

**DC-Cam Promoting Accountability Project
Field Trip's Report in Preah Netr Preah District,
Banteay Meanchey Province
June 14 to 19, 2011**

Compiled by Long Dany

General description and brief historical overview of the Preah Netr Preah district



Road # 6A

The district of Preah Netr Preah is located between Banteay Meanchey provincial town and Kralanh district in Siem Reap province, along National Road #6A. Preah Netr Preah is one of eight districts in the Banteay Meanchey province. The district is approximately 400 kilometers from Phnom Penh by National Road #5 and down Road #6A from the Banteay Meanchey provincial town.



Preah Netr Preah's View

Originally, the Preah Netr Preah district was within Battambang Province. In 1988, however, Banteay Meanchey split off from Battambang and Preah Netr Preah was integrated as a district within Banteay Meanchey Province.

Between 1970 and 1975, Preah Netr Preah district was controlled by the Lon Nol regime; the Khmer Rouge (KR) controlled only small parts the district. When the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975, it evacuated many people from Phnom Penh and other larger towns to live in Preah Netr Preah and other districts within Region [5]. These evacuees were conscripted to forced labor, including carrying earth to build dams, digging ditch canals, and farming.

During the Democratic Kampuchea (DK) period, Preah Netr Preah district was within Region [5], North West Zone, where Ros Nhim was chief. Hoeng was in charge of Region [5], and Chiel was Deputy Chief of the Region. Haun, alias [Ta] Val, was a chief of the Mobile Work Unit of Region [5] and was also in charge of the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. [Ta] Maong and [Ta] Sam-at were chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the Preah Netr Preah district.

In 1977, most of the KR cadres in the North West Zone, including Ros Nhim, were arrested or killed by cadres from the South West Zone. At this time the chief of the Region [5] was replaced by a South West Zone's cadre's name is Rin. A chief mobile work unit of Region [5]

was replaced by Yoan, who was later replaced by Poal. [Yeay] Chaem was assigned to be a chief of the Preah Netr Preah district.

[Yeay] Chaem was promoted to be a chief of Region [5] in late 1978, after the KR arrested and killed Rin. [Yeay] Chaem's husband, Nhan, was also promoted and became a chief of the Preah Netr Preah district during the period.

Methodology

The Accountability Project (PA) conducted the field trip to the Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province between June 14 and 19, 2011. The team consisted of eight members (Vanthan Peoudara, Long Dany, Sok Vannak, Hin Sotheany, Chhay Chhun Ly, Som Bunthorn, Chan Pronh, and Dy Socheata) and various materials (two S.U.V.s, authority letters, note books, pens, booklets, copies of DC-Cam's magazine *Searching for the Truth*, MP3 recorders, digital cameras, batteries, laptops and a modem).

As the did for the last PA field trip to the Veal Veng district in Pursat province, the team had two days to prepare for this field trip to the Preah Netr Preah district. Hin Theany, Chhay Chhun Ly, and Sok Vannak prepared documents and materials necessary for the trip.

Dany Long gave a presentation to the team members before traveling to the Preah Netr Preah district. The objectives of the presentation follow:

- Provide information regarding the geographical area of the Preah Netr Preah district, Region [5], a background of the chain of command in the area (both military and civil), and information about comrade names during the Democratic Kampuchea period.
- Train team members in techniques of approaching and interviewing former Khmer Rouge cadres. Each PA member shared his or her experiences and learnings from previous PA field trips.

Summary of Interviews

Between June 14 and 19, 2011, we interviewed 66 former KR cadres and victims--(47 females and 19 males)—who managed and carried the earth at Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. 64 live in Paoy Kdoeung, Cheung Watt, Kandal, Post Chass, Paoy Samrong Paoy Pring, Sreh Kaet, Sreh Lich, Paoy Tapen, Daun Chreng villages, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district. Other 2 live in Ta Vorng village, Ponley commune, Phnom Srok distirct, and Soriya village, Kaup commune, O-Chrov district, Banteay Meanchey province. The summaries of these interviews follow below.

1 – Lach Kea (F)



Kea is 58 years old and lives in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Mean Cheay Province. Kea was born in the village of Paoy Kdoeung. Kea's father's name is Lach Voeun and her mother's name is Khmin Loum. She has three sisters and three brothers. Kea's husband's name is Thim Chhan. He is 60 years old. Kea has only a daughter, and she is a farmer.

Kea is the third child in her family. When she was young Kea studied up to grade 9 (old system) in Preah Netr Preah Primary School. She dropped out school in 1966 and helped her parents in the rice fields until 1975.

When the Khmer Rouge came to power in April 1975, Kea was forcibly separated from her family and put to work in Preah Netr Preah's mobile work unit. Kea was assigned to plant rice at Phnom Leap for three months. Then, her unit moved, and she carried earth to build a dam from Kambao through Sreh villages within the Preah Netr Preah commune.

In late 1976 or early 1977, Kea was sent to carry earth for the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Usually, the Khmer Rouge forced each worker to carry at least two cubic meters of earth for per day. However, because she had injured at her leg in 1975, Kea was assigned to carry one cubic meter of earth for per day. Kea carried earth for one month, and then was sent to the cook unit. The cook unit team consisted of five people and cooked for 50 people. Kea said that the KR provided only 40 milk cans of rice per day for the 50 people. This meant that one person ate less than one milk can of rice per day. She cooked fish paste (Brahok) at almost all meal times. Kea attended meetings held by the president of [Yeay] Chaem two times in 1977. Kea remembers that Chem said, "All of you must to do hard work and eliminated all the capital class". Kea learned that Chem was the highest cadre responsible for the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite.

Kea worked at the Trapeang Thma Dam construction site for six months and then moved to another mobile work unit in Kor Bei Daem, Phnom Srok district until the Vietnamese entered Cambodia in January 1979.

2 - Thim Nam (F)



Nam is 57 years old and lives in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Nam was born in Paoy Kdoeung village. Nam's father's name is Thim Lenh and her mother's name is Bun Chhoeun. She has two brothers and five sisters. Her husband's name is Lach Than and he is 55 years old. Nam has one daughter and four sons.

Nam is the sixth child in her family. When she was young Nam studied up to grade 8 (old system) in Preah Netr Preah Primary School. Nam quit school in 1970 and then helped her mother in the rice field.

In 1975, Nam was forced to labor in the mobile work unit in Paoy Kdoeung village. She was then sent to pile up the rice fields' dike and plant rice for one year. After this, she was sent to the mobile work unit in Preah Netr Preah commune where she was forced to carry earth to build a dam from Kambao through Sreh villages, within the Preah Netr Preah commune.

In late 1976, Nam was sent to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Nam remembers that the KR divided people into two groups. The first group was called the Vanguard Unit, and a person in this group had to carry three cubic meters of earth per day. The second group was a normal group, and required a person carry two cubic meters of earth per day. Nam was assigned to the Vanguard Unit and carried three cubic meters of earth every day. Nam worked in the field from 6 a.m. through 5 p.m. At this time, [Ta] Val and [Ta] Maong were chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the Preah Netr Preah district and of the mobile work unit of Region [5], which was responsible for the Trapeang Thma's Dam's construction.

In late 1977, Nam was sent to Kor Bei Daem where Pi, Du, and Loeun comprised the Unit Committee. Nam and ten others were allowed to visit their homes for two days. However, Chak, one of Pi's bodyguards, sent Nam back to her unit with her hands tied behind her back because she stayed at home over three days.

3- Lim Karem (F)



Karem is 53 years old and lives in Cheung Watt village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Sarem was born in Cheung Watt village. Karem's father's name is Lim Te and her mother's name is Teng Mao. Karem has two brothers and seven sisters. Her husband's name is Ngin Ruon and he is 52 years old. Karem has four daughters and one son.

Karem is the fifth child in her family. Karem went to Preah Netr Preah Primary School for only one year. She helped her parents in the rice field. After 1975, Karem was forced to labor in the mobile work unit in Cheung Watt village. Karem was sent to carry earth and pile up the rice field at Prey Moan. After that, Karem was sent to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Karem remembers that the KR forced her to carry two cubic meters of earth per day. Karem started in the field at 6 a.m. and broke for lunch at 12 noon. She started again at 1 p.m. and finished at 5 p.m.

Karem told us that the KR provided porridge for people and that she never had a full stomach. At her site, many people died of starvation, overwork and execution. In particular, 17 Mesa people (New People) died during the construction.

4- Tit Neng (F)



Neng is 52 years old and lives in Paoy Samrong villlage, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Neng was born in Paoy Sarong village. Her father's name is Tit Mao and her mother's name is Ros Kom. Neng has two brothers and four sisters. Her husband's name is Cheat Tho and he is 51 years old. Neng has two sons and four daughters.

Neng is the fourth child in her family. Neng did not go to school when she was young. She helped her parents on rice field until 1975.

After the KR came to power in 1975, Neng was assigned to plant rice with the elder people in her village. Afterwards, she was sent to harvest rice in the Banteay Chhma commune. In 1976, Neng was sent to the cotton field at Phnom Bakk. She worked there for more than one year and then she was sent to Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. During this time, Neng never received rice for meals; instead, she received porridge.

5- Tauch Phean (F)



Phean is 64 years old and lives in Paoy Samrong village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Phean was born in Paoy Samrong village. Her father's name is Phon and her mother's name is Taing. Phean has four sisters, and she is a widow. Her former husband's name is Pan Chhuong. Phean has no children. She lives with her younger sister, Ren.

Phean is the first child in her family. She did not go to school when she was young. Phean helped her parents in the rice field. Phean married Chhuong when she was 19 years old and she was a farmer in Paoy Samrong village.

After the KR came to power in 1975, Phean's husband was assigned to be a leader of a mobile work unit and he worked far away from home. During this time, Phean was in the women's unit in Paoy Samrong village. After this, she was sent to carry earth to build Spean Sreng's dam, where she worked for one year.

In 1977, Phean was moved to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. There, Phean was assigned to be a part of the medical staff, and she cooked for the staff and patients. She used to provide medicine and give injections to patients. Phean told us that many people were affected with diarrhea, fever, and dizziness during the construction of the dam.

In late 1977, Phean attended meetings with [Yeay] Chaem twice. One took place in Trapeang Thma and the other took place in Prey Moan. At that time, [Yeay] Chaem was a chief of Preah Netr Preah district.

6- Mun Mut aka Mun Saroeun (M)



Mut is 54 years old and lives in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey Province. Mut was born in Sreh Kaet village. His father's name is Chou Mun and his mother's name is Ao Deng. Mut has two sisters and four brothers. Mut's wife's name is Noup Kyleang and she is 45 years old. Mut has four sons and one daughter.

Mut is fifth in his family. Mut studied at Wat Kampheng Primary School in Battambang Provincial Town until grade 10 (old system).. While in school, Mut stayed with his elder

brother, a teacher in the town center. Mut quit school in 1973 and returned to his home village.

In 1975, Mut was forced to labor in Sreh's Village Unit and helped villagers in the rice fields in O- Kok Rumchek for 4 months. After this, Mut was selected to be a messenger of [Ta] Chhang, a chief of the Agricultural Department in the Preah Netr Preah district. At that time, [Ta] Maong and Sam-at were chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the Preah Netr Preah district.

In early 1977, Mut was promoted to be a chief of the third company of the mobile work unit in Region [5], where [Ta] Val was a chief. Hoeng and Chiel were chief and deputy chief, respectively, of Region [5]; [Ta] Nhim was a chief of the Northwest Zone. During this time, Mut was sent to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Mut told us that there were three men's companies and three women's companies in the Mobile Unit of the Region [5]. One company consisted of 120 people.

Mut said one worker had to carry three cubic meters of earth per day. Mut was a chief of the company and reported to [Ta] Val every evening as to whether or not his unit had met its quota of three cubic meters per person.

In mid-1977, Hoeng, Chiel, [Ta] Val, [Ta] Maong and other cadres were arrested and killed by cadres from the Southwest Zone. [Ta] Val was replaced as chief of the mobile unit of Region [5] by [Ta] Nhav. The mobile unit was responsible for the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. [Ta] Nhav was only there four months before he was also disappeared. At the same time, [Ta] Maong was replaced as chief of Preah Netr Preah district by [Yeay] Chaem. Chem was a cadre came from Southwest Zone, and her family stayed in Phnom Leap village.

