

## “Humanizing Perpetrators: Is It Possible?”

### THE DC-CAM'S PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY FIELD TRIP REPORT Malai District -- A Former Khmer Rouge Stronghold Banteay Meanchey Province

By Dany Long

#### Summary and Context within Large Project

The interviews summarized above are part of an ongoing project being conducted by the Promoting Accountability (PA) team at Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam). This project involves conducting interviews with former Khmer Rouge cadres who live in the areas of Cambodia that were Khmer Rouge strongholds until the mid-1990s. In each of these areas the PA team interviews between 100 and 150 former Khmer Rouge cadres. To date, the PA team has found that these communities remain insular groups made up of individuals with markedly different viewpoints than other former Khmer Rouge cadres who have spent the past 30 plus years living side by side with victims of the Khmer Rouge regime throughout the rest of Cambodia. It is also become clear that these communities have not been integrated with the rest of Cambodian society.

The PA team’s work focuses on determining whether individuals within these insular, former Khmer Rouge communities can be humanized after being such staunch supporters of the bloody Khmer Rouge regime.

The team is currently drafting a book and photo exhibition of portraits of the individuals interviewed as part of this project entitled “Humanizing Perpetrators: Is It Possible?” Additionally, an international exhibition tour of photographs of family life in these communities, contrasting past and present portraits of former Khmer Rouge cadres and their families, is currently being developed.

#### I. Geographical Description and Brief History of Malai District

Malai district is one of twelve former Khmer Rouge strongholds located along the Cambodia-Thailand border, approximately 440km from Phnom Penh by National Road Number 5, down a road from Kaun Damrei to Malai District Hall.

Malai was a large forest area throughout Cambodia’s intermittent civil wars from the 1970s to the early 1990s, stretching from Kaun Damrei (Or Chrov district Banteay Meanchey province) to Bavi district, Battambang province. Several former Khmer Rouge cadres who were born in Mongkul Borei district, Banteay Meanchey province and other districts in

Battambang province stated that Malai was part of Mongkul Borei district, Battambang province during the Sihanouk, Lon Nol and Khmer Rouge regimes.

Malai's forest was controlled by the richest man in Mongkul Borei town, named Dangkhao Ya. When the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975, Ya was evacuated to Prek Sbov village, a village along Tunle Sap Lake. He was died of starvation there in 1976. Throughout their reign, the Khmer Rouge used Ya's former home as guest house.

Malai's forest was also used by the Liberated Khmer (Khmer Serei) as a base. The base was commanded by In Tam and Dieng Del, tried to resist the Khmer Rouge regime three times, in 1975, 1976 and 1977.

After Vietnamese soldiers invaded Cambodia in 1979, most Khmer Rouge cadres fled to the Northwest part of the country, particularly along the Cambodia-Thailand border. At that time the Khmer Rouge divided their forces into small groups to fight Vietnamese soldiers along the border. During the 1980s and 1990s, Malai was a Khmer Rouge base, referred to as Region 102 by the Khmer Rouge. The region was controlled by So Hong and Sokh Pheap. Overall, Ieng Sary was the overall supervisor of the Malai and Pailin areas.

The Khmer Rouge stronghold (Malai area) was integrated into the Royal Government of Cambodia in August of 1996. The former jungle battlefield which was the site of much violence and thick with mines has gradually been becoming houses, farms, markets and the like ever since.

According to the statistics of Malai's administrative office in June 2010, the Malai area was officially named Malai district, within Banteay Mean Chey province, by the Ministry of the Cabinet in 1997. There are 6 communes (Malai, Beong Beng, Or Sralao, Sampor, Tuol Tumpor and Takung communes) within Malai district. There are 9,325 households and total population is 43,384 (21,318 females and 22,064 males). 80 percent of the population of Malai district has resided in Malai since Vietnamese soldiers entered in Cambodia in 1979, while 20 percent are people who migrated to live in this location after integration in 1996.

## **II. Methodology**

Our PA team consists of six members (Dany Long, Vannak Sok, Sotheany Hin, Chhunly Chhay, Bunthorn Som and a professional photographer) and materials (a four wheels vehicle (Land Cruiser), authority letters, note books, pens, booklets, copies of DC-Cam's magazine "Searching for the Truth", MP3 recorders, Digital Cameras, Video Cameras, Batteries, Laptops and a modem) for the field trip to Malai district between October 12 and 22, 2010.

