent said that Duch fed the soldiers thousands of chickens.

When *Para* forces integrated with Vietnamese troops, they started to attack the KR based in Phnom Chhat. At that time, Pot Pot told Duch “danger is coming and this is the last battlefield for us, so will you choose to stay outside [with me] or inside [in the areas controlled by Vietnamese troops]”? Pol Pot asserted that it would be dangerous if Duch chose to stay “inside”. However, Duch decided to stay “inside”, and in charge of KR trade (buying

products from the areas controlled by Vietnam to support the KR). Later, his family moved to Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district.

In 1996, Duch and his wife were shot in a robbery; his wife died as a result. However, Savooun believes that the robbery was political. He now lives in Thmar Dek keh village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province.

25- Chhay Meun



Chhay Meun, male, 51 years old, lives in Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. Meun's birthplace is Trang village, Rachey commune, Ba Phnom district, Prey Veng province. Meun's wife, Khuon Ach, is 46 years old. Meun has three daughters and four sons. Meun's father is Chhay Inh and his mother Tuy Man. He has seven siblings.

Meun dropped out of school during the coup d'état in 1970 when he was in grade 10. After, Meun stayed home and helped his parents work on the rice field. In 1974, Meun and two brothers volunteered to join the KR revolution. His brothers have disappeared since. Meun was a *chhlorp* at Rachey commune for six months and then became a soldier in Ba Phnom district. Later he was assigned to a military unit in the Eastern Zone headed by So Phim. During the civil war of 1970-75, he was instructed to "march toward the enemy" in order for KR forces to defeat Lon Nol forces.

In March 1975, Meun was injured and treated at a hospital. When the KR took over Cambodia, Meun was trained to be a medic. In 1977, Meun was sent to fight Vietnamese soldiers at the Cambodian-Vietnamese border. His division fought in a battlefield in Svay Rieng located opposite of Tay Ninh and Dong Thap provinces in Vietnam. Meun added that his division arrested and killed Vietnamese soldiers because KR hated the Vietnamese.

In 1979, Meun returned to his village and lived with his parents. However, Meun decided to join the KR again in Phnom Chhat in 1980. Meun was a soldier in Division 519, under the supervisions of Dul Saroeun, Pen Vouy, Prum Sou, and Long Them.

In 1991, Hang Pin (Duch) and his family arrived in Phkoam village. Duch was a lecturer in Phkorm Secondary School. Villagers describe Duch as a good lecturer and gentle; they liked him a lot. However, they did not know his background during the KR regime.

In 1995, Duch was robbed. As a result, his wife was killed and Duch was seriously injured. He did not press charges however and instead moved to downtown Svay Chek; Samlot district.

26- Sin San



Sin San, male, 48 years old, lives in Chamleas Day village, Kouk Kathin commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. San's birthplace is Prey Tor Ting village, Prey Puoch commune, Ang Snuol district, Kandal province.

San's father is Sin Sum and his mother, Suos Chien, died after 1979. San dropped out of school when he was in grade 11 and helped his parents grow rice.

After April 1975, San was assigned to a mobile work brigade unit in Prey Puoch commune. In November, 1975, San was assigned to work at the Lathing Factory (D7) in Chak Angre Krom, Ta Khmao.

From 1977-1978, some cadres in D7 were sent to be re-educated and disappeared since. San said that he did not know that people across the country were starving and being killed. San added that he rarely saw people living in buildings or flats in Phnom Penh and there was only electricity in factories or state offices.

When Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in January 1979, San and other workers fled to the Cambodian-Thai border. Then, the KR propagandized that those who returned to their home villages would be buried alive and used to boil water to make Master tea (Te Ong).

In late 1979, San joined the KR and served as a soldier in Malai under the supervision of So Hong and Sokh Pheap. When the KR caught Vietnamese soldiers, they brought them to Thailand and exchanged them for goods such as rice and salt.

In 1987, San moved to Svay Chek and became a soldier in Division 519 led by Dul Saroeun and Pen Vouy. The unit operated in Or Preah, Thmar Puok, Phnom Preah, and Phnom Chhat. San voted in the general election of 1993.

27- Chhum Phuot



Chhum Phuot, male, 53 years old, lives in Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. Phuot's birthplace is Phkorm village. Phuot's wife, Pin Ran, is 52 years old. Phuot has two daughters and three sons. Phuot's father is Chhum Deng and his mother is Kram Yean. He dropped out of school in 1975 while in grade 8.

Phuot volunteered to join the KR revolution in March 1975 and fought Lon Nol soldiers in Battambang province.

In May 1975, Phuot was sent to patrol Ta Moann gate, in Banteay Ampil district, Banteay Meanchey province. In July 1977, his unit was moved to patrol in Samlot, Kamrieng, and Chakry to arrest people fleeing to Thailand. In 1978, many commanders in his division were arrested and killed by cadres from the Southwest Zone while soldiers were sent to fight Vietnamese soldiers at the Cambodian-Vietnam border. Phuot's unit was sent to Takeo.

In 1979 when Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia, Phuot and other KR soldiers fled to the Cambodian-Thai border. In 1980, Phuot joined the KR in Anlong Veng with Ta Mok. A few years later, Phuot quit and became a *Para* soldier. Phuot was under the supervision of Nhik Bunchhay and his unit operated in Svay Chek district. Phuot said that Svay Chek was a former battlefield between the KR, *Para* forces, PRK soldiers, and Vietnamese soldiers.