In 1978, Mut was sent to manage a hospital of the mobile work unit of Region [5] in Anlung Sa for three months. After this, he continued to supervise the people who harvested in Phnom Kambao village. In mid-1978, under management of [Ta] Poal and [Ta] Huot, Mut was sent to plant rice in Kok Kei. Mut was there until the Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979.

7- Kang Oy (F)



Oy is 55 years old and lives in Paoy Pring village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Oy was born in Paoy Pring village. Her father's name is Kang Luy and her mother's name is Vang Hoat. Oy has three sisters and two brothers. Oy's husband's name is Heng Ren and he is 61 years old. Oy has four daughters and six sons.

Oy is second in her family. Oy studied up to

grade 10 in the old system at Preah Netr Preah Primary School. Oy dropped out of school two years before the coup d'état in 1970. After leaving school she helped her parents in the rice field.

In 1975, Oy was selected to serve in the mobile work unit. Her unit was sent to O-Rumchek to carry earth to build a dam. Oy was there for five months and was then sent to Prey Moan for one month to dig a canal.

Oy was sent to Kor Bei Daem for one year to plant and pile up the rice field. After this, she was selected to work at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Oy was in 30th Big Cell where Bi was chief. Oy remembers that the bottom of the Dam was 15 meters wide. She was forced to carry three cubic meters of earth per day, and sometimes was forced to carry four cubic meters per day. Oy started in the field at 7 a.m. and broke for lunch around 11:30 a.m. or 12 noon. She continued at 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Oy was offered only one bowl of rice per meal and had two meals—lunch and dinner—per day.

8- Phut Oeung (F)



Oeung is 52 years old and lives in Paoy Pring village, Prea Neth Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Oeung was born in Paoy Samrong village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her father's name is Mang and her mother's name is Hoeng. Oeung has four sisters and two brothers. Oeung's husband's name is Chim Kun and he is 53 years old. Oeung has only one son.

Oeung is first in her family. She went to school in Preah Netr Preah for only one year when she was young. After that, she helped her parents to look after her younger sisters and brothers.

In 1975, Oeung was selected to serve in the textile unit that produced scarves in Preah Netr Preah Pagoda. There were 30 people in her unit. After serving in the textile unit, Oeung was sent to Kok Tunloap for three months to clean farms. Then, she was sent to Kor Bei Daem for three months to plant rice.

In 1977, Oeung was sent to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. There, she was forced to carry three cubic meters of earth per day. Oeun attended meetings with [Ta] Val every month or every two weeks. During these meetings, Oeung recalls that [Ta] Val said, "Please try to work hard as well...." Oeung so recalls seeing the Chinese coming to control the dam a few times.

9- Soeu Sot (F)



Sot is 49 years old and lives in Sreh Lich village, Peah Neth Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Sot was born in the Sreh Lich village. Her father's name is Dan and her mother is Sien. Sot has five brothers and one sister. Sot's husband's name is Y Bun and he is 48 years old. Sot has two daughters and two sons.

Sot is third in her family. She did not go to school when she was young. In 1975, Sot was selected to serve in the Child Unit. She was then sent to Dambok Snay for one year to clean grass and gather cow manure. After this, Sot was selected to work at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. However, Sot and other 10 children escaped. The next night, the KR arrested them and tied their hands behind their backs. The KR hit Sot for a night and then sent her back to the construction site. She was forced to carry three cubic meters of earth per day. Sot started at 5 a.m. and worked until 4 p.m. She was allowed to break for lunch for one hour at noon.

In 1978, Sot was sent to Spean Sreng to carry earth to build Trakeap Kdam's dam. Sot had a serious illness because she lacked nutrition. She could not walk by herself, so a fellow villager brought her home. In 1979, only 2 months into Sot's recovery at home, the Vietnamese entered Cambodia.

10- Pan Chhuong (M)



Chhuong is 64 years old and lives in Daun Chreng village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Chhuong was born in Paoy Samrong village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Battambang province. His father's name is Pan Heun and his mother's name is Khieu Puoy. Chhuong has two sisters and four brothers. Chhuong has two wives. His first's wife name is Tauch Phean and she lives in Paoy Samrong. Second's wife name is Tuy

Sophal. Chhuong adopted two children. He is a member of Daun Chreng Pagoda Commission.

Chhuong is the youngest in his family. Chhuong studied until grade 10 of the old system, during Sihanouk regime. When he left school, he went to work in a shop in downtown Preah Netr Preah that ground rice. Chhuong married Tauch Phean in 1968 and he worked in his

rice field until 1972. He was then hired to drive a motor vehicle that pulled a cart to carry salt from Svay to Siem Reap province.

In late 1972, the KR arrested Chhuong and other five drivers at Sasar Sdam, in Siem Reap province. Chhuong recalls that one night, the other five riders escaped from their place of detention. However, Chhuong did not escape with them, because he feared that if he ran away without taking his vehicle, he would have to pay the owner for it. He thus decided to stay with the KR and was assigned to grind rice in Khsach Phnom for one year. Chhuong was then sent to Kok Khpuos. There, he was assigned to be a chief of group of people who ground rice.

In 1974, Chhuong and another 30 people were sent to carry earth to build a dam in Ta Khieu within the Sambuor Ovleok commune, Mongkul Borey district.

Soon after the KR came to power in 1975, Chhuong returned to Paoy Samrong village. There, he was assigned to be a chief of Youth in the Preah Netr Preah commune, where [Ta] Krak, [Ta] San, [Ta] Phan were on the Preah Netr Preah commune committee. [Ta] Maong and [Ta] Sam-at were chief and deputy chief, respectively, of Preah Netr Preah district. Hat was a chief of Phnom Srok district.

In January 1976, Chhuong was promoted to be a deputy chief of the mobile work unit of Region [5], where Haun aka [Ta] Val was a chief. Hoeng—aka Bang 007—was a chief of Region [5]. Chhuong remembers that [Ta] Val was responsible for all the dams and canals in Region [5], and [Ta] Sruoch was in charge of all the dams and canals in the Sala Kraham area. [Ta] Leap was responsible for the paddies of Region [5]. I forgot a man who was in charge of the cotton farms of Region Region.

In March 1976, [Ta] Val and Chhuong managed to build a dam from Kambao Village to Sreh Village. They then started to build another dam in Kok Rumchek.

In September or October of 1976, the mobile work unit of Region [5] was moved to help grow cotton at Kang Va Mountain.

In October 1976, Hoeng, [Ta] Val and Chhuong had a planning meeting about building Trapeang Thma's dam. The dam was planned to be eight kilometers long, three meters high, 25 meters at the bottom, and 10 meters back. Chhuong told us that the Standing Committee of the KR initiated the plan to retain water to plant dry season rice fields within the Phnom Srok and Preah Netr Preah districts. They also planned to build a road from Daun Noy--located near Cambodia - Thailand border—through Trapeang Thma to Siem Reap, Angkor Wat.

The KR started work on the Trapeang Thma dam January and February of 1977. There were 9,000 people in the mobile work unit of Region [5]. The entire unit for the construction site was made up from the mobile work units of the Preah Netr Preah, Phnom Srok, Thma Puok and Serei Sophoan districts. Chhuong remembers that Hoeng required a person carry three cubic meters of earth per day. Each worker had a ration of three milk cans of rice per day.

In June or July, 1977, Hoeng, [Ta] Val, [Ta] Maong, [Ta] Sam-at, Hat and other cadres were arrested and killed by Chiel, the deputy chief of Region [5]. Chiel was one of Ros Nhim's sons. However, Chiel, Ros Nhim and others were arrested and killed by Ta Mok's soldiers in a few months later. At that time, Rin, who came from Southwest Zone, became a chief of Region [5]. Rin continued to supervise at Trapeang Thma Dam worksite until the Vietnamese soldiers marched into Cambodia in January 1979. Chhuong added that [Yeay] Chaem was assigned to be a chief of Preah Netr Preah district.

11- Keth Wath (F)



Keth is 57 years old and lives in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah commune. Her father's name is Keth Korn and her mother's name is Chan.

When the KR came to power in 1975, Keth and people in the village were evacuated to live in Sreh Village and made to work for Angkar. The KR then created a cooperative. [Ta] Krak was a

chief of the mobile unit. For a few weeks Keth was sent to carry earth to build a dam in Sreh village. She was then moved to O-Runtah Banh. After this, Keth was assigned to plant potatoes in Cheung Watt Village. While working there, she saw KR soldiers arrested 50 to 60 people. She recalls that a man shouted, "do not hurt them, and just let them free." Keth thought that that man was a unit chief.

After a few weeks, she was assigned to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite with thousands of other people. First, a unit chief divided them up into groups of ten people. They were then each assigned to carry two and a half cubic meters of earth per day. Sometimes, Keth could not complete her work during the day, so she had to continue at night. Meanwhile, she was often sick so she asked permission to relax or went to the hospital. The KR provided a plate of rice with Brahok—a kind of salty fish with a powerful smell—or salt for food: this was not enough for their work. The KR also assigned one person in a group to carry water, but because it was in the dry season, this wasn't enough. Two months later, Keth moved for one week to carry earth and build the other dam at Kaun Kleng. It was even more difficult to find water at this worksite than at Trapeang Thma. Keth then moved to live in Sreh village, and she farmed there until Vietnamese troops entered Cambodia. She then moved to live in her home village, where she lives today.

12- Thim Vannai alias Keal (F)



Vannai is 56 years old and lives in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah sub-district, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her father is Thim Suon and mother is Chep Chuon. She is the youngest of six siblings.

Before the KR took power, Vannai was a student in grade 9. In 1975, she and her family were evacuated to Sreh village with many other people. Living in this new place,

she worked as a potato farmer and dike building for almost a year, digging dike Vannai then moved to live in Cheoung Wat village. Next, she carried earth to build the dam at Spean Reap for two weeks. Vannai then moved to work at O- Runtah Banh.

Vannai was assigned to carry earth and build at Trapeang Thma Dam worksite with many other people. She carried two cubic meters of earth per day. Vannai received a can of water rice two times a day. Vannai remembers that she rarely took a bath because it was far from the worksite to the bathhouse, and she was so tired after work. Because she didn't bathe regularly, she had body lice. When Vannai finished her work at Trapeang Thma, she was moved to work at Kaun Kleng, where the situation was very difficult: there was only very limited water to drink. After working at the Trapeang Thma Dam site, Vannai was moved to work as a cotton picker at a farm in Kangvar Village in the Serey Sophoan. One day, she was very homesick so she decided to leave without asking permission. She and her friend crossed deep water to meet her family members. Two days later, the unit's chief realized that she had run home, and they called her back without any complaint. After living there for one month, she moved to live at Sophy, and then returned to Cheung Watt. She worked in the rice fields until the Vietnamese troops came. A few years later, she got married and settled in Paoy Kdoeung village.

13- Khor Mot (F)



Mot is 52 years old and lives in Poay Pring village, Preah Netr Preah sub-district. She is the fifth of six siblings. Her parents moved to live and farm in Tar Yeav village.

Mot was not allowed to study when she was young because the house was too far from the school. When the KR came to power, they called a meeting at the village chief's

house. They collected properties and threw out money along the road. During the meeting, they arrested people who were soldiers, relatives of Lon Nol soldiers, or capitalists. Those arrested were later killed in a field called Areak Bakkor.

After this meeting, Mot was assigned to work in Kauk Lon village, planting melon, cucumber and rice. People there had to cook for themselves. Because Mot's mother was very old, her sister asked to bring all family members to live in Dak Por village where the cooperative was located.

Mot lived there for one month. She was then assigned to work in a mobile work unit at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite with a thousand other people, both old and new. The purpose of building the dam was to supply water to farms during the dry season. Mot recalls: "Working at the dam, I was very afraid because they assigned us each to carry three cubic meters of earth per day but I could not complete this on time. I dared not go to eat with others until night time, by which time I could finish." Like her, everyone at the worksite got food two times a day. The food was only a plate of rice and fish paste (Brahok). Water was scarce and provided in limitation.