The team had two weeks to prepare for the field trip. Theany Hin and Vannak Sok prepared documents and materials necessary for the trip. They also compiled information on the Malai and surrounding areas, including maps and transcripts of previous PA interviews, DC-Cam Database data and notes from local contacts.

The team had two meeting and training sessions before travelling to Malai. Objectives of meeting and training as following:

- Learning to use provided technological devices such as MP3 recorders, Digital Cameras, and Video Cameras.
- Techniques of approaching and interviewing former Khmer Rouge cadres.
- Methodology of our planned collection of information concerning the geographical data and structures of Malai before, during and after the Democratic Kampuchea period.

### **III. Summary of Selected Interviews**

Between October 12 and 22, 2010, we interviewed 69 former Khmer Rouge cadres (27 female and 42 male) in Trasek Chrum, Veal Hatt, Daung, Kbal Spean, Kandal, Thmei, Watt Chass and Dambauk Vil villages, Malai commune, Sangke and Chambak villages Beong Beng commune, Beong Raing and Or Sralao villages Or Sralao commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. The summary of these interviews are provided below:

#### **1) Chea Pov**

Chea Pov is 53 years old and was born in Kanlang village, Ba-seth commune, Ba-seth district, Kampong Speu province.

She has 6 siblings. In 1976, she was assigned to work at mobile work brigade unit in Ba-seth commune. Later she was recruited to work at textile factory in Mongkul Borei district, Banteay Meanchey province.

In 1977, she moved to work in a vegetable growing unit in Ta-khmoa, Kandal province. When Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1979, she fled to Battambang and then Malai.

When the Vietnam took Malai in 1985, she fled to a refugee camp (Th-85) in Thailand territory and she returned to Malai again after the Paris Peace Accord in 1991.

Currently, she lives in Thmei village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province.

#### **2) Chin Net**

Chin Net was born in Keng Prasat viilage, Sambo commune, Sambo district, Kratie province.

He joined the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1972 and was sent to the liberated zone, where he worked in messenger unit.

After Khmer Rouge's victory in 1975, he served food to King Sihanouk in the royal palace. Later, he was assigned to work as a waiter in Hotel Le Royal, which belonged to the

ministry of foreign affairs at the time. At the hotel, he served food to Chinese and foreign delegations.

During the Khmer Rouge regime, Chin Net knew many senior Khmer Rouge cadres in the Ministry of foreign Affairs including Suong Sikeoun, Long Narin, Hoa Namhong, Kiet Chhun and others.

When the Khmer Rouge regime lost power, he fled to Pailin, where he met Ieng Sary. Later, he moved to Malai. Currently, he lives in Duong village, Malai commune, Malai district and Banteay Meanchey province.

### **3) Ith Ham**

Ith Ham is 60 year old. He was born in Kbal Damrey district, Tatrav commune, Puok district, Banteay Meanchey province.

He went to school only 3 years when he was young. In 1972, he joined the revolution and was assigned to work at a security office in Tatrav commune. Later, he became a soldier at a military unit in Pouk district, where he was assigned to fight against Lon Nol soldiers in many battlefields in Siem Reap.

When the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975, his unit was moved to work in Phnom Penh. While there, he was assigned to work digging a channel and carrying earth in Chamkar Doud.

In 1976, he was recruited to work at office 870 and the Chinese embassy. He was in Tamol's unit (870 office) and he used to see many Chinese experts in Phnom Penh during the DK.

In 1978, Tamol accused Ham of being a Spy and moved him to work in Chamka Doud. Later, he was sent to work at Kampong Som seaport.

In 1979, he fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border and then to Malai. Currently, he has 3 children and lives in Thmei village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province.

### **4) Krouch Teom**

Krouch Teom is 75 years old. His home village is in Peak Bang Aong village, Trapaing Thom commune, Tramkak district, Takeo province.

He dropped out of school when he was in grade 7 (old regime grade system). After the coup d'état by Lon Nol in 1970, he was recruited to be a chief of Prek Bang Aong village.

In 1976, he was sent to work in Prahnet Prah district with Yeay Chem. A year later he was moved to work as a chief of Namtau commune, Phnom Srok district.

When Viet Nam soldiers took Phnom Penh in 1979, he fled to Dangrek Mountain and then Malai. Now he lives in Beong Beng commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province.