After the general election of 1993, Phuot became an army major at Samnang 12 in Phnom Penh. In 1998, he resigned from his position and returned to Phkorm village to grow rice.

28-Sokh Kea



Sokh Kea, male, 53 years old, lives in Mao village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. Kea was born in Ratanak Kiri province. Kea's father, Men Sen, was a Lon Nol captain and his mother, Tum Sakit, a housewife. Back then, Kea's family lived behind Mony Vong Hospital. Kea's father went on a mission to fight in Taing Kouk, Kampong Thom province; he never returned. Kea has four siblings before April 1975 who disappeared,

along with his mother, after the KR came to power.

Kea went to school for only two years and dropped out in grade 11 (old system) because of the Vietnam War which affected Ratanak Kiri. Kea remembered that in 1968, a U.S. airplane took a group of indigenous people from Ratanak Kiri to visit in Saigon for one month.

When the KR evacuated people out of Phnom Penh in 1975, Kea lost from his family and walked alone from Phnom Penh to Pursat province. Luckily, when he arrived in Pursat he met Ta Chheng, a KR commander, who adopted him. Kea told Ta Chheng the truth about his missing parents and that his father was a Lon Nol soldier. However, Kea only told Ta Chheng, and no others. Ta Chheng assigned Kea to be his messenger.

In 1977, the KR listed Kea's name in a black list to be kill. Knowing this, Ta Chheng hid Kea in a farm with Ta Yum, a guard at the farm. After, Ta Chheng kept Kea close by him.

In 1978, Ta Mok cadres requested Ta Chheng and others to be reeducated. Ta Chheng told Kea, "Father might be unable to return. So, you should keep this jewelry [a gold necklace] and use if you meet any problems". During that time, almost all messengers and commanders were replaced by cadres from the Southwest Zone.

In 1979, when the Vietnamese entered Cambodia, Kea ran with other KR to Cambodia-Thailand border, climbing mountains. In 1980, Kea joined the KR in Phnom Chhat Division 519 under the supervision of Dul Saroeun, Prum Sou, Pen Vouy until 1984. In 1985, Kea joined the PRK and fought against the KR. At that time, Kea was in Ng11 Division 1-79.

29-Iem Suong



Iem Suong, male, 57 years old, lives in Yeang Vien village Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. Suong's birthplace is Yeang Vien village. Suong's wife, Voehn Vanh, is 38 years old. They have five daughters. Suong's father is Iem Phlaing and his mother, Chay Phum. Suong has four sisters and

three brothers. Suong attended Phkorm Primary School for one year and then became a monk at Phkorm pagoda for three years.

In 1975, Suong was forced to disrobe and assigned to work in a mobile brigade unit. Suong's unit was assigned to construct the Trapeang Thmar dam. Suong said that working conditions at the construction site were very hard and there was not enough food to eat. People died of starvation, disease, and overwork almost every day. Some people tried to flee to Thailand because of the conditions. However, they had little hope of escaping KR chhlorps and military that patrolled the Cambodian-Thai border. The situation was worst than when cadres from Southwest Zone came to replace those in the Northwest Zone.

In 1979, the KR fled to the Thai border and re-group to fight Vietnamese soldiers. The civil war from 1979-1993 greatly impacted those who lived in Svay Chek. Villagers there were in the middle of a battlefield between the KR, *Para*, and PRK soldiers (aided by Vietnamese troops).

Suong said that he had many bitter experiences during the KR regime and the civil war which killed a lot people and prevented children from attending school. He was very happy when the war was over. He feels that senior KR leaders must be accountable for the crimes committed under the DK period and hopes that the ECCC will bring justice for victims.

30- Tao Te



Tao Te, Male, 70 years old, lives in Svay village, Thmar Puok commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. He was born in Daun Sva village, Cha Chhouk commune, Puok district, Siem Reap province. His father, Tao, and his mother, Tu, both died from a disease. He has 10 siblings; one died during the KR regime and five died after the regime collapsed in 1979.

Te discontinued his studies in grade 7 at Chhouk Primary School and became a monk for five years. In 1965, he married Vy Luot and grew rice until 1970. He then joined the KR revolution and went into the "Marquis Forest" following Prince Sihanouk's appeal for all Cambodians to fight against Lon Nol.

On April 17, 1975, Te was sent to patrol the Cambodian-Thai border. At that time, Te unit's was at Phnom Chhat. He was chief of a group in Regiment 415, led by Ta Thorn. Te unit's fought *Para* forces that operated along the border in 1975 and 1976. Sometimes his unit arrested people who tried to escape to Thailand. These people were sent back to their region and killed soon after.

From 1977-1978, KR soldiers from the Southwest Zone arrested and killed almost all commanders of the division. Te and several other KR commanders decided to escape to the forest and then to Thailand.

In 1979, Vietnamese troops took over Phnom Penh. Te returned to his homeland for a few weeks. Then, he decided to join the KR again. He was in Division 519, led by Dul Saroeun,

Pen Vouy and Long Them. Te said that when KR soldiers arrested Vietnamese soldiers, they killed them or sent them to Thailand to exchange for rice and other goods.

In 1987, Te quit the KR went to live in Svay village, Thmar Puok commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. In 1993, he voted in the general election in his village.