[Ta] Ros was chief of a big cell which controlled 100 people, but he died. [Ta] Val was a chief of the mobile work unit and often went to observe at the working site. [Yeay] Chaem controlled the Preah Netr Preah district and she also used to go to the site.

After working for 2-3 months, Mot moved to work at Spean Reap, a site near Trapeang Thma. There, she got only water rice with crop leaf to eat. Then she continued her work at Kaun Khleng. She never took a bath while working at Kaun Khleng.

Not long after this, Mot moved to Veal Dangkeap Khdam and continued working there. The Khmer Rouge started to arrest those they considered to be enemies. One day, while she was eating rice, three soldiers came to arrest Mot. She had been accused of being Vietnamese because she has white skin. Then her aunt, Ros, who was a unit chief shouted, "She is Cambodian, not Vietnamese! Her mother has white skin and she looks like her mother". The KR released Mot and they arrested a woman who was really Vietnamese. Mot was moved to work at Kor Bei Daem for two weeks, then moved again to Prey Moan where [Yeay] Chaem was in control.

Before Vietnamese troops came, Preah Netr Preah was controlled by KR from the Southwest zone. Mot was selected to be a unit chief, but she refused because she did not know how to write. The KR told her they had selected her because she has not educated. She did nothing except attend a meeting, because the situation was not safe. The KR held a meeting every day because they planned to collect jewels and because they wanted to kill people in Region [5]. Finally, their plan failed. When Vietnamese troops came, Mot went to Dak Por with her family and moved to Daun Chreng when conditions became better.

14- Mom Koeng (F)



Koeng is a 57-year-old woman. She was born and still lives in Kandal village, Preah Netr Preah sub-district and district. She went to school until grade 9 in the old system. Koeng is the first of six siblings. Her father is Mom Chheng and her mother is Pen Kep.

When she was 12 years old, Koeng lived in Battambang province with her relatives.

There, she did garment work. When the KR arrived in Battambang, Koeng returned to her home village and her relatives relocated to the Phnom Srok district. After she arrived home, her family and other people were evacuated to Sreh village. Koeng and her family moved to Sreh where she lived with her parents. There, she worked in the fields for two months, then moved to Kok Rumchek to dig the canal. In 1976, Koeng moved to work at Paoy Pring constructing the Kambao-Sreh canal. She was assigned to carry two cubic meters of earth a day. Because she was small, she always finished her assignment late.

In 1977, KR selected people to carry earth and build at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite but Koeng was not assigned to do this because she had married a soldier while working at Kambao-Sreh. She then returned to live in the village and continued to carry earth. Later, she became pregnant. Koeng worked in the village, sewing clothes for people, until the regime was collapsed.

15- Makk Silouet (F)



Silouet is a 52-year-old woman living in Kandal village, Preah Netr Preah sub-district and district. She was born into a farming family. Her mother is Chuop Moul and father is Makk Loeun. When she was young, Silouet studied until grade 9 in the old system. She quit school because the situation changed. Many of Khmer Rouge soldiers entered the village. They then

evacuated people from the village to live at Phnom Damrei for a week, and eventually moved them to Sreh village. Not long after that, they evacuated villagers to live and farm in Paoy Pring for one month. Each family had to find their own food. Then KR created a cooperative in Trapeang Veng village, where a lot of new people were living, and they evacuated people from Paoy Pring to live there.

After the KR had been in power for more than one year, they planned to build the Trapeang Thma dam. Like Silouet, all youth were assigned to work in the mobile work unit, building the dam. The new people found it very difficult to live in such conditions because they had never worked very hard before. They divided people into groups. Each group had 10 members.

Each group member was assigned to carry two cubic meters of earth. If the group was able to finish an assignment, they would be assigned to do more. Sometimes, Silouet's team was assigned to carry three or four cubic meters, depending on their energy. "For my team, only the women worked very hard; the men were lazy. As a team, we were always assigned to carry one cubic meter at night time, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m." Working at the Trapeang Thma dam, Silouet got only a plate of rice with fish paste soup (Brahok). There was not enough water because it was the dry season, in April. After the dam was finished, Silouet was relocated to carry and build a dam at Runtah Banh and assigned to do harvest work in the field for two weeks. Then, Vietnamese troops arrived.

16- Pot Kimleang alias Ran (F)



Kimleang is a 54-year-old woman. She was born and still lives in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah sub-district, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey Province.

When the KR arrived in the village, Kimleang was assigned to cut thatch at Por Kou. Then, the KR called her to carry earth. She had to collect Bongky, an earth moving basket, at Ta Krak's house to work at Srah

Chik.

When the construction at Trapeang Thma started, the KR selected people in the village to work in the mobile work unit to construct the dam. First, they assigned each person a load of two cubic meters. One day, the work was increased to five cubic meters. "I could not complete my work during the day time, so I dared not to eat because I was afraid to be blamed. When I finished, I went to eat, but sometimes I was so tired then I went to sleep without food." Working there was very difficult because the workers were provided only rice with Brohok. Kimleang worked in team with 10 members; the team chose one person to carry water for the team. The water was very far from the labor site, and it was during the dry season. A worker got only 2-3 spoons of water for a whole day. Kimleang worked at the dam for a while, and then was moved to Kaun Khleung and Kor Bei Daem. She did not return home until the Vietnamese troops arrived.

17- Nou Chuong (M)



Chuong is a 55-year-old man. He was born and still lives in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah sub district and district. Chuong was a monk in the Sreh Kaet pagoda during Lon Nol Regime for 3 years. When the KR came to power in 1975, they called all the monks from different pagodas and forced them to labor as villagers. Chuong was provided a black dress and moved to the mobile work

unit. There, he planted tobacco at a farm. Then, new people arrived and the people who had been there longer were assigned to plow at the field.

In 1977, the KR selected thousands of new people to work at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. They hoped to construct it in 3 months. First, each person was assigned to carry two cubic meters of earth per day. The KR increased the assignment every day until each person's load was five cubic meters a day. At this point, they had to work until night. Sometime Chuong worked until 10 p.m. while working, he got food for two times per day, at 12 noon or 1 p.m. and at 10 p.m. The food was only a plate of rice with Brohok soup, and not enough water. Some people drank rice soup. Many people died because of snake bites that occurred during the night time. Workers who got Khvak Moan disease (a disease caused by lack of vitamin A) were also assigned to work at night, with a man guiding them to the labor site. If anyone got sick and did not go to work, they were killed in public, frightening others not to follow.

18- Vann Bunmar (F)



Bummar is 55 years old. She was born and lives in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah sub district and district. She is the third of nine siblings. In Lon Nol regime, she studied until grade 11 of the old system at the Sreh Lich pagoda. After class, she helped her family tend cattle.

In 1973, the KR arrived to fight government forces in Daun Chreng. Many people from

Daun Chreng came to live in the village. In late 1976, Bummar was assigned to work at the O- Rumchek dam in Preah Netr Preah commune for a month. She worked in the mobile unit.

In 1977, Bunmar was moved to work at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite with one thousand other people. Because she was small, Bunmar received an assignment to carry one cubic meter of earth per day. Then the KR increased her work by half a cubic per day. If a worker could not complete her work, she would be blamed by the KR. "I always carried earth until 7 or 8 p.m. because I could not finish my work during the day time," she said. She received

only a small bowl of water rice with Brahok or fish egg, but the water was not enough, only about three spoonfuls.

19- Nai Phan (M)



Phan lives in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah sub-district and district. He is a principal at the Sreh Kaet primary school. Phan was evacuated from Phnom Penh. He never worked at Trapeang Thma, but he was aware of that labor site.

In 1975, Phan was moved to Sreh Kaet to dig a canal from Kambao-Sreh to O-Runtah Banh. Then, he was moved to farm in the village, only because he was a new person. [Ta] Val was a chief of mobile work unit, and he went to the labor site often. First he told people not to think about capitalism: "Our work is only dig and earth moving basket. Dig is a pen and earth is paper while working at Kambao – Sreh." There were a lot of people who got Khvakk Moan disease (a disease from the lack of vitamin A). The KR removed all those people to kill in the forest: they had never returned to the village. The base people had to work at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. It was a big, high dam. It was built in 1977. People who worked there had to change with others. If they returned to the village, they had never worked there again.

20- Pann Thy (M)



Thy is 56 years old. He was born in Kampong Thkov village, Toek Chou sub-district, Preah Netr Preah district. He now lives in Daun Chreng village, Preah Netr Preah sub-district, Preah Netr Preah district. When he was young, he studied until grade 10 in the old system. In 1971, the Lon Nol government drafted him as a select soldier during the civil war. Thy then escaped to live

along Tonlesap Lake in Phnom Krom, Siem Reap province. He was a fisherman for a boat owner. Thy lived there for a few years. In 1974, KR soldiers often clandestinely entered to shoot boats in the lake, but Thy also had weapon to resist.

In 1975, the country was a condition of insecurity, and because there was no currency, Thy returned home. Three months later, the KR soldiers entered Cambodia successfully and they started evacuating people from their homes to other places. Thy's family was evacuated to Char Leu village, Toek Chou sub-district. Thy lived there for six months. He worked as a field laborer, plowing and transplanting. He then moved to Char Krom village for one month. There, he was assigned to work in the mobile work unit of Region [5]. [Ta] Val was a mobile

work unit's chief. [Ta] Val assigned Thy to be chief of child unit that controlled one hundred children. The children were between 15 and 16 years old and carried earth to build the Phnom Kambao dam, which extended from Sreah Kaet to Poay Samrong village. Its length was around 13 kilometers and its width was five meters. First, the unit was assigned to build a dam with a length of 20 meters and a width of 8 meters. Thy also worked with those children. They were provided a bowl of water rice. There were around 800 people working there. They had to work at night time, from 7p.m. to 10 p.m. The people who got Khvakk Moan disease (a disease caused by lack of vitamin A) were assigned to work at night time. Many of new people who had been evacuated from the city died of diarrhea. The dam was completed in one month.

In late 1977, Thy was 19 years old and he was assigned to build at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite with his 100 members, a group called the mobile work unit of Region [5]. Trapeang Thma extended from Trapeang Thma village to Kaun Khleng. The place was an ancient road toward Angkor Wat temple. The dam's length was more than 20 kilometers and its width was 5 meters. The KR planned to build the dam for three months. Around 20,000 people worked on the dam and were each assigned to carry three cubic meters of earth. All workers got a plate of rice with Brahok. The water was not enough, and the source was too far from the site. It was perhaps 3-4 kilometers away so most of workers could not reach the place, and they had to live without cleaning their bodies. After working there for a month and half, Thy requested to marry a woman unit chief, which [Ta] Val allowed. Then Thy and his wife were moved to the Areak Bakkor unit and worked in the fields, planting potatoes and sugar cane. Two months later, the KR from Southwest Zone came and provided food. They used people to work not too hard. Thy worked there for one year and then Vietnamese troops arrived in the village. Thy escaped to Monkul Borei for a few days, then he returned to his home village.

In 1986, he was selected to guard along the Cambodia - Thailand border in the Malai district for one year and went back to Duan Chreng in 1987

21- Chuon Rorn (F)



Rorn is 58 years old and lives in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Net Preah commune, Preah Net Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her father's name is Chuon Tet and her mother's name is Chet Oeum. Rorn's husband's name is Keo Choeun. They have 3 children. She studied until grade 10 of the old regime at the Preah Net Preah Primary School.

During the Khmer Rouge period, Rorn was selected to serve in a mobile work unit at Sala Kraham. There, she was forced to carry earth to build a dam. [Ta] Thean was a chief of Paoy Kdoeung village and [Ta] Sruoch was a chief of the mobile work unit. Then, Rorn got a

sickness and had to stay in the hospital for 15 days. After she was cured of the disease, Rorn went home to visit for three days. After her recovery, Rorn was sent to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite in dry season. At this worksite, Rorn did not have enough water to drink or to have a shower. Rorn's unit arranged one person to carry water from Kaun Khleung village, which was 5 kilometers from the construction site. After this assignment, Rorn was sent to Kor Bei Daem where she was assigned to farm at the North of Prey Moan.