## 5) Meach Chhay

Chhay was born in Tik Vil village, Prek Thmey commune, Sa-ang district, Kandal province.

He dropped out of school when he was in grade 6 at Tik Vil Lower Secondary School. In 1969, he went to work as a barker with a Chinese shop in Phnom Penh.

After the Lon Nol coup d'état 1970, Chhay returned to his home village. At that time, a Viet-Cong commander asked for him to stay with them. Later, he fled the Viet-Cong and joined the Khmer Rouge revolution in Region 25. He was in the Khmer Rouge Central Unit in Koh Thom.

In 1975, Chhay was in division 12, located at Tik Thla, Phnom Penh. In 1977, a commander assigned him to fight against Vietnamese soldiers at Svay Rieng, but a few days later he fled to Phnom Penh and worked in a factory in Phnom Penh.

In 1979, he fled to Malai. In 1990, he lost a leg and an eye by mining explosion.

Now he lives in Watt Chas village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province.

## 6) Mot Riem

Mot Riem is 52 years old and was born in Prek Angkor Thmei village, Chikreng commune, Chikreng district, Siem Reap Province.

She has 8 siblings. In 1970, she left her parents and went to train at the Regional Art Unit for Region 32 with her aunt, named Savoeun. She performed many places within the liberated zone after she trained in performance arts for two years.

In 1973, Riem and her group performed in Banteay Chhmar area and took several photos there. One of her group's photos was published in A History of Democratic Kampuchea book page 38. (Riem stood in the last row and she is second from left).

At that time, she was recruited to train in Region 41 in Chamka Leu, Kampong Cham, where she was instructed by Thuch. Two years later, she was sent to previous Region 32 to teach young art students.

When the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975, she was assigned to perform at Angkor Wat for a week for Ieng Sary, Kiev Samphan, other senior Khmer Rouge leaders as well as foreign delegates.

Later, she was recruited to work at Central Art Unit in Phnom Penh, lead by Ho Nim. At there she performed for King Sihanouk, Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Noun Chea and foreign delegations at Chaktomuok theatre and Olympic stadium.

When Ho Nim and her aunt, named Long were arrested, Riem was sent to Wat Sleng and assigned her to cook for prisoners.

In 1979, she fled to Malai, where Ieng Sary recruited her to work at Th-100 within Thailand. There, she looked after the children of Khmer Rouge ambassadors. In 1982, she asked Ieng Sary to allow her to return to Malai. Riem still continued to work at the Art Unit in Malai, which was then led by Ta Vin (currently, he is a chief of Takong commune, Malai district). Thereafter, she moved to work in transport unit.

In 1983, The Khmer Rouge in Malai created a pagoda and there were a few men ordained to be Buddhist monks and all Khmer Rouge in Malai went to pray there.

She got married in 1984 in Khla Ngabb and a year later she fled to Th-85. In 1990, she returned to live in Wat Chass village, Malia commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province.

### **7) Ou Cheoun**

Ou Cheoun is 51 years old. He was born in Ork Um village, Ba Phnom district, Prey Veng province.

Cheoun dropped out of school in 1970 when he was in grade 2. After the Lon Nol coup d'état in 1970, he stayed home and helped his parents farm.

In 1975, he was assigned to work in a Vehicle Unit in Phnom Penh. In 1977, he was recruited to build a new rail-road from Phnom Penh to Kampong Som.

When the Khmer Rouge was defeated in 1979, Cheoun fled to Lem in Kamrieng district, Battambang province. He joined the Khmer Rouge military and was later disabled by a mine explosion.

Later, Cheoun moved to Malai. Currently, he lives in Duong village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province.

### **8) Puong Thy**

Puong Thy is 59 years old. She was born in Koak Thnang village, Phnom Thom commune, Mongkul Borei district, Banteay Meanchey province.

She has seven siblings and was in grade 12 in (old regime grade system) when the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975. The new regime assigned her to work in a mobile work brigade unit in Nimit commune.

When Vietnamese soldiers took over Phnom Penh in 1979, she was evacuated by the Khmer Rouge to Malai and assigned to work in transport unit.

Currently, Thy lives in Trasek Chrum village, Malai commune, Malai district and Banteay

Meanchey province.

### **9) Pot Von**

Pot Von is 75 years old and was born in Anlong Russey village, Thnar Ansar commune, Krakor district, Pursat province.

During the Lon Nol regime, Von left her family to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in Leach, where she worked in a mobile work brigade unit.