31- Kim Mony



Kim Mony is 51 years old. He lives in Svay village, Thmar Puok commune, Thmar Pouk district, Banteay Meanchey province. He was born in Sarikakeo village, Ariksat commune, Lvea Em district, Kandal province. His father is Teng Hel and his mother, Pheng Lorn. He has two siblings. He married Srey Sek and they have two sons and one daughter. In 1970, while in grade 7 at Mahamontrei Pagoda School, Mony dropped out and returned to his home village to help his parents grow rice.

In 1975, when the KR took over Phnom Penh, Mony's family and other people were evacuated to Battambang province, specifically Region 5, Northwest Zone. His family was put in the "17 April people" group. Many people were killed and died of starvation in the Northwest Zone

In 1977, Mony's parents and his brother died of starvation. Mony was assigned to a fishing group where he prepared dried fish and fish paste. He also transported them to the cooperative. However, the people he met who worked in the cooperative said they never ate fish so Mony does not know where Angkar stored the fish.

In 1979, Mony did not return to his homeland because he had no family members there, but became a KR soldier. He was assigned to protect Beong Trakuon on the Cambodian-Thail border. Dul Saroeun and Pen Vuoy were Division 519 leaders.

In 1993, Mony left the KR and moved to Svay village. He has visited his home village 6 times.

32- Mao Sarun

Mao Sarun is 59 years old. She lives in Banteay Chhmar Khang Lech village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. Sarun was born in Banteay Chhmar Khang Liech village. Her father is Mao Phann and her mother, Chim Ren. She has five siblings. Her parents and three siblings died of diseases after 1979. She has five daughters and two sons with her husband, Tol Koeun.



Sarun dropped out of Banteay Chhmar Khang Cheung Primary School in grade 9. After, she helped her parents grow rice.

During KR period, she worked in a mobile brigade unit. In 1976, she was selected to marry to Tol Koeun along with 79 couples. Her husband was a militiaman from Banteay Chhmar commune. Ta Ros Nhim was a chief of the Northwest Zone. Ta Tik and Ta Yy were chiefs of Region 5.

Sarun said that between 1976 and 1977, many new people from Phnom Penh were killed at a dam (name unknown) because they did not complete the work assigned by the KR.

In late 1977, KR cadres from the Southwest Zone replaced, arrested, and killed those in the Northwest Zone. Upon knowing this, her husband immediately resigned from his position to instead farm. After arresting and killing Northwest Zone cadres, the new cadres assigned more work to new people (those evacuated from Phnom Penh and Battambang province) and forced them to work at night. Many of them died from overwork.

In 1979, when Vietnamese troops reached the Banteay Meanchey provincial town, Sarun fled to the Cambodian-Thai border. Later, she returned to live in her home village.

Between 1979 and 1993, Thmar Puok district was a battlefield for KR forces *Para* forces and Vietnamese forces. When the KR or *Para* entered her village, people pretended to support them and gave foods and other goods to prevent being robbed or killed by these soldiers.

When KR or *Para* soldiers exited the villages, Vietnamese troops came to search for KR and *Para* soldiers in people's houses. Although villagers were threatened by soldiers from all sides, they stayed in their village because they did not want to leave their hometown.

33- Yann Pen

Yann Pen is 64 years old. He was born in Trapeang Damrei village, Samlanh commune, Tram Kakk district, Takeo province. His father is Ieng Yan and his mother, Im Mom. He has three siblings. He is married to Phatt Phan. He has seven children. Pen lives in Thmar Dek Keh village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. He studied up to grade 9 at Samlanh Primary School.

In 1968, his family moved to Maong Russey district, Battambang province because his home village had turned into a battlefield between KR and Lon Nol soldiers. In 1972, he volunteered to join the KR revolution in Maong Russey district, Battambang province and became a militiaman at Maong Russey district, where Ta Kouy was the chief of the militia.



In 1977 he resigned requested to work in a mobile brigade unit because he wanted to live with his wife and children. At the time, Ta Ren was chief of Region 2 and Ra and Yet were chiefs of cooperative in Maong Russey. Pen said the KR forced people to do exhausting manual labor, did not provide enough food, and arrested and killed without judgment. In late 1977, Ta Mok soldiers came to control the Northwest Zone. Many cadres there were accused of betraying Angkar and arrested and killed. People were forced to do more work. Pen was assigned to grow vegetables which he stole at night to feed his family.

In 1979 when Vietnamese troops entered Phnom Penh, Pen fled to the Cambodian-Thai border and lived in Chamkar Kor refugee camp. In 1981, he moved from the camp to Malai. There, he transported rice for KR troops fighting Vietnamese soldiers along the border.

In 1986, Vietnamese soldiers took control of Malai and the KR fled to Thailand. Pen moved to Thmar Puok, integrated into the PRK government, and started growing rice. Thmar Puok district was a hot battlefield between the KR, *Para* forces, and Vietnamese soldiers. Pen built a trench in his home to protect his family from the gunfire. After the 1993 general election, Pen moved to Thmar Dek Keh village.

34- Sun Mach

Sun Mach is 48 years old. She was born in Sahuoy village, Prey Svay commune, Maong Russey district, Battambang province. Her father, Se Sun, and her mother, Mom Morn, died under the KR regime. Four of her siblings died after the regime fell in 1979. Mach is married to Muok Phot and they have one son. Mach currently lives in Banteay Chhmar Khang Lech village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province.