Rorn recalled that when she was at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite, she had to be careful to keep all of her materials such as shoes, hoes, Bongky (her earth moving basket), spoon, and bowl. If she lost or broke any of her materials, she would have been killed by the Angkar KR. In order to meet the KR's regulation assignment of five cubic meters per person per day, Rorn had to start in the field in the early morning and work until night time. Rorn was offered meals only two times per day, once for lunch and once for dinner. The food was dirty and unhygienic because the Khmer Rouge cadres kept it on the ground where there were many houseflies. Rorn also added that she never forgot the KR regime and that it is hard for her to talk about what she suffered, even though it happened thirty years ago.

22-Kroek Ret (M)



Ret is 49 years old and lives in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. He was born in Paoy Samrong Village, Preah Net Preah commune. His father, Chhean, lives in Kampong Thom province. His mother, Buon, lives with him. Ret has one sister and 6 brothers. His wife's name is Dul Chann Thon.

They have 6 sons and a daughter. He did not go to school when he was young.

During Khmer Rouge regime, Ret was 18 years old. Ret was selected to the mobile work unit, where Tau was a chief. Ret carried earth to build many canals such as Sreh Kaet, Kambao, O-Leap, Spean Sreng and Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. [Ta] Maong was a chief of the Preah Netr Preah district. [Ta] Val was a chief of mobile work unit of Region [5].

Ret was forced to carry one cubic meter of earth per day then two cubic meters, and finally five cubic meters when he was at Trapeang Thma. Sometimes, Ret got up at the early morning and carried earth in the field until night if he did not finish his assignment. Ret was offered only porridge twice a day, for lunch and dinner. Ret saw some people killed, and others died due to overwork. Moreover, Ret once saw the KR kill a young man and a young woman because of a moral offense. There were many corpses buried at the site.

When Vietnamese troops came into the Preah Netr Preah district, Ret returned home to Paoy Samrong village. Ret married to Dul Chann Thon in 1990.

23-Keo Choeun (M)



Choeun is 63 years old and lives in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. He was born in Tuol Tnaot village, Peuk commune, Ang Snuol district, Kandal province. His father's name is Pakk Keo. His mother's name is Khlaot Kim. He has a sister and 3 brothers. Choeun received a Baccalaureate II certificate in Phnom Penh during the Sihanouk regime.

When the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975, Choeun was evacuated to his homeland in the Kandal province. Then, Choeun was evacuated directly to the Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. First, Choeun was selected to grow vegetables and fruit trees. After this, Choeun was sent to the mobile work unit in Kor Bei Daem, where Loeung was a chief of the mobile work unit. There, Choeun was forced to carry earth for the building or repairing of canals.

In late 1976, Choeun was sent to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. There, Choeun carried four cubic meters of earth day from the early morning until night. Choeun tried to work hard to follow the Angkar KR's regulation. Choeun had to be careful to keep track of all of his materials, like the earth moving basket (Bongky), the Dang Rek (carrying stick), and the hoes. If Choeun lost or broke those materials, he would be accused of betraying by the KR Angkar and he would be arrested and killed. Choeun did not have enough water to drink and couldn't have a shower.

Choeun was offered porridge for two times day for lunch and dinner. The food was dirty and unhygienic. Once, Choeun was selected to attend the open ceremony of construction site. There, he saw Hoeng, a chief of Region [5] and president of the meeting. Another time, Choeun's mother suffered a serious illness at the Toek Chou cooperative. Choeun asked for permission from his chief of the mobile work unit to visit her. The chief denied his request, and Choeun did not get to visit his mother before she passed away. After his mother death, Choeun's sister also suffered a sickness. Choeun again asked permission to visit her and the chief again denied it. Moreover, the chief said, "You are not a medical staff. So you have no need to visit her. The medical staff is taking care of her now." His sister also died.

After the Khmer Rouge collapsed in 1979, Choeun decided to live in downtown Preah Netr Preah. Choeun then married Chuon Rorn who lives in Paoy Kdoeung village. Choeun said that he has been very upset because he did not see his mother or his sister's faces before they passed away, and he does not know where his mother and sister were buried.

24-Ratt Sinan (F)



Sinan is 58 years old and lives in Kandal village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. She was born in Preah Netr Preah village. Her father's name is Touch Yin. Her mother's name is Kin Loeun. Sinan has five sisters and three brothers. In 1973, Sinan married Nai Nara. They have only one child.

In 1975, Sinan was selected to work at a husking rice cooperative as a baby-sitter. Sinan's mother was a cook of the cooperative. In 1978, Sinan's husband, Nai Nara, died in fire in a house in the Oddor Meanchey province. Khmer Rouge cadres had arrested him when he tried to escape to Thailand. Rem, Yem and Ying were chiefs of the husking rice unit cooperative.

When Vietnamese troops come into Preah Netr Preah district, Sinan came back home. Sinan is a farmer. Sinan wants to forget all the events because she doesn't want to think about what happened during the Khmer Rouge regime.

25-Tauch Soty (M)



Soty is 56 years old and lives in Cheung Watt village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. His father's name is Tauch Hakk. His mother's name is Chheuk Siek. He has two sisters and two brothers. Soty studied until grade 1 of the old system at Samdech Ov High School.

In 1975, Khmer Rouge soldiers came into Banteay Meanchey provincial town. At this time, Soty was evacuated to his home in Cheung Watt village. Soty was then selected to serve in the mobile work unit. In 1976, he was moved to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. He carried three cubic meters of earth for 3 cubic meters per day. Soty was offered two meal--lunch and dinner—every day. Phorn was a chief of his mobile work unit. After working at Trapeang Thma, Soty was sent to do work in the rice fields at Phnom Leap. In 1978, Soty came back his home village and worked as a plowing man.

After the Khmer Rouge collapsed, Soty returned to live with his family. In 1983, Soty married to Nuon Phuong. They have two children. Soty is a chief of the Department of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction Plan of the Preah Netr Preah district.

26- Chea Sophea alias Neang (F)



Sophea is 51 years old and lives in Kandal village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her father's name is Nhap Chea and her mother's name is Huoy. She has one brother and one sister.

During the Khmer Rouge time, Sophea was selected to serve in the mobile work unit and to carry earth around the Preah Netr Preah district, in such places as Kork Rumchek, Speang Reap, and Nam Tao. In 1977, Sophea was sent to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Initially, she carried one cubic meter of earth per day eventually; she carried three cubic meters per day. Sophea was offered only porridge for lunch and dinner. Sophea did not have enough water to drink or to have showers.

When Vietnamese troops came into the Preah Netr Preah district, Sophea returned to her home in Kandal village. In 1985, Sophea married Sim Nup, who was born in Takeo. They have four sons. Sophea is now a farmer.

27- Vann Teav (F)



Teav is 51 years old and lives in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her father's name is Vann Kann and her mother's name is Puy Bin. She did not go to school when she was young.

During the Khmer Rouge period, Teav was placed in the children's unit, where she tended cows at the Preah Netr Preah cooperative. There, Teav was offered only porridge for lunch and dinner. Teav asked to transfer to the mobile work unit where she could eat rice, because she could not eat porridge. Teav was sent to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Teav was forced to carry three cubic meters of earth per day. In order to complete the assignment, Teav had to get up early in the morning and work until night. If she had not met her quota, she would not have gotten meals. At Trapeang Thma, Teav never had enough water to drink and or to have showers. After this, Teav was moved to carry earth at O-Leap.

After the Khmer Rouge collapsed, Teav came back her home. In 1983, Teav married Hang Seum. They have two daughters and three sons.

28- Pol Phorn (F)



Phorn is 53 years old and lives in Paoy Pring village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her father's name is Pol Put and her mother's name is Pol Chhet or Tit Chhet. She did not go to school when she was young.

During the Khmer Rouge period, Phorn was chosen for the mobile work unit and sent to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. At this time, she married Vin Tin who lived in Prey Maon village. Phorn was then moved to live in the Prey Maon cooperative with her husband. Phorn's husband was killed by the KR; she does not know the reason why the KR arrested and killed her husband. Soon after her husband's death, Phorn was moved to carry earth at the Preay Maon, O-Andaung and Kambao dams.

When Vietnamese troops came into Prey Maon village, Phorn returned her home.

29- Sean Sophy (F)



Sophy is 51 years old and lives in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her father's name is Say Seak and her mother's name is Vann Tim. Sophy did not go to school when she was young.

When the Khmer Rouge took a power in Cambodia, Sophy was assigned to the mobile work unit for one month. After this month, Sophy was sent to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Sophy did not have enough water to drink or to have showers. Sophy had to carry four cubic meters of earth per day. If Sophy did not finish the assignment, she would given lunch or dinner. Sophy was forced to labor without regard to day and night.

After the Khmer Rouge collapsed in 1979, Sophy came back to her home. She married Chin Savin in 1980. They have five sons and two daughters. She is a farmer.

30- Peach Ros (M)



Ros is 56 years old and lives in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. His father's name is Peach Thonn and his mother's name is Kim Nuon. He did not go to school when he was young and Ros was to be a Buddhist monk.

In 1975, the Khmer Rouge forced Ros and the other 48 monks at Sreh Kaet pagoda to disrobe from their occupation as Buddhist monks. Ros was sent to a plowing unit. In

1976, Sam Bun, who was a chief of the plowing unit, allowed two new young women (these women had been evacuated from Phnom Penh after April 17, 1975) to visit families in the Preah Netr Preah commune. Sam Bun was arrested killed because of this.

In 1977, Ta Lin, who was a chief of Big Cell, arrested and killed two Vietnamese ladies in Dang Kiep Kdam village. In mid 1977, Ros married Chann Ty in a mass ceremony with other 50 couples in the Preah Net Preah commune. He was then moved there to farm.

In 1979, Vietnamese troops came into Preah Netr Preah, and Ros came back his home.

31-Tuy Sophal (F)



Sophal is 51 years old and lives in Daun Chreng village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her father's name is KimTy and her mother's name is Chann At. When she was young, she studied until grade 10 in the old system at Daun Chreng Primary School.

During the Khmer Rouge period, Sophal, 15 years old at the time, was sent to a mobile work unit. When she was 17 years old, she was sent to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Sophal was forced to carry one cubic meter of earth per day. Sophal said that the KR provided her only rice and fish paste (Brahok) for lunch and dinner. Sophal married to Kun in Chakrei village. After their marriage, Khmer Rouge soldiers arrested and killed her husband because he escaped to Thailand.

When Vietnamese troops came into the Preah Netr Preah district, Sophal returned to her home village and she married another man, Phan Chhuong. She has a son with her late husband. She is a farmer.

32- Por Bandeth (M)



Bandeth is 63 years old and lives in Kandal village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey Province. Bandeth married to Thip Youk Khoun, who is 56 years old. Bandeth has eight children. When he was young, he studied until grade 7 of the old system at the Preah Netr Preah Primary School. His father's name is Por Soeun and his mother's name is Ven Thoueng.

In 1970, Bandeth escaped to the Serey Sophoan district. The location was controlled by the Lon Nol regime. Not long after April 17, 1975, the Khmer Rouge evacuated people who lived in Serey Sophoan to live and farm in Kambao-Sreh villages. At the time, Bandeth saw the KR kill people, including his cousins, Sarun and Roeung Roeun, who were policemen under Lon Nol regime.

During the Democratic Kampuchea regime, the Northwest Zone was governed by Ros Nhem, and Hoeng was a chief of the Region [5]. Bandeth was assigned to live in Kandal village, where he was promoted to be a chief of group for a few months. After this, he was sent to Phnom Sreh.

In 1976, Bandeth was sent to clean agricultural land. At that time, [Ta] Maong was a chief of the Preah Netr Preah district. [Ta] Chhang was a chief of the agricultural section and [Ta] Val was a chief of the mobile work unit of Region [5]. Bandeth served as a chief of plowing unit from 1976 through 1979.

33- Nap Savoeung alias Makvoeung (F)



Savoeung is 54 years old and was born in Cheung Watt village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Savoeung lives in the village above. Her husband's name is Pav Phluon. Her father's name is Nap Moeun and her mother's name is Lort Han. She has two children.

Savoeung studied until grade 7 in the old system when she was young. There was no Khmer Rouge in her village before the Democratic Kampuchea.

In 1975, the Khmer Rouge evacuated her and the other villagers to Phnom Kaun Damrei, then moved them to Tapen Village. Savoeung was in the women's mobile work unit.

