

PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

NOVEMBER 2007 REPORT

The Promoting Accountability (PA) team devoted most of November to helping people file complaints with the ECCC in Prey Veng, Kandal, Takeo, Kratie and Ratanak Kiri provinces and Kep City. They also participated in the ECCC’s pre-trial chamber hearing for Duch.

Data entry in November month included compiling lists of former cadres who are still alive but could not be interviewed by the PA team on previous visits (87 names were found from Kampong Speu and Kampong Thom provinces; most of these individuals had moved from their place of birth), reviewing files to find people who were imprisoned in Kampong Cham during Democratic Kampuchea, and transcribing a 40-page interview with a former cadre in Mondul Kiri.

PREY VENG PROVINCE
OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 1, 2007

Dara P. Vanthan, Dany Long, Vannak Sok, Chhay Yin, Piseth Phat, Ratanak Leng and Sotheany Hin traveled to Svay Antor commune, Prey Veng district and province to locate people of Vietnamese extraction whose relatives were victims of the Khmer Rouge. They then helped them file complaints with the ECCC.

People interviewed	51
Complaints filed	28
People who have died	7
People who moved away	2
People who declined to be interviewed	14

When the team arrived in Svay Antor, Mr. Vanthan talked to villagers about the progress of the ECCC, and the detention and arrest of Duch and Nuon Chea. He then explained the ECCC’s Victim Information Form, saying that it was important for them to complete the form so the complaints would be part of the historical record and help future generations understand the Khmer Rouge regime. This procedure was repeated during all the trips taken in November.

People raised some questions and seemed concerned about the health of the Khmer Rouge leaders, who are old and/or ill. Mr. Vanthan told them that the ECCC would begin the pre-trial chamber hearing on Duch’s case on November 20.

Most of the people present did not know how to fill out the Victim Information Form, which had not been made available in their villages. Most stated that they could not afford to travel to Phnom Penh to file a complaint. Those who declined to be interviewed did so because November is the harvest season and they were working on their farms.

KEP CITY
NOVEMBER 11-13, 2007

Dara P. Vanthan, Dany Long, Vannak Sok, Chhay Yin, Piseth Phat, Ratanak Leng and Sotheany Hin traveled to four villages in Damnak Chang-Er district near Kep City. There, they located people of Chinese extraction whose relatives were victims of the Khmer Rouge. They then helped them file complaints with the ECCC.

Complaints filed	22
By people from Rones village	11
By people from Or Daung village	7
By people from Tuol Sragnam	1
By people from Prey Takuy	3

In these villages, some people reluctant to complete Victims Information Form, largely out of fear of potential retribution. Most of the people in this group were women who had lost their husbands and other male family members during Democratic Kampuchea. However, when the PA Team explained the importance of filing and offered assistance, they consented.

KANDAL AND TAKEO PROVINCES
NOVEMBER 16, 2007

Legal associate Sarah Thomas, Sophearith Chuong and Dany Long went to Kandal and Takeo provinces to help three people to file complaints with the ECCC.

Complaints filed	3
By people from Cheung Prey village (Kandal)	2
By people from Prey Chheuteal village, Takeo	1

In Kandal, they helped two men who had been detained at Sa-ang prison during the regime, while in Takeo, assistance was provided to a former Kraing Tachan prisoner.

KAMPONG CHAM, KRATIE AND RATANAK KIRI PROVINCES
NOVEMBER 27-30, 2007

Dara Vanthan, Dany Long, Vannak Sok, Chhay Yin, Sarah Thomas and Sotheany Hin traveled to these provinces to locate and interview the relatives of ethnic minorities who were victims of the Khmer Rouge regime. The team visited:

- Chorm Tamao sub-district, Memot district, Kampong Cham province, where the majority of inhabitants are Khmer or Stieng.

- Chang Hap village, Sambo district, Kratie province.
- Labansirk sub-district, Banlung district, Ratanak Kiri province.

People interviewed	49
Complaints filed	15
Stieng minority	7
Mil minority	4
Preou minority	2
Khmer	2
People who have died	3
People who moved away	2
People who were inaccessible	25
People who declined to be interviewed	4

In Kampong Cham province, the team was told by village chief Nhem Chhann that while several people of the Stieng minority group truly wanted to file complaints with the ECCC, many of them were very busy with the harvest and were working on their farms, which were far from the village.

When the team arrived in Kratie, they were able to tell people of two new developments at the ECCC: the arrests of Ieng Sary and Ieng Thirith on November 12, and the arrest of Khieu Samphan on November 19.

People in all three locations were anxious to fill out the forms, saying they wanted justice for the relatives they lost during the regime and because they were angry that the Khmer Rouge destroyed their cultural heritage. Most of the people interviewed in these provinces wanted to file as civil parties.

Team leader: Long Dany