Mach did not go to school when she was young because her family was very poor. Instead, she helped her parents grow rice.

In 1975, Mach was assigned to carry earth to construct a dam and channel. She was overworked and forced to work at night. Under the KR, girls and boys were not permitted to talk to each other. If they did, they would be accused of committing a moral offense and most likely arrested and killed. Mach

witnessed the KR killing new people accuse of a moral offense.

From 1980-1981, Mach was a PRK soldier. Several years later, she resigned and returned to live in Banteay Chhmar Khang Lech village.

35- Um



Um, 65 years old, lives in Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province.

When the KR took over Svay Chek district in 1975, Angkar evacuated her family to Thmey village and later to Trea village, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. Trea village was controlled by Kok, the cooperative chief.

Two months later, Angkar relocated Um to Thnal Dach village. There, Angkar divided people to work in groups and assigned Um to the harvest group. One year later, Um was relocated to Kul Svay pagoda. There, people did not have enough food to eat and were traumatized because they frequently saw Kok arrest and kill people in the village.

After Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979, Um and her family returned to their hometown of Phkorm village.

36- Pann Bunny



Pann Bunny, 50 years old, lives in Chamleas Day village, Kouk Kathin sub-district, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. His father, Pann Phat, and his mother, Peuk Lai, both died after 1979. He has four children.

When KR soldiers controlled Chamleas Day village in 1975, his family was evacuated to Banteay Chhmar. There, they were separated. Bunny lived in Banteay Chhmar village and was ordered to grow rice and build a dam at Ang Cheung Kruos. He did not have enough food to eat. The KR did not allow him to visit his parents.

When the KR regime collapsed in 1979, his parents fled to Site B refugee camp. One year later, his father joined *Para* forces and supervised 3,000 soldiers. His father later died from a disease at the Cambodian-Thai border sometime in the 1980s.

37- Yoeun Pil

Yoeun Pil, 65 years old, lives in Mao village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Mean Chey province. His father, Yoeun, and his mother, Uy, have both died. Yoeun attended Svay Chek School until grade 7. After the KR took power in 1975, Yoeun was evacuated to Ang Trapeang Trav village. One month later, Angkar relocated him by ox cart from Mao village to Banteay Chhmar.



In 1977, Pil decided to escape to the Cambodian-Thai border with other several people. After two days, they arrived in Tap Phya district, Thailand.

In early 1980, he decided to join *Para* soldiers under Son San. Pil supervised 300 soldiers to fight Vietnamese and PRK soldiers. After fighting for a long time, Pil retired to live with his family in Mao village.

38- Has Khoeun,



Has Khoeun, 48 years old, lives in Yeang Vien village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. Khoeun was born in Angkor Chum village, Chay Chhouk sub-district, Varin

district, Siem Reap province. His father, Has Sei, passed away and mother, San, is still living.

When the KR took over Siem Reap province in 1975, Koeun lived in Varin district and was in a children unit. The KR overworked him.

Three months later, Angkar sent him to plow far away from the village. Because of hunger, Koeun decided to steal rice gains from the field. When Angkar searched to arrest him, he hid in a big pile of straw. Later, Voeun, chief of a mobile work brigade, assigned him to guard a cornfield about 15 hectares in length. He remembered that one night, a man came to steal corn. Koeun did not report the man to Angkar.

In 1977, Koeun was sent to live in North Varin. There, he was a cook and always provided extra food to people. Koeun was then sent to Kul Daung village after Oeun (the cooperative chief) found out that he gave more food to people. In 1978, Koeun was assigned to be the driver for San, Varin district chief's wife.

After the KR regime collapsed in 1979, he decided to join *Para* forces in Ampil refugee camp. While fighting Vietnamese soldiers at Banteay Chhmar, Thmar Puok district, he was injured and became blind in one eye.

39- Son Thoeung



Son Thoeung is 72 years old. He lives in Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. He was born in Phkorm village. His father, Meas Son, died from a disease and his mother, Lot Lim, died from starvation under the KR regime. He has four sisters and two brothers. Three of his siblings were killed in the KR regime.

Thoeung dropped out of Phkorm Primary School in grade 9 and became a monk at Phkorm pagoda for seven years. After disrobing, he married Chhao Noeun and grew rice for four years. When the KR took control of Phkorm village, Thoeung was assigned to fish at the Ta Meng canal about 3 km from his village. His wife was assigned to grind rice woman in Phkorm village.

In 1979 when Vietnamese troops overtook Cambodia, Phkorm village became a hot battlefield between the KR, *Para* and Vietnamese soldiers. Thoeung recalled that these forces fought each other in Phkorm village at least one hundred times from 1979- 1995. Thoeung had to build a trench to protect his family life from bullets. During the civil war, people were afraid of the soldiers because they often stole food, money, and gold from villagers.

Thoeung was arrested by Vietnamese soldiers and imprisoned for half a month in Phkorm village. The soldiers asked for 1,000 riel to release him, but his wife did not have enough money to pay them.

Thoeung is now an *achar* at Phkorm pagoda. Today he has five sons and four daughters. Thoeung knew Hang Pin (Duch) when he taught at Phkorm Secondary School. He said that

Duch was a quiet and modest person. Villagers gave Duch's wife the nickname "Mao" because she was dark-skinned. Mao sold goods and lent money to villagers.