Savoeung was forced to carry earth to build the Kok Rumchek, Kambao - Sreh, Phnom Liep dams. The KR forced her to carry two cubic meters of earth per day. Later on, the KR sent Savoeung and her cousin, Sophat, to Sala Lae (Center 01), where there was a KR hospital. There they were trained to be medical staff.

34- Lort Bandeth alias Toeu (F)



She is 55 years old and was born in Cheung Watt village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. She still lives in Cheung Watt village. Bandeth has four siblings. Her father's name is Lort Nouk and mother's name is Tat Khoun. Her husband's name is Kuy Thoeung and he is 56 years old. Bandeth has three sons and one daughter.

When she was young, Bandeth studied up to grade 8 in the old system, during the Lon Nol regime. In 1975, the Khmer Rouge evacuated her and her fellow villagers to the villages of Phnom Kaun Damrei and Tapen. After the evacuation, Bandeth served as a chief of a Big Cell (100 members) where [Ta] Val was a chief of the mobile work unit of Region [5]. Bandeth supervised her unit as they carried earth to build dams. First, she supervised her unit to build the Me May Bridge for more than one year. Next, she managed her Big Cell to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. At the time, Bandeth worked at (first bridge construction site) of the construction. Later on, she suffered Khvakk Moan disease (caused by a lack of vitamin A) and had difficulty supervising her unit when they were forced to carry earth at night time. Sometimes, Bandeth went to visit the patients at a hospital.

Bandeth remembers that if her unit's members wanted to marry someone or someone requested to marry them, they had to pass the proposal by her first.

Bandeth told us that she did experience the same work conditions as her unit members. Bandeth's unit carried earth from the beginning to the end of the building of the Trapeang Thma Dam. When the dam was completed, the KR sent Bandeth to train as a medical staff for a year at a hospital located in Trapeang Thma Pagoda. After this, the Khmer Rouge cadres who came from Southwest Zone arrested and killed many cadres in the Northwest Zone, such as Hoeng, [Ta] Val, [Ta] Maong and other cadres. At that time, Bandeth was afraid she would be arrested and killed as other cadres were. Because of this fear, she wrote a forged letter that permitted "Comrade Lort Bandeth to visit her mother, who is sick in her home village. Additionally, please kindly provide her rice and food."

35- Pao Sokha (F)



Sokha is 51 years old and was born in Trapeang Thma Kandal village, Phnom Srok district Banteay Meanchey province. Sokha lives in Cheung Watt village, Preah Netr Preah commune Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. She married Mr. Vann Phe in 1982. He is 56 years old. Her father's name is Thang Pao and mother's name is Phann Pao. She has three

siblings, one of whom died during the Khmer Rouge Regime. Sokha has three children.

In 1975, Sokha lived in Trapeang Thma Kandal village. She was then sent to a women's mobile work unit. First, the KR assigned her to carry earth to build [Ta] Val's dam at the first bridge. At that time, she was integrated into mobile work unit of Region [5].

Sokha started in the field at 7 a.m. and finished around 6 p.m. During this time, she was provided only lunch and dinner. Sometime, she was forced to carry earth in the night time. Sokha was sent to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite when she was 15 years old. Sokha was there for one year. Sokha remembers that she was not offered enough food and water. Moreover, Sokha got only two pair of clothes to wear at the construction site. After this, she was sent to O-Rumchek and she was forced to carry earth to build Dangkeap Kdam Dam. Later on, she was transferred to plant rice.

Nearly the end of the Democratic Kampuchea, the Khmer Rouge killed her mother because they knew that her father was a commando of the Lon Nol Regime

36- Nhonh Soeum (M)

Soeum is 60 years old and was born in Kandal village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. He lives in Cheung Watt village, Preah Netr Preah commune. His wife's name is Nhep Sophoeut and she is 61 years old. Soeum has five



children. His father's name is Nhonh Phai, and he died during the reign of Democratic Kampuchea because he was too old. His mother's name is Chum Heam, and she died in 1988. Soeum has five siblings.

Soeum studied until grade 7 of the old systym at the Preah Netr Preah Primary School. Soeum recalled that the Khmer Rouge was in forest near his village

beginning in 1972-1973.

In 1975, the KR came to Kandal village and evacuated Soeum and his fellow villagers to live in field behind the village. There, they farmed for a few months. Soeum was sent to carry earth to build a dam from Kambao to Sreh villages. Soeum was forced to carry five cubic meters of earth per day. Soeum started on the field at 6 a.m., had lunch at 11 a.m., and continued from 1p.m. until he finished his task.

In 1978, Soeum was sent to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Soeum was there for only two weeks. He then requested to return home because wife had suffered a serious illness. When he was in the village, the KR assigned him to work on the farm and he grew vegetables there until January, 1979.

37- Yann Chanrom (F)



Chanrom is now 51 years old and lives in Post Chass village, Preah Netr Preah commune and district, Banteay Meanchey province. She went to school just for one year before the Khmer Rouge came to control her village in 1975. The Khmer Rouge evacuated her family and other villagers in Post Chass to live in another village. This was the Khmer Rouge strategy

of moving people from one village to another.

With tears in her eyes, she remembered about her father's death. Her father was called up by the Khmer Rouge for being educated at Angkor Wat. He was loaded into a horse cart and taken away. He was never come home. Her father, Soup Bin, was former soldier of Lon Nol regime.

Chanrom was chosen to work at the Trapeang Thma dam as a labourer. She was in first child unit under the leadership of unit chief Khoeun. She worked at Trapeang Thma until it was completely built. A Chinese delegation made a visit to the Trapeang Thma. There was gossip that Mao Zedong (Chanrom pronounced his name "Mao Chentong") was among the delegation. Chanrom said that she had bread to eat at the time of the Chinese.

Chanrom remembers that when the Trapeang Thma labour sit was under [Ta] Val's control, meals were served three times a day. The food rations right after [Ta] Val was arrested and killed by their inner echelon from the Southwest zone.

She said that occasionally she has told the story of hardship and forced labor to her children. One of them, her eldest son, had a chance to read a Khmer Rouge textbook. He came to her and asked more questions about her experience under the Khmer Rouge regime.

38- Chhun Nep (F)



Nep is 61 years old and was born in Post Chass village, Preah Netr Preah commune and district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her father Chhun Tak was arrested at night and killed because he said, "We do not eat enough, we eat only rice soup." After her father's death, Nep went to the women's mobile unit led by the Southwest zone's cadre of regiment position.

Nep used to work at the labour sites of Phnom Leap and Trapeang Thma reservoir. She was forced to carry between one and two cubic meters of earth per day. She said that a small cell consisted of 30 people and that a group consisted of 10 people. She went to work there with Neng and Yat Sambath. She said there was not enough food to eat. Nep fell ill at labour site of Trapeang Thma reservoir and afterwards she was sent to work at the labour site at Prey Moan, Preah Netr Preah district. There, still ill, she went to be treated at a hospital belonging to the Svay district. After that she was relocated to the Paoy Kdoeung corporative, under leadership of Ta Chhuong who was later killed as well.

39- Yat Sambath (F)



Sambath is 52 years old and was born in Post Chass village, Preah Netr Preah commune and district, Banteay Meanchey province. She still lives in this village.

During the Pol Pot regime, Sambath was 17 to 18 years old. She was sent to Kaun Damrei for one month. After that, she was sent to work at the labor site of the Trapeang Thma reservoir with the women's mobile work unit. She worked at the labor site of the Trapeang Thma reservoir for about 3 months long. She was forced to carry one cubic meter of earth per day. If she could complete the quota of one cubic meter per day, she would get one and a half cubic meters of soil the next day, and two cubic meters the day after that day. She was fed a small bowl of rice soup three times a day. The work started from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. and again after lunch until a worker met her quota, even until 9 p.m. Sambath remembers having to meet the quota before she could go to sleep. She carried soil for the Trapeang Thma reservoir construction from the first bridge forward. Three bridges were eventually constructed.

40- Kong Vin (F)



last place she worked before the Vietnamese troops came in was in an area of Phnom Kaun Kleng, where she worked in the rice fields.

Vin is 50 years old and was born in Bat Trang village, Brasat commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. She now lives in Paoy Tapen village, Preah Netr Preah commune and district. When the Khmer Rouge arrived in her village, she was about 12 years old. She was assigned to be in the female child unit. Her unit was assigned to carry soil for dam construction and worked at many places included Brasat, the eastern part of Phnom Leap, Spean Sreng, and the Trapeang Thma reservoir. The

41- Thoeng Suop (F)



the female child unit under the leadership of Khoeun. She worked for a dam construction in many locations included Kang Va, Sres and Veal Kamboar. Khmer Rouge leadership in charge were [Ta] Val ˈta v:al˥˩, Ta Moang ˈta em:ag˥˩, and Ta San ˈta sn˥˩. The last location she worked at was the labor site of the Trapeang Thma reservoir construction. She was assigned to carry two and a half cubic meters of soil per day.

Suop is 50 years old and was born and lives in Paoy Tapen village, Preah Netr Preah commune and district, Banteay Meanchey province.

At the time the Khmer Rouge came to power Suop was about 14 years old. She was in the 10th class, now the 3rd class. Her father died of starvation in the village. The villagers of Paoy Tapen were transferred to Poay Samroang as part of Khmer Rouge strategy of enemy separation. Suop was in

42- Lort Suoy (M)



Suoy is 55 years old and was born in Cheung Watt village, Preah Netr Preah commune and district, Banteay Meanchey province. He now lives in Prasat Tbeng village, Banteay Chmar commune, Thmar Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province. His wife's name is Dam Ret, and she is 51 years old.

Suoy studied through the sixth class and studied at the junior high school in Svay Sisophon for a few months long before the

Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975.

In 1975, Suoy was assigned to work construction in the men's mobile unit at the dams in Prey Moan and Ro Hall for a month. During this month, he and his unit were under the leadership of Khin (the chief of the men's mobile unit).

After working in the men's mobile unit, Suoy was conscripted to the Khmer Rouge military. The Khmer Rouge held a meeting during which they sought to recruit men and women who dared to fight absolutely [for Angkar]. Suoy and other four of his neighbors, included Khmao, Vong, Vy and Soty raised their hands without knowing that they were being recruited into the military. They all were assigned to a big cell under the leadership of Saroeun, a chief of a big cell of Battalion 513, within the responsibility of the Region [5].

During this period in 1975, Suoy was taught Khmer literature. During these 10 days, he pretended not to know anything, not even one Khmer alphabet character. After this, he was assigned to patrol in Svay [Svay Sisophon] where there was a division of military forces: one cell was sent to Phnom Srok district and another to Phnom Kaun Khleung [in Preah Netr Preah district]. The rest of the troops remained stationing in the region [5]. The chief of the big cell was Ta Nak and Ta Chun. Later on, Suoy's big cell was stationed in the area called Kaun Khleung, Thmenh Trei and Chhouk An and tasked with patrolling along the Khmer-Thailand border, as there was fear that people would run into Thailand. His big cell was stationed there for three months before one small cell was withdrawn to a station at Trapeang Thma.

In late 1976 (probably in the rainy season when the water rises up), Suoy and his small cell were sent to the station at Trapeang Thma. His small cell was located at one corner of the Trapeang Thma reservoir and was tasked with patrolling and controlling the dam: there was concern that the dam might break. In the event that the dam looked ready to crack or to become ruined, Suoy reported to his small cell chief, and the chief would go on to report to the upper echelon to request repairs. The chief at the time was Ta At.

[Ta] Val married his wife at the same time that Ta Moang did, in late 1975. At that time, there was military recruitment, and [Ta] Val and Ta Phy became military commander. [Ta] Val was in charge within the area of Rumduol - Prey Moan. In 1976 he was moved to control all the mobile forces in Region [5].

The dam of the Trapeang Thma reservoir was started soon after the arrival of Suoy's small cell. There were some people in mobile work units run home. The mobiles were divided into two groups. The regional mobile unit consisted of men's and women's units separately led by [Ta] Val, and the cooperative mobile unit was led by someone different from the upper echelon. The regional mobile unit was rationed food according to its scope of work, whereas the cooperative mobile unit was not. Most of the Khmer Rouge plan came from [Ta] Val. Mong was in charge of bridge construction at the dam.

They expected that the water contained in Trapeang Thma reservoir could be used to grow rice in the dry season, and to provide water for all the rice fields of two districts, Phnom Srok and Preah Netr Preah. All the dams in that area were known as [Ta] Val's Dam. The secretary of Region [5] was Ta Hoeng. His close subordinates were Ta Phy, Ta Moang and [Ta] Val. During the construction of the dam at the Trapeang Thma reservoir, Chinese delegation visited two times a year, usually at the time the growing rice was knee-high. There was only one special mobile work unit at Trapeang Thma, and it consisted of a big cell with up to 90 members. Mit and Reap were deputy chiefs of this special unit. Voeun was a chief of security office of Region [5], and was located at so the called Chamkar Khnol, north of Phnom Svay.

43- Chhit Yoeuk (M)



Yoeuk is 64 years old and was born in Char Leu village, Toek Chor commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Battambang province (now the district is in Banteay Meanchey province). Yoeuk lives in Sorya village, Kaup commune, O Chrov district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Chhit Yoeuk completed class 6th of primary school in 1958 at the Toek Chor School. He stopped studying at this time due to poverty. He then became a monk in 1962 and studied at the Char Leu pagoda for three years. He left the monkhood but taught children in the 10th and 11th classes for one more year at that pagoda.

In 1970, problems erupted in Yoeuk's village because officials of the Khmer Rouge came into the village and launched a propaganda campaign, with the objective of gathering forces. In this campaign, the Khmer Rouge raised the issue of liberating the entire farmer class from feudalism. Cadres Taing Kheoun and Leav Hov, military commanders stationed in Siem Reap, came to deliver the propaganda.

In late 1970, Yoeuk joined the Khmer Rouge in a jungle called Kong Kut (Sangkat 12) in the Kralanh district. Many people joined the Khmer Rouge at that time. Some was recruited for the military and some for the militia. Yoeuk was with the militia cell. The militia cell was responsible for transporting supplies for the military, and the cell also sometimes engaged in fighting like military did. Yoeuk's cell consisted of 200 members, under the leadership of cell

chief Pheng ឥឡូវ. Yoeuk was selected to become a chief of the militia cell in 1973, and was tasked with managing forces, including fighting with military against Lon Nol soldiers and as well as road and dam construction until 1975.

In 1975, the militia cell walked out of the jungle to a village and started the evacuation of people from the village, transferring them to another one. The evacuation ran in a normal way. At this time Yoeuk, came to live in Toek Chou commune of Preah Netr Preah district. Due to his old age, Yoeuk was assigned to work at the district office between August and September, 1975. Brother Loeum of the district cadre came to do biography and selected some people to work at the district office.

The upper echelon of the district at this time was Loeum, Sam-At and Khou. Khou was in charge of security for the district. When Loeum was promoted to zone echelon, Moang became district secretary. Khou now lives with his wife Ret in Thlok village, Banteay Chmar.

Yoeuk worked in the economic sector responsible for managing the supply from the Region to the communes within the Preah Netr Preah district. There were six communes in Preah Netr Preah, including Preah Netr Preah, Prasat, Ro Hall, Tien Kam and Phnom Leap.

Loeum was transferred to zone echelon during the rainy season of 1976 because of a moral issue. Two months after his transfer, Loeum was seen riding in a car with zone car stickers on his way to visit the district. Loeum was then in charge of the Regiment.

Later on, the economic sector was dismantled and a commerce was created instead. All supplies were under the authority of commerce sector. Ta Hoeng was secretary of Region [5].

In 1976, Yoeuk was put in charge of the district mobile unit, which consisted of 500 to 600 youth forces between 18 and 25 years of age. The unit consisted of a mixture of local youth and youth from the cities like Phnom Penh and other provinces. The youth mobile unit was charged with carrying soil for dam construction, and farming and harvesting rice. At the time, their work locations ranged from Chup to Prey Moan.

Yoeuk then became deputy chief of an agricultural site of the Region under the leadership of Chhang, chief of the site. The agricultural site consisted of three cooperatives consisted with 3,000 to 6,000 people. The elderly people of the cooperatives worked on the plantation, while the youth worked on dam construction, digging canals, and farming and harvesting rice. The territory of the agricultural site of the Region [5] ranged from Rohal to Prey Moan, or about 7 kilometers. The chief of first cooperative was Num, the chief of the second cooperative was Met (a female), and the chief of the third cooperative was Set. They are all dead.

In late 1976, the site was dismantled again due because the products were not being divided equally, and the territory was left to the respective cooperatives to manage. At this point, Yoeuk with three hundred other people formed a mobile unit for the Region. Chang became an assistant of the district echelon and was tasked with overseeing work in Prasat and Toek Chou.

The chief of regional mobile unit, [Ta] Val, was the overall supervisor of the dam at the Trapeang Thma reservoir. He had assistance from seven members of the so-called committee, including San, Khov, Chann, Yoeuk, Mith (female), Ruom (female), and Ran (female). They were responsible for respective area.

Before he became a chief of the regional mobile unit, [Ta] Val was a commander of the military of Region [5], a position equal to Regiment. Later on, Chay was a commander of military of Region [5].

From that time on, the regional mobile unit was made to work in the Preah Netr Preah district. The regional mobile unit consisted of approximately 7,000 people, the majority of whom were women. The original work of this unit was to construct dams and repair damaged dams in the area from Sres to Kamboar (known as Kamboar-Sres Dam). Yoeuk did not work directly for Kamboar-Sres dam, as he was always with [Ta] Val.

Before constructing each dam, a careful study of its length and width was undertaken so the correct number of people would be allocated for the construction.

The construction of the dam at Trapeang Thma reservoir led to a huge gathering of all mobile units from all the districts, including Thmar Kaul, Phnom Srok, Sereisophoan, and Preah Netr Preah. The regional mobile unit joined as well.

In 1977 there was a meeting held in Svay Sisophon during which the upper echelon from the Central Committee, Zone (Northwestern Zone, led by Ros Nhim) and the Region came together. At this meeting, they established a committee tasked with gauging the road from Daun Nay to Angkor Wat. The attendees of the meeting sought ways to construct a dam for secondary use as a road to connect the Angkor Wat area. The second meeting was convened at Trapeang Thma.

The dam was originally planned to be 20 meters wide at the top, 60 meters wide at the bottom, with a height of 12 meters and a length of 9 kilometers. The original plan allocated forces as follows: 4,000 members of each mobile unit from the five districts, and 7,000 members of the regional mobile unit. The original timeline allowed three months to complete construction of the dam.

Finally, ground was broken on the project for the dam of the Trapeang Thma reservoir in February 1977. However, in late 1976, some of members of the committee, including Chann, Yoeuk and Ruom received new tasks. The labor force of the first group of the regional mobile unit was assigned to carry two to three cubic meters of soil per day, and received a food ration of three cans of rice per day.

Later, upper echelon of the Zone and the Region were arrested. [Ta] Val was arrested in June 1977, after Ta Hoeng's arrest. Tuy, from the Northwestern Zone, arrested [Ta] Val. Ta Nhim also arrested soon after the arrest of Ta Hoeng, Val, Hat, Pheng, Moang. The secretary of the Sereysophoan district was Soth.

After these arrests, Ta Rin replaced [Ta] Val as chief of Region [5]. Ta Peung, as regional military commander, was placed in charge of economic aspects of the regional mobile unit at the dam of the Trapeang Thma reservoir. Chhan was in charge of the district military of Phnom Srok.

During the period of Rin's control, a new plan was made for the construction of the dam of Trapeang Thma reservoir. The 32,000 laborers received a food ration of three cans of rice a day. This plan aimed to have 1,000 sacks of rice left in the warehouse.

In December, 1977, Yoeuk was in charge of the economic decisions at Trapeang Thma. Ta Yon and Poal were stationed at Trapeang Thma. When the rainy season came, the regional mobile unit pulled out many of its members, and kept only 4,000 people to repair the dam and to grow rice.

Later on, Ta Rin was arrested and Chem [Im Chem] replaced him as a chief of Region [5].

When she became chief of Region [5], Chem came to see Yoeuk and asked about economic situation so that she would be able to better plan for continuing work on the dam. However, the plan was never executed because the Vietnamese troops entered the district.

44- Han Chanrin (F)



Chanrin is 55 years old and was born in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah connmune, Preah Netr Preah district Battambang province. Chanrin's father's name is Huon Saroeun and her mother's name is Sang Nay. Chanrin has five siblings. Chanrin's husband's name is Thim Sat and he is 60 years old. Chanrin has five children. She lives in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah connmune, Preah Netr Preah district Banteay Meanchey province.

Chanrin studied until grade 10 of the old system in Preah Netr Preah Primary School. Chanrin dropped out of the School in 1970, and, she helped her parents in the rice field.

In 1975, the KR evacuated Chanrin's family to live in the villages of Kaun Damrei Sreh. Chanrin was forced to labor in the mobile work unit, where [Ta] Hoeun was a chief. Chanrin was then selected to the mobile work unit of Preah Netr Preah District, and her unit was sent to carry earth to build Kok Rumchek's dam. At that time, [Ta] Val was a chief of mobile work unit of Region [5]. [Ta] Maong was a chief of the Preah Netr Preah District. [Ta] Krak was a chief of the Preah Netr Preah Commune.

In 1976, Chanrin was sent to plant rice at Kok Rumchek. She started in the rice field at 7 a.m. and worked until 11 a.m. She started again from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sometimes, Chanrin was forced to plant rice in night time, from 6 p.m. to 12 midnight.

In early 1977, Chanrin escaped to her home village, but after one week she was arrested by [Ta] Krak and [Ta] Phan and sent to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Chanrin told us that work conditions at the construction site were very hard. The KR forced her to carry three cubic meters of earth per day. At the site, Chanrin did not have enough food to eat and water was in short supply. Chanrin slept in a collective shelter, directly on the earth, without pillows, blankets or mosquito nets.

45- Lach Cheu (F)



Cheu is 60 years old and was born in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Battambang province. Cheu's father's name is Lach Sin and her mother's name is Poeu. Cheu's husband's name is Koy Ren and he is 61 years old. Cheu has two children. She now lives in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah

district Banteay Meanchey province.

Cheu did not go to school when she was young because her family was poor. Instead, Cheu worked for fellow villagers as a hired laborer.

In 1975, Cheu's family was evacuated to live in Sreh village. There, she was forced to plant rice for one year. Her family was allowed to live in the same village.

In the dry season of 1976, Cheu was sent to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite for seven months, then she was sent back to Kor Bei Daem. There, she was forced to carry earth to build a dam. Cheu remembers that the work conditions at Trapeang Thma Dam worksite were very hard. The KR required that one person carry three cubic meters of earth per day. There was not enough food to eat. As result, many people were died from starvation, overwork, and disease.

46- Chann Diel (F)



Diel is 50 years old and was born in Cheung Wattt village, Preah Netr Preah connmune, Preah Netr Preah district, Battambang province. Diel's father's name is Krang Dien and her mother's name is Nap Hoeun. Diel has two siblings. Diel's husband's name is Kung Sa Roeun and he is 54 years old. Diel has four children. She lives in Cheung Watt village, Preah Netr Preah connmune, Preah Netr Preah district Banteay Meanchey province.

Diel went to school for only three months when she was young. Then, she helped her parents in the rice field. In 1975, the KR evacuated her family to live in Paoy Tapen village. After that, Diel was sent to a mobile work unit and planted rice in Paoy Tapen village. She was then sent to carry earth to build dam and ditch canal in Prey Moan.

In 1976, [Ta] Krak sent Diel to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. There, many thousands of people were forced to carry earth to the construction site. Regulations stated that one person had to carry three cubic meters of earth per day. Many people were arrested and killed by the Angkar Khmer Rouge if they were suspected of being lazy or if they were ill at the construction site.

In 1977 or 1978 a few delegations came to visit the construction site. However, Diel did not know where the delegations came from or who accompanied them. [Ta] Val and [Ta] Maong often came to control and oversee the construction site.

In late 1977, Diel was sent to a cotton farm at Kang Va Mountain. At that time, many cadres in the Northwest Zone were arrested and killed by the cadres came from South west Zone. In 1978, Diel requested to marry to Kung Saroeun but they lived in separated from each other because they worked in different organizations.