40- Net Chhuong



Net Chhuong is 78 years old and lives in Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. His birthplace is Yeang Veang village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. His father, Net Kraing, and his mother, Cheang El, have both passed away. He was a monk at Phkorm pagoda for 19 years. In 1958, he married Kley Yeang. She died from a disease 30 years ago. They have three sons and three daughters.

In 1975, he was assigned to irrigate crops, grow vegetables, and deliver fertilizer into the rice fields. At that time, Huot was chief of Region 5. Then Khorn replaced Hout. Noeum was the chief of Phkorm's cooperative.

In 1979, Vietnamese troops entered Phkorm village to fight KR and *Para* soldiers. The people were afraid of the fighting and built trenches.

Chuong said that he didn't know that Hang Pin was Duch until his arrest in 1999. He said that Hang Pin taught at Phkorm Secondary School and was well liked by villagers. When Duch appeared in the Khmer Rouge tribunal courtroom, Chuong realized that Hang Pin was Duch.

41- Doeu Leum

Doeu Leum is 59 years old. He was born and currently lives in Chamleas Day village, Kouk Kathin commune, Thmar Pouk district, Banteay Meanchey province. His father, Doeu Phaing, died from diarrhea in 1975 and his mother, Ngan Ve, died from a disease in 1983. He has five sisters and two brothers.



During the KR regime, he was assigned to work on the Ta Meng channel. In 1976, he married Chum Huon with 19 other couples.

In 1979 when Vietnamese troops came to his village, he fled to another village. Then, Leum went to live in his wife's home village in Battambang province. There, he was a militiaman for two years in Or Ta Nha village, Ta Kriem commune, Banan district. Later, he was forced to join the K-5 movement at Kravanh Mountain for three months. Laborers there cut forest and built roads and bridges to facilitate Vietnamese troops who were fighting KR soldiers. Afterward, Leum returned to his home village to take care of his sick mother.

Leum said that he didn't know Hang Pin was Duch until his arrest in 1999. The Hang Pin he knew was a teacher at at Phkorm secondary school and a quiet person, not a cruel person.

42- Phal Soeun



Phal Soeun is 78 years old. He was born in Mao village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province, where he lives now. His father, Sieng Phal, and his mother, Huy Yuos, both died from diseases. He has four brothers; two died under the regime.

In 1970, Soeun volunteered to join the KR revolution in Mao village. During the KR regime, he was chief of the old people's unit in Mao village. He led his unit to farm and produce fertilizers. When KR cadres from the Southwest Zone entered the village, many Northwest Zone cadres were arrested and killed.

In 1979, Vietnamese troops took over Phkorm village. Soeun and other villagers fled to Prey Chamleas, Treal, Spai, Thmar Puok, Thnal Dach, and other villages. After the 1993 general election, Soeun returned to Mao village. His wife, Phoek Yong, died of tuberculosis in late 1979. He has seven daughters and three sons.

43- Ton Rorn



Ton Rorn is 67 years old. She was born and currently lives in Mao village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her father, Tun, and her mother, Hun, both died from diseases before the KR regime. She has two sisters and four brothers. Her brother, Samok, was chief of Phkorm commune during the Lon Nol regime. He and his colleagues were shot dead by KR soldiers.

In 1975, Rorn was chief of female group that collected gold in Mao village. She collected many pieces of gold from new people. She said that she never saw so much gold before the KR regime. After collecting the gold, Ta Sou, the cooperative chief, asked her group, "do you want to get any gold?" Most of women did not want the gold because they were afraid the KR would arrest and kill them. A few women who took the gold were killed a few days later. Rorn was afraid the KR would arrest and kill her because she also took a small piece of gold from the commune chief. Later, Rorn became ill and was sent to a hospital for one month. After she left the hospital, she was sent to build the Ta Meng channel during the dry and raining seasons. She was chief of a female harvest group consisting of 30 women.

In 1979, Vietnamese troops took over her village. She escaped and joined the KR to fight Vietnamese soldiers. In the early 1980s, she returned to Mao village and married Phal Sien.

44- Smit Seuy



Smit Seuy is 51 years old. She was born and currently lives in Yeang Veau village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey

province. Her father, Smit, and her mother, Han, both died from diseases in 1989. She has seven brothers and one sister.

In 1975, Seuy joined the KR revolution and was a militiawoman assigned to protect Yeang Veang, Thmar Puok, Kouk Romiet, Sre La-ar, Ta Sum, and Kouk Prech villages. Then, she was sent to work in a sewing unit in Svay Sisaphon town. She sewed many clothes for people who lived in cooperatives. She worked more than ten hours per day and seven days per week. She was also assigned to grow vegetables for her unit.

Later, her leg began to hurt after three months of working in the sewing unit. She requested her supervisor to visit home in order to treat her leg with traditional medicine.

In 1977, her father escaped to Thailand with other six villagers. The KR cadres in her village accused her family of betraying Angkar, but did not arrest or torture her family. In 1979, Vietnamese troops took over her village.

45- So Yun



So Yun is 53 years old. He lives in Yeang Veang village, Phkorm village, Phkom commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. His father, So Yorn, is a former Champa commune deputy chief under the Sihanouk monarchy. His mother, Laing Yon, and his father died at Phnom Boeung Thom, Battambang province. He has four brothers and two sisters. Yun studied in grade 11 before the KR came to power. In 1989, he married Smit Seuy. They have two daughters and a son.

In January 1973, Yun joined the KR revolution in his home village of Russey Thmei, Champa commune, Prey Kabas district, Takeo province. Then, he was a messenger for Region 33's chief for a month. After, he returned to serve as a messenger for Champa commune's chief. Later, he was sent to work with his uncle, Nat, chief of a special division of the Southwest Zone.

In 1975, he was sent to train in vehicle repair at Ta Khmao, Kandal province. In 1977, when the KR fought Vietnamese soldiers along the border, Yun was sent as a soldier to fight there.

In 1979, Yun fled to the western part of the country, along the Thai border. He arrived in Malai and was a KR soldier again in late 1979. When he arrived in Malai, it was very difficult to live in because of high mercury levels and malaria. Later, he was sent to protect villagers in Svay Sisaphon.

In 1990, he was deputy chief of battalion in Division 519, led by So Hong. In 1993, he resigned and returned to live with his wife in Yeang Ven village because he was upset with his superiors. He felt that division leaders did not provide him with an appropriate position.

46- Yoeung Chev



Yoeung Chev is 54 years old. His birthplace and current residence is Svay village, Thmar Puok commune, Thmar Puokm district, Banteay Meanchey province. His father, Yiet Yoeung, was killed by a landmine in Svay village. His mother is Ham Vuth. He has one sister and five brothers. He has three sons and one daughter.

Chev dropped out of Thmar Puok Primary School in grade 8 and became a monk at Thmar Puok pagoda.

In 1975, Chev disrobed and the KR made him chief of the youth unit in Svay village. Chev supervised young men and women to carry earth to build channels and dams in Thmar Puok district. Chev said he always followed the KR plan even though he knew that it was very difficult to complete.

In 1976, Chev's unit was sent to work on the Trapeang Thmar dam construction during the dry season. There, Chev married Pha D along with 55 couples in Kul Rumchek village. Chev said that he attended a meeting with Hing (chief of Region 5), Ieng Lai (deputy chief of Region 5), and Chhat (chief of Thmar Puok district).

In 1977, Hing was replaced by Chiel as chief of Region 5. In mid 1977, Soeun replaced Chiel after he was arrested by cadres from the Southwest Zone. During KR regime, Chev saved his uncle's (Ming Hut) life after the new Thmar Puok commune chief arrested his uncle.

In 1980, Chev was chief of Svay village. At that time, he tried to protect his people from the fighting between *Para*, KR and Vietnamese soldiers. From 1988-1989, Chev was chief of Thmar Puok commune. After he resigned, he grew rice and vegetables for his family until 2001. Since 2002, Chev has been a member of the Thmar Puok commune council.

47- Sveun Yorng

Sveun Yorng is 60 years old. He lives in Kom Ro village, Kom Ro commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. His birthplace is Thmar Puok village, Thmar Puok commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province.



His father, Hin Sveun, and his mother, Kan, both died of starvation during KR regime. He has four brothers and three sisters. Two of his brothers and two of his sisters died of starvation.

In 1971, Yorng dropped out of Thmar Puok Primary School while in grade 8. After, he helped his parents grow rice. Yorng was also a monk at Thmar Puok pagoda for two years before disrobing in 1974. Yorng married Chuop Roeung before the

KR regime.

Under the regime, he was assigned to a plowing unit. There were 30 men in his unit. After his unit plowed, a women unit grew rice on the area. In 1978, Yornng was assigned to transport earth near the Trapeang Thmar dam.

In 1979 when Vietnamese troops took over Phnom Penh, many people in his village fled to the forest and then escaped to Thailand. Yornng went into the forest with KR soldiers and returned home in late 1980. He and his family now grow rice.

48- Daok Saran aka Daok Saram

Saram is 51 years old. His birthplace and current residence is Kumru village, Kumru commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. His father, Daok Neam, and his mother, Long Ngim, died from diseases in 1990. He has four brothers and three sisters. Saram married Chup Sarin in 1985 and they have one daughter.



In 1970, he attended Thmar Puok Primary School until the KR entered Thmar Puok district in 1975.

Saram was evacuated from his home village to Kouk Kathin village, Phkorm commune. There, he was assigned to tend rice fields in Phkorm commune during the raining season and build channels in the dry season.

In 1977, Saram carried earth to build the Ta Meng channel. His unit, led by Ta Val, was a special unit that worked very hard until its members died of overwork. Saram also carried earth to build the Trapeang Thmar dam. There, he saw a KR kill a lady with a grub hoe.

In 1979, Vietnamese troops took over his village. Saram really wanted to be a PRK soldier to fight KR soldiers because he was angry that the KR regime forced him to do backbreaking labor. In 1980, he became a soldier in the radio-communication unit in Battambang province. In 1983, he studied telecommunications at Russey Keo Military School for one year. From 1984-1993, he was a telecommunications assistant in the Ministry of Defense.

49- Peakk Thoey

Peakk Thoey is 57 years old. His birthplace is Banteay Chhmar Khang Cheung village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. His father, Vann Peakk, was the first deputy chief of Banteay Chhmar commune in the Lon Nol regime. His mother, Neou Hun, died from a disease in 2004. Thoey has six brothers and five sisters.