47- Yem Kimros (F)



Kimros is 56 years old and was born in Paoy Kdoeung village, Preah Netr Preah connmune, Preah Netr Preah distric, Battambang province. Kimros's father's name is Yem Nhip and her mother's name is Chi Loeun. Kimros has nine siblings. Kimros's husband's name is Pich Sovanna aka Saran. He is 59 years old.

Kimros went to Preah Netr Preah Primary School and then continued her studies in a high school in Serei Sophoan Town. Kimros dropped out of the school when she was in grade 1 of the old system.

In 1975, Kimros returned to her home village and lived with her parents. Then, the KR evacuated her family to live in Daun Chreng. At the time, [Ta] Krak was a chief of the Preah Netr Preah commune. [Ta] Chhan was a chief of farming in the commune. In September 1975, Kimros was sent to Kor Bei Daem and carried earth to build a dam in Prey Moan.

In 1976, Kimros was sent back to her village to farm. She started in the field at 7 a.m. and worked until 11 a.m. Her work started again at 1 p.m. and lasted until 5 p.m. Kimros was not provided enough food for lunch and dinner.

In 1977 the KR sent Kimros to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. There, Kimros was assigned to the mobile work unit of Region [5]. At that time, there were several thousand people, from Preah Netr Preah, Phnom Srok, Serei Sophoan, and Thma Puok. They were forced to carry earth at the construction site. Kimros was promoted to be a chief of the small cell. Boeun and Phan were chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the big cell. Kimros told us that the KR forced each person to carry at least three cubic meters of earth per day. Kimros and her group members were offered one bowl of rice and fish paste soup (Brahok) for lunch and dinner. There was no water to drink or to have showers. [Ta] Val was a chief of the mobile work unit of Region [5] and he also was in charge of the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. During this period, many people died because of starvation, overwork, and execution.

In 1978, [Ta] Val, [Ta] Maong and [Ta] Sam-at who were chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the Preah Netr Preah district were arrested and killed by cadres from the Southwest Zone. Afterwards, Chiel, deputy chief of Region [5], and Ros Nhim, a chief of Northwest Zone, were arrested by [Ta] Mok soldiers. The Northwest Zone was then controlled by [Ta] Mok. Rin replaced Hoeng as the chief of Region [5] and [Ta] Poal was assigned to be a chief of the mobile work unit and became responsible for Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. [Yeay] Chaem became a chief of the Preah Netr Preah district after [Ta] Maong and [Ta] Sam-at were arrested.

In late 1978, Kimros was sent to Kang Va, Svay Sisophon. There, she was in Women's Mobile Work Unit and she was assigned to grow cotton trees. Kimros returned to her home village when the Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979.

48- Mao Bo (M)



Bo is 55 years old and was born in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Bo's father's name is Da Loy and his mother's name is Peou Luon. He has nine siblings. Bo's wife's name is Si Pha and she is 54 years old. Bo has six children. Bo lives in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay

Meanchey Province.

Bo did not go to School when he was young because his family was very poor. Bo worked as a hired laborer from the time he was little boy. In 1974, Bo volunteered to serve as a KR soldier in the Phnom Srok district, where [Ta] Val was a chief of the unit. At that time, Bo knew that Cheal was a son of Ros Nhim, who was a chief of North West Zone. Cheal married So Phim's daughter. [Ta] Maong also was a commander in the [Ta] Val unit.

In late 1976, Bo was promoted to be a chief of a battalion of mobile a work unit in Region [5], where [Ta] Val was a chief of the unit. At that time, Bo's unit was at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Bo told us that [Ta] Val ordered all members in the mobile work units to carry at least three cubic meters of earth per day.

In 1978, most of cadres in Region [5] were arrested and killed by [Ta] Mok soldiers. [Yeay] Chaem, [Ta] Poal, and Rin replaced the cadres mentioned above.

49- Muong Ry (F)



Ry is 53 years old and was born in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Battambang province. Ry's father's name is Maong Puth and her mother's name is Pon Saruon. Ry has seven siblings. Her husband's name is Dik Lek and he is 59 years old. Ry has six children. Ry lives in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Ry studied until grade 7 of the old system and quit school before the coup d'état in 1970. She then helped her parents in the rice field.

In 1975, she was selected to labor in the mobile work unit in Sreh Kaet village. There, she was forced to carry earth to build a dam. Then, she was sent to the Rohall commune, where she was assigned to pile up the dike for the rice field and dig the canal.

In late 1976, Ry and her unit were sent to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. To get there, they walked from Veal Chhouk Thom to Trapeang Thma. When they arrived, the KR built a long hall and provided the unit with earth moving baskets (Bangky), hoes, and a carrying stick for each of them. The KR told them that they each had to carry three cubic meters of earth per day. Ry worked in the field from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., broke for lunch, and worked again from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Ry was offered one bowl of rice with Brahok soup. Ry added that there was not enough water to drink or to have showers. Many people were died from starvation, overwork, and execution at the construction site.

In 1978, Ry was sent to Kor Bei Daem. There, she was forced to keep water for farming. In 1979, Ry returned to her home village and she married Dik Lek in 1983.

50- Khou Mean (F)



Mean is 55 years old and was born in Paoy Pring village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Battambang province. Mean's father's name is Khou Hop and her mother's name is Prum Nay. Mean has six siblings. Her husband's name is Pol Soeun and he is 54 years old. Mean has six children. Mean lives in the Paoy Pring village.

Mean did not go to school when she was young because her parents did not allow Mean or her sisters go to school. Mean helped her parents in the rice field until 1975.

After the KR came to power in 1975, Mean was assigned to the women's mobile work unit in Paoy Pring village. Mean was forced to carry earth to build a dam and ditch canal in O-Rontah Banh, Prey Moan, and Prey Kaun Kleng.

In 1976, Mean was in the mobile work unit of Region [5], where [Ta] Val and [Ta] Maong were chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the unit. Ros Nhim was in charge of the Northwest Zone. In late 1976, Mean was sent to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. There, the KR forced to each person to carry three cubic meters of earth. There was not enough food or water during this time. Many people were killed by the KR at the construction site.

51- Eu Yoeut (F)



Yoeut is 51 years old and was born in Sreh Lich village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Battambang province. Yoeut's father's name is Klann Yun and her mother's name is Khlouk Iem. Yoeut has eight siblings. Yoeut's husband's name is Sam Yo and he is 50 years old. Yoeut has four children. Yoeut lives in Sreh Lich village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey Province.

Yoeut studied until grade 10 in the old system. She dropped out of school when she was 13 years old.

In 1975, Yoeut was selected to work in the youth unit where [Ta] Krak was a chief. Her unit was then sent to Phnom Leap to ditch a canal. In 1977, Yoeut was sent to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. There, several thousand people were forced to carry earth. [Ta] Val was in charge of the site. Yoeut said she saw many people die because of starvation and over work. She also saw people executed at the construction site. In 1978, the Southwest Zone's cadres arrived and arrested cadres from every level of the Northwest Zone. Yoeut returned to her home village when the Vietnamese entered Cambodia in 1979.

52- So Lay (M)



Lay is 57 years old and was born in Popel village, Rohal commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Battambang province. Lay's father's name is Loeung and his mother's name is Koy Mon. Lay has seven siblings. Lay's wife's name is Chhim Savuth and she is 54 years old. Lay has four children. Lay lives in Sreh Kaet village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Lay did not go to school when he was young. Lay was a hired laborer in his village until 1974. In 1974, Lay became a monk at the Paoy Svay Pagoda, where he practiced until the KR came to power in April 17, 1975.

In 1975, Lay was forced to labor in the mobile work unit in the Preah Netr Preah commune. Lay was forced to carry earth at O-Runtah Banh, where [Ta] Krak was a chief of the commune. In 1976, Lay was sent to the mobile work unit of Region [5] and carried earth to build a dam in Prey Moan.

In 1977, Lay was sent to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite where [Ta] Val was in charge of construction. There were over ten thousand people sent to carry earth at the site. In 1978, most cadres in the Northwest Zone and many people were arrested and killed by the Southwest Zone's cadres.

53- Mi Mao (F)



Mao is 56 years old and was born in Daun Chreng village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Battambang Province. Mao's father's name is Mi and her mother's name is Hach. Mao has five siblings. Mao is youngest in her family.

Mao went to school for only one year and then quit because her parents were very poor. Mao was a hired laborer in her village until 1975.

In 1975, Mao was sent to the mobile work unit of Region [5] where [Ta] Val was a chief of the unit. First, she was forced to carry earth to build a dam from Kambao to Sreh villages. Afterwards, she carried earth at O-Runtah Banh Dam with 1000 other people.

In late 1976, Mao was sent to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. There, Mao was promoted to be a chief of the Small Cell of the Mobile Work Unit in Region [5]. Mao said that [Ta] Val was a chief at the construction site. Mao was in Trapeang Thma for six months and she saw many people executed and died from starvation.

In 1977, Mao was sent to Prey Moan to farm. There, she saw [Yeay] Chaem who was a chief of the Preah Netr Preah district. Chaem was a cadre who came from the Southwest Zone in 1977.

54- Nuon Chandoeun alias Chak (M)



Chak is 54 years old and was born in Chakkrei village, Chup Vary commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. His wife's name is E Saroeum and she is 52 years old. He has four children--one daughter and three sons. Chak also has three siblings--one sister and two brothers. He studied through grade 3 of the old system at Kralanh High School during the Lon Nol regime.

In 1975, the Khmer Rouge attacked his

village. Chak was evacuated to Saraong village with his family. He worked in the mobile work unit where Chan was a chief. There were 30 members in the unit. Chak carried earth at Tuol Srah dam. He then continued to carry earth along the ancient road toward to Trapeang Thma Dam.

In 1977, cadres from the Southwest Zone came and arrested [Ta] Val. They forced Chak and other people in the unit to take rice seedlings. After this, Chak was sent to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite, between the first and second bridges. Sometimes, Chak started his work at 4 or 5 a.m. The Khmer Rouge provided him 3 meals per day. However, Chak did not get enough water to drink during that time. Finally, the Khmer Rouges sent him to the Toek Chou cooperative. He remained there until January 6, 1979.

55- Chhay Phan (F)



Phan is 55 years old and was born in Cheung Watt village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Phan has five siblings, all of whom survived the regime. In 1975, she was evacuated to Tapen village, and worked with [Ta] Val, a chief of mobile unit in Region [5]. She was assigned to work in a special unit with 30 other people.

All members in her unit were appointed to carry 3.5 cubic meters of land per day at Kambao-Sreh and the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. She worked from 4 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 to 5 p.m.. Mit, a chief of one hundred units, supervised all the work.

Phan lived and ate collectively at the worksite. She was also required to attend a meeting three times per week. She was able to return to her home village in 1979.

56- Ros Saoreueung (F)



Saoreueung is 51 years old and was born in Cheung Watt village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Saoreueung has six siblings, three brothers and three sisters. She was evacuated to Tapen village when she was 25 years old. She was assigned to carry one cubic meter

of land per day; sometimes, she was forced to carry three cubic meters per day. A big unit

consisted of hundred members, led by Hin, the chief of a hundred units.

Later, Saoreoeung was assigned to work at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. She was then moved to Lork. She said that Sal was accused of being a Lon Nol soldier, and he was killed by Khmer Rouge cadre there.

57- Poeu Chun (F)



Chun is 55 years old and was born in Cheung Watt village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Chun was evacuated to Tapen village. She was recruited to work in a small unit of 30 members and then assigned to live and work in the Kor Bei Daem cooperative. Later, she was moved to the Kambao-Sreh cooperative in order to build a canal. The new cooperative was under Mei's

supervision, and Mei was chief of her unit. [Ta] Val was a chief of the regional mobile work unit.

Chun was assigned to carry six cubic meters of land per day, 3.5 during the day and 2.5 at night. She remembers that many people died in Kambao-Sreh because of overwork and disease.

Chun worked at Kambao-Sreh for several months before she asked her unit's chief for permission to work in her home village.

Later she married a man who was a teacher. Today, she has two sons.

58- Chann Noy (F)



Noy is 52 years old and was born in Post Chass village, Preah Neth Phreah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

She studied until grade 11 of the old regime at Preah Netr Preah primary school. In 1975, she was evacuated to Sreh village, and then to Paoypring village. Later Noy was assigned

to Trapeang Krapeu where she worked from 7 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. She carried two cubic meters of land per day under the supervision of Mei, a chief of her unit.

[Ta] Val was a chief of regional mobile work unit.

Noy worked at Trapeang Krapeu for a while, and then moved to work for Runtah Banh dam, which was 13 kilometers in length. There, she barely had enough food to eat. She remembers that at Runtah Banh, many people got sick and died. She saw Khmer Rouge take a child named Thleum to kill because he was accused of stealing rice.

Noy worked at Runtah Banh dam for a month, and then she moved to the Prey Kaun Khleng dam. She was assigned to carry two and a half cubic meters of land per day. She ate only porridge and soup. Noy got only a jar of water to drink per day, and she did not take a shower after several days. She stayed at her worksite and slept on the ground.

Later on, Noy was assigned to work at the Prey Kaun Mon dam. She worked there until Vietnamese troops entered Cambodia in 1979. She and her family then came to Post Chass village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

59- Doeun Ngak (F)



Ngak is 49 years old and was born in Tapen village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Ngak has four siblings. Her mother died during the Khmer Rouge regime and her father died when Vietnamese troops captured Cambodia in 1979.

In 1975, she was evacuated to Sreh village and there she was recruited to work in a children's unit. Later, she and her family were moved to Paoy Samroang village. There, Khoeun, a chief of hundred units, assigned her to build the Kamboa Sreh dam.

Ngak worked from 6 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.. She was forced to carry four cubic meters of land per day and she was rationed only a small amount of food. Many people starved to death.

In the months following her work at Kamboa Sreh, Ngak moved to cotton farm in Kang Va. She became ill due to over workload and was sent to the hospital. She stayed there for while. One day, she saw the Khmer Rouge take a patient to kill him because he stole the flesh of a corpse to eat.

Later, Ngak was moved to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. She was forced to carry two cubic meters of land per day and she was allowed to eat only two times per day. She always saw San, [Ta] Val, and Moang patrolling the worksite at the dam and mobile units. She stayed at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite until 1979.

60- Thon Thy (M)



Thy is 51 years old and was born in Tapen village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Thy has five siblings and he studied until grade 8 in the old regime. In 1975, he was evacuated to Sreh village. There, Koa, a unit chief, assigned him to build the Kambao-Sreh dam. Thy was assigned to the special unit where he was required carry two cubic

meters of land per day. Sometimes he worked late at night.

Thy moved to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite in February 1977, there, he was promoted to be a chief of the children's unit, and Angkar provided him two cans of rice to eat. There were three children's units, consisting of 200 children each. He saw thousands of people working at Trapeang Thma and often saw Hoeng, a secretary of Region [5], who came to supervise the progress of the work on the dam. Some people were infected by typhoid, malaria and swollen because most of them ate lack of salt.

Later on, Thy moved to a cotton farm in Kang Va. He was a chief of a unit and he was assigned to lead his members to cut down trees in order to make room to grow cotton. At one point, the Chinese delegation came to see him and his unit. Once, while worked on the cotton farm, he got ill due to overwork and then was sent to the hospital.

After he recovered, Angkar assigned him to work at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite until 1979. Then, Thy returned his village.

61- Thon Dareth (F)



Dareth is 44 years old and was born in Paoy Pring village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

She has 5 siblings and she studied until grade 4. In 1975, the Khmer Rouge evacuated her family to Sreh village. There, she stayed with her parents. Later, Dareth moved to Paoy Samroang village and was assigned to work in a children's unit.

She was appointed to build the Runtah Banh dam and to collect plant fertilizers. Her mother was assigned to work in the cooking unit and her father was in the mobile work unit.

One day, she saw the Khmer Rouge militiaman Pao Leng come to arrest his father. Later, she discovered that her father was accused of being high ranking in the Lon Nol regime.

Then, Angkar transferred her mother from cooking unit to a fishing unit. However, Dareth recalls that Angkar continued to spy on her family until 1979.

62- Kao Phan (M)



Phan is 58 years old and was born in Tavorng village, Ponley commune, Phnom Srok district, Battambang province.

Phan has 5 siblings. He studied until grade 8 in old regime. In 1975, the Khmer Rouge recruited Phan to work in a production unit, and then transferred him to Svay Sisophoan town, where Joy was a chief of his unit.

There, Phan learned how to drive a tractor. After the training, the chief of the unit assigned him to plow the rice field in the Phtah Kraham cooperative, which was located on a road to Paoypet, and in Kangva, for cotton planting.

Later on, Phan moved to Phnom Leap village. There, he was assigned to transport stone from Phnom Trayong to the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite to construct bridges and water gates. He worked as a driver until Vietnamese troops entered Cambodia in 1979.

63- Hem Savin (F)



Savin is 51 years old and was born at Post Chass village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Savin has six siblings and she studied until grade 7 in the old regime. Now, she is an orphan. In 1975, she was evacuated to Kaun Damrei village. Then, she moved to Sres village and to Paoy Pring village.

Savin was recruited to be a chief of a small cell that consisted of 50 members. She was then promoted to be chief of a big cell that consisted of 100 members. As a chief of the unit, she led her members to build the Kombao-Sreh dam. It was 15 meters in width, and stretched to 13 kilometers in length. Angkar planned that the work would take three to four months to finish.

[Ta] Val controlled all of these works, and he assigned Savin's unit members to carry two cubic meters of land per day. People slept where they worked. There were not enough food to eat, and because of this many people got sick and died. Some people were treated medically, but poorly, at their work site and some were sent to the hospital. If Angkar thought that the patients pretended to be ill, the patients would be killed.

Every week, a meeting was held and presided over by [Ta] Val. [Ta] Val always asked all the chiefs of units to push their members to work harder. After the Kambao–Sreh dam was completed, Angkar organized marriages for 70 couples within the mobile units. If they did not follow Angkar's order to be married, they would be killed.

Later on, Savin led her members to work at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite, still under [Ta] Val's supervision. She was dismissed from being a chief of the mobile work unit. She witnessed thousands of people working at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. The purpose of building the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite was to reserve water for farming. People slept at the worksite. Many people got sick and died because there was not enough drinking water.

Finally, Savin fled home to her village when the Khmer Rouge regime collapsed.

64- Vann Sovy (F)



Sovy was born in Post Chass village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchhey province.

She studied until grade 6. Her father and husband were killed by the Khmer Rouge. She went to live with her aunt in Siem Reap when she was a child.

In 1975, she returned to hometown at Preah Netr Preah. She stayed in the village for a while, and later the Khmer Rouge assigned her to labor at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite, under the supervision of [Ta] Val, Mong and Ath.

Sovy was assigned to carry 2.5 cubic meters of land per day. Each night she slept on the ground. She had only porridge to eat and not enough drinking water. Many people got ill and died.

Sovy's chief insulted her when she came to work late. She sometimes joined in meetings, and a chief of her unit always urged each unit member to complete the work as soon as possible. Later she was moved to work at Namtao, under San's supervision.

At Namtao, Sovy was assigned to carry three cubic meters of land per day. She witnessed two thousand people at work there. The chief of her unit was Larch. After a day at Namtao,

Sovy moved to work at the Kor Bei Daem cooperative. She worked there for six days, then she returned to her village.

65- Von Thorn (F)



Thorn is 52 years old and was born in Post Chass village, Preah Netr Preah commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Thorn only went through grade 9 in the old regime. She has three siblings. In 1975, she was evacuated to Sreh village, then moved to Paoy Kdoeung village.

Thorn was assigned to build the Kombao-Sreh dam and to work at the Tabun bridge site. Later on, she was assigned to build the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite, where [Ta] Val and Phan Chuong oversaw the working progress. People slept on the ground and barely had enough food to eat. As a result, they got sick and died.

Thorn worked from 3 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 1 p.m. until the late evening. She was assigned to carry 2.5 cubic meters of land per day. She then moved to work at the Kaun Khleung and Kor Bei Daem cooperatives until 1979.

66- Chhum Seng (M)



Seng is 57 years old. He was born in Phnom Leap village, Phnom Leap commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Seng now lives in Tavong village, Ponley commune, Phnom Srok district, Banteay Meanchey province. His wife is Veu Tho. She is 56 years old and was born in Phnom Leap village, Phnom Leap commune, Preah Netr Preah district, Banteay Meanchey province. Presently, she also lives in Tavong

village, Ponley commune, Phnom Srok district, Banteay Meanchey province.

Seng has three children. His father is Nou Kin, and he died during the Khmer Rouge regime. His mother is Ho Suong. Seng was evacuated from Phnom Leap to Phnom Kombao by the Khmer Rouge.

At first, Seng was a small cell chief, under Khov's and Von's control, both of whom were chief of his division. He became a chief of the division when Khov and Voun were promoted to be chiefs of the battalion. Ros Nhim was a chief of the sector. As a chief of the division, Seng reported to Khov and Von. He led a mobile unit to build the Kombao-Sreh dam and he assigned each of his unit members to carry four cubic meter of land per day. People who completed the task of carrying four cubic meters of land were provided more food to eat, but those who carried less than four cubic meter of land (from one to three cubic meters) per day received only a small ration of food.

A year later, Seng moved to work at a cotton farm in Kongva, where Leng and Sen were the supervisors. He always saw the Chinese delegation visiting the worksite. Furthermore, they had provided technical aid for the cotton planting.

On March and April 1977, Seng moved to work at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite before the dam was constructed. In one instance, [Ta] Val invited all chiefs and deputies of the battalion, including Khov and Von, to discuss a plan for construction of the dam. Then [Ta] Val assigned those chiefs to lead their unit members to build the dam.

Seng saw [Ta] Val redesign the Trapeang Thma Dam several times. In the final plan, the dam measured 35 to 40 meters in bottom width, 25 meters in surface width, 3 meters in height, and stretched to more than 10 kilometers. [Ta] Val recruited Tan, an engineer from the Lon Nol regime, to design the master plan, and asked Mang to construct bridges and water gates.

Seng remembers that ten thousand people were forced to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. Consequently, people were sick and died while they were working, and others were taken to be killed. People barely had enough water to drink or enough food to eat.

Seng saw Heong, a chief of region, and Chhin Vannku, a member of the Chinese delegation, come to see Trapeang Thma Dam worksite. In late 1977, Nhim was a secretary of Northwest zone, [Ta] Val were arrested and the KR assigned Poal from Southwest zone to supervise the working progress of the dam. At that time, Cheng and Nin replaced Khov and Von.

After 1979, Seng joined the Vietnam Force to overthrow the Khmer Rouge.

Observation

During the field trip, we learned that most youths (new and base people) in Preah Netr Preah district and other districts within Region [5] were forced to carry earth at the Trapeang Thma Dam worksite between late 1976 and January 1979. The construction is located in Trapeang Thma village, within the Phnom Srok district. The dam was constructed for the purposes of retaining water to farm with in the dry season and of extending the road toward Angkor Watt temple during that period. It was a very high dam: it was 12 meters high, 60 meters wide at its base, and stretched 9 kilometers in length. Its construction required thousands of people to provide labor. According to the KR cadres who supervised some sections at the construction site, the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK) designed an initial plan for the

dam. CPK planed to complete the construction within three months. However, the construction continued until the Vietnamese soldiers arrived in Cambodia in January 1979. Ieng Sary took the foreign delegation to visit the construction site once, in 1977.

The KR leaders forced people to carry three or more cubic meters of earth each every day during the construction of the dam. People were forced to carry as if they were slaves and received insufficient amounts of food and water during the period. The dam was still in the progress when the KR collapsed in January 1979. As the result, many people were executed or died of starvation and overwork.

Challenges



There were a few challenges during this field trip to the Preah Netr Preah district. First, as June is in the middle of the rainy season, it was somewhat difficult for us to reach the villages because of the weather and roads. Second, the Democratic Kampuchea regime was defeated for over three decades ago, so people who experienced working at the Trapeang Thma Dam Worksite were separated. Some people now live far way from the worksite, especially the cadres who

used to manage the construction. Moreover, many people did not remember exactly events and dates during the KR period.

[End]