In 1970, Thoey quit school while in grade 7 at Banteay Chhmar Primary School because it was located too far from home and the civil war made traveling dangerous. He helped his parents grow rice at home.

In 1975, KR soldiers took over his village and forced villagers to work and eat collectively.

They also gathered all of the villagers' possessions including house materials, animals, and gold and stored them in a central location.

In late 1975, Thoeuy was promoted to chief of a mobile brigade unit in Banteay Chhmar commune. He also married Pel Suon in that year. Ta Nhep was a chief of Banteay Chhmar commune. Yy was a deputy chief of the commune. Tik was a member of the commune.

In early 1976, Thoeuy was assigned chief of an irrigation system unit in Banteay Chhmar commune. His unit had 10 members. In 1977, he led his unit to work on the Cheung Kruos dam. At that time, his father was killed by the former first deputy chief of Banteay Chhmar commune in Banteay Chass, Thmar Puok town. In late 1977, Thoeuy was accused of stealing potatoes. However, Hakk (chief of economic unit) released him.

In 1978, Thoeuy was chief of an irrigation system unit in Thmar Puok district. His unit carried earth to build the Trapeang Thmar dam. In late 1978, Thoeuy left his unit and fled to Thailand because newly arrived Southwest Zone cadres arrested and killed many Northwest Zone cadres.

He joined *Para* forces for 4-5 months. After, he returned to his home village. In 1983, his village was a battlefield between *Para*, KR, and Vietnamese soldiers. Many villagers' houses were wrecked by heavy bullets.

In 1989, Thoeuy went to Site 2 refugee camp to train in repairing machines. In 1991, he returned to live in his home village after the refugee camp closed. Since 2003, he has been chief of Banteay Chhmar Khang Chheung village.

50- In Mao aka In Samen

In Samen is 51 years old. She lives in Thmar Dek Keh village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Banteay Chhmar district, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her birthplace is in Prey Khang Cheung village, Kouk Prech commune, Kirivong district, Takeo province. Her father, In Hin, died from a disease in 2006. Her mother is Phuon Yoan. Samen has three brothers and three sisters. She married Uok ("Duong") Samol in 1980. They have one daughter and six sons.



In 1973 or 1974, she joined the KR revolution when she was 15 years old. She carried corpses of KR soldiers to burn in Saom commune. Under the regime, she worked in the rice fields and on channel construction in Kirivong district. Yeay Bo was a chief of Kirivong district (District 109). Samen was a member of the female mobile work brigade unit in region 13, Takeo province. She also carried earth for channel construction in Kampeng commune, Angkor Borei (Channel 5), and Tram Kakk district.

In 1977, as a soldier, she carried weapons to battlefields in Kampong Chhnang province.

In 1979, Samen fled to the Cambodian-Thai border and married Uok Samol in Boeung Trakuon, Banteay Meanchey province. In 1984, she went to Malai with her husband then to Ta Ngok refugee camp (Site 8 camp). In 1985, she moved to Camp 85. In 1989, she moved to Chupp Korky in Oddar Meanchey. In 1991, she moved to live in Mebonn, Banteay Meanchey province.

In 1993, her unit disarmed and integrated into the Cambodian government. She voted in the 1993 general election. In 1994, she moved to Thmar Dek Keh village and visited her homeland for three days. She visited her homeland again in 2008.

51- Hean Nakk



Hem Nakk is 79 years old. He lives in Thmar Dek Keh village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. His birthplace is Prey Koh village, Wat Ang commune, Banteay Meas district, Kampot province. His father, Chhuok Hean, and his mother, Ung Long, died during the French colonial period. He has two brothers and four sisters. One of his brothers and three sisters died during the KR regime.

In 1942, Nakk became a monk at Pong Nhea Angkor pagoda in Kampot province for four years. Then he ran a business. In 1962, he married Sam Teap in Prey Khlaut village, Prey Tralach commune, Maong Russey district, Battambang province. In 1972, he joined the KR revolution in a forest near Prey Khlaut village when he was 29 years old.

In 1975, he became chief of Cham Ro-Ar village. Nakk helped Kong Samol and his sisters avoid hard work. He organized about 500 families from Phnom Penh who came to his village. They had no food, water, and infectious diseases including cholera, diarrhea, and malaria. They died one by one. Nakk tried to find food for the new people in Prey Svay village. He asked Sim and Ta Koem who worked in the economic unit for food. However, they told him Angkar wanted to starve those people and kill them if they did something wrong. There were 4-6 militiamen who killed 15-20 people each day.

In early 1976, Nakk led about 30 families to farm at Boeng Chhkeal village, Battambang province. One day, he saw several dead bodies in a rice field near Thmuoy village, Maong Russey district, Battambang province, while he carried rice grains from a farm to Cham Ro-al village. Those people were killed by Thim and Chum in one night.

In 1979, he guided 500 families by ox cart to live with Vietnamese troops. Nakk went to live in a refugee camp controlled by *Para* soldiers for six months. Then he moved to Chamkar Kor camp and later to Ta Ngok (Site 8), Th 85, and Chum Korky camp in Oddar Meanchey province. After, he lived in Chai Chhke, Mebonn. In 1994, Nakk moved to Thmar Dek keh village. He has visited his home village three times.



52- Vy Chhluon

Vy Chhluon, 56, was born in Svay village, Thma Puok commune, Thma Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. He is the fourth child among eight siblings. He dropped out of Thma Puok Secondary school in grade 6 because the civil war created instability in his village (cattle robberies and fighting with Vietcong soldiers).

In 1975, many people in the village were evacuated to Phnom Chinchang and then moved to Thma Puok to be killed. Chhluon did not move and was assigned chief of a youth mobile unit in Thma Puok commune. His unit worked in Trapeang Thmar, Phnom Srok, O-Trolok, and Phnom Tralok. In 1979, the KR arranged for him to marry Tiev Un. Not long, the regime collapsed and he escaped to join *Para* forces in the Ampil refugee camp controlled by Son Sann. He led a platoon. Eight months later, he resigned and returned to his home town. Nowadays, he is chief of Svay village.

53- Vann Savoeun



Vann Savoeun, 59, was born in Pongro village, Trapeang Sre commune, Phnom Srok district, Battambang province. He has five children. In 1970, he served the KR in Banh Chab Mountain, Battambang province. He worked with Keo Mony. Later, he and many people including Ros Nhim, Keo Mony, Ta Nai, Ta Ren, and Ta Phen went to study in Hanoi. Later, he returned with 300 Cambodians and 300 Vietnamese soldiers.

In 1972, he was assigned chief of a company unit. In 1974, he was promoted to chief of a battalion unit. Unfortunately in 1977, he was accused of betraying Angkar and sent for execution. He escaped the killing however and was then sent to Kokoh village, Kokoh commune, Svay Chek district to work in the rice fields.

When the regime collapsed, he escaped to the Cambodian-Thai border and joined the *Para* army in Sre Ampil refugee camp. There, Ta Luon was the *Para* commander. Savoeun now lives in Thma Dekeh village, Banteay Chma commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province.

54- Ta Cham



Ta Cham, 66, was born in Wat Chas village. After he got married he went to live in his wife's home village of Kumru, in Kumru commune, Thma Puok district. They had 12 children, however six of them died of starvation during the KR period.

When the KR came to the village, he was evacuated to work in the rice fields in Banteay Chhma village, Banteay Chhma commune, Thma Puok district. Later, he worked in a mobile unit.

When Vietnamese soldiers arrived in the village, they arrested and accused him of being a KR. Two weeks later, he was released. He currently lives in Kumru village.

55- Pin Savuon

Pin Savuon, 56, was born in Kampong Ko village, Pothi Ban commune, Koh Thom district, Kandal province. When she was eight, she studied with her brothers and five sisters.

In 1972, she served KR troops with her fiancé, Chann Nob, in the village. She was responsible for carrying rice to the soldiers around Basac River and sometimes treating injured soldiers.



In 1975, she entered Phnom Penh with KR troops. Later, she was appointed to work in Rada unit (air force unit) in Kampong Chhnang, to cook rice and farm sometimes. She never witnessed killings or starvation. When Vietnam invaded Cambodia, she fled to the Cambodian-Thai border. There, she got married. Not long, her first marriage ended and she remarried. Currently she lives in Thma Dekeh village, Banteay Chhmar commune, Thma Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Observations

Most of the KR cadres who live in Svay Chek and Thmar Puok districts were soldiers from KR division 519. The division was under the supervision of Ieng Sary, So Hong, Dul Saroeun. Our PA team observed that former KR in these districts are similar to those in Malai and other KR strongholds across the country. They still retain much KR ideology and exhibit KR-style mannerisms in the way they work and communicate with each other.

Most of the cadres in Svay Chek and Thmar Puok districts are farmers. Our team was able to identify their accents and pronunciations and which part of the country they originally came from. They have different perspectives because they came from different places. Some of them defended their decision to join the KR by saying, “I wanted to liberate the country and restore Sihanouk as king.”



In the early 1990s, Kaing Guek Eav (Duch) and his family moved to Phkorm village, Phkorm commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. However the villagers only knew “Hang Pin” and did not know that he was Duch. There, he taught students at Phkorm Secondary School. Duch also ran a small business in his house. In Phkorm, Duch hid his identity; he never talked about his past with villagers.

According to several former cadres of Division 519 who accompanied Duch to meetings with the senior KR leader, it was Pol Pot, Nuon Chea and Ieng Sary who Duch to live in Phkorm village. These leaders gave money for Duch and his wife, Yeay Rum, to loan villages so that

they could buy cows or farm. Sometimes, Duch and his wife attended meetings with Pol Pot, Nuon Chea and Ieng Say in Chup Korki and other KR strongholds.

Our PA team also learned that while living in Phkorm village, Duch still worked very closely with KR leaders. Soon after Paris Peace Accords in 1991, the KR changed their policy and sent high-level cadres to live with people in villages around the country. These cadres worked to win people over. The KR tried to buy people's trust and make them think the KR is good and not bad like the KR of the DK era in order to gain support. Our team speculates that this plan was conceived of before the KR boycotted the 1993 general election.

Challenges

There were several challenges during the field trips in Svay Chek and Thmar Puok districts:

- December is part of harvesting season so it was not easy to approach the targeted interviewees. Virtually all of them went to harvest in the rice fields far away from their house.
- Some cadres are too old to remember all the events they experienced, while a small number of them were afraid to reveal too much information because they feared being linked to certain crimes.
- Some former KR officials have moved away.
- Our team drove about 140-160 kilometers every day on pockmarked dirt roads to conduct interview in the villages.

End.