In 1977, Von was assigned to work in Koh Kong province. A year later, she was moved to Pailin, where she worked at a coffee plantation.

In 1979, Von fled to Malai, where she served in a transport unit. Currently, Von lives alone in Trasek Chrum village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province.

### **10) Sok Chheoun**

Sok Chheoun is 56 years old and was born in Sdoa village, Kolen district, Preah Vihear province.

In 1972, Chheoun dropped out of lower secondary school and decided to join the Khmer Rouge revolution. She was first sent to a liberated zone in Kampong Cham province, where she cooked for senior Khmer Rouge leaders including Pol Pot, Khiev Samphan and Nuon Chea.

A few months later, Chheoun was recruited to work in a transport unit in Kampong Leng district, Kampong Chhnang province. Later, a Khmer Rouge commander assigned her to sew cloths for soldiers. In 1974, she was moved to Batheay, Kampong Cham province where she worked as a tailor.

In 1975, Chheoun was assigned to sew pillows in the Royal Palace where she met Nuon Chea and Khiev Samphan. Later on, she was recruited to clean the accommodations of Chinese delegations and cook for Chinese photographers.

In 1976, Chheoun worked in a messenger unit. She also married a man who was a driver for ministry of foreign affairs at the time. In 1979 Chheoun and her husband fled to Malai. Currently, she lives in Trasek Chrum village, Malai commune, Malai district.

### **11) Tuy Oam**

Tuy Oam is 68 years old and was born in Srekoang commune, Ba Phnom district, Prey Veng province.

Oam was in grade 9 (old regime grading system) when the Lon Nol coup d'état occurred in 1970. After the coup, Oam decided to join the Viet-cong military in Ba Phnom district.

Oam's first assignment was to fight against Lon Nol soldiers in Kampong Trabek and Ka Andeuk, Prey Veng province.

Later, Oam was recruited to lead a Communal Security Unit in Ba Phnom district. In 1975, he was promoted to be a deputy of Region 24 and a year later he was moved to Region 23 in Svay Rieng province.

In 1979, Oam fled to Malai where he was assigned to division 450, lead by Sok Pheap. Currently, he lives in Sangke village, Boeng Beng commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province.

### **12) Ing Han**

Ing Han is 55 years old and was born in Trapaing Thom Cheung village, Tramkak district, Takeo province. Han has 9 siblings. In 1973, he was recruited by the Khmer Rouge to work at Region 13, Battalion 2, in the Southwest Zone. After he trained for 3 months, Han was assigned to fight against Lon Nol forces at Phnom Den, Prey Pring, Choam Chao. In 1975, he was moved to division 2, in the Western Zone. Later, Han was assigned to the Long Vek military base for one year and thereafter to Koh Kong province, where he did farm work. In 1979, Han returned to his home village and was married. Three years later, he and his family went to live with his aunt at Prey Man, Phnom Chat in Thmar Puok district. When the Vietnamese forces reached there, he and his family fled to Malai.

When the Vietnamese soldiers took Malai in 1985, Han fled to Site 8 Refugee Camp and then moved to Th-85 Camp. In 1990, the Khmer Rouge took his family to Chhub Koki Dangrek Mountain. In 1994, Son San's government forces clashed with Khmer Rouge soldiers at Dangrek Mountain and Han fled to Malai. Currently, he lives in Chambak village, Boeng Beng commune, Malai district.

### **13) Nin Neav**

Non Neav is 46 years old. She was born in Prah Sre village, Samlanh commune, Angkor Chey district, Kampot province. Neav was in grade 2 in her village school when she left to join the Khmer Rouge. Under the Khmer Rouge, at first Neav was assigned to work in a mobile work brigade unit. In 1978, Angkar recruited her and other children to work in Kampong Som province, in the Western Zone.

In 1979, Niv fled to the Cambodian-Thai border. Once there, the International Red Cross took her to Srah Keo refugee camp. In 1980, Ieng Sary assigned Neav to work in an Art unit in Malai for one year and thereafter she transferred to a transport unit, where she saw prince Sihamony. In 1984, Ta Hong took Neav to Pailin and she was married there. Later, Neav's family moved to Th-85 camp in Thai territory. In 1990, she returned to Thmei village, Malai commune, Malai district.

### **14) Soa Heuy**



Soa Heuy is 52 years old. She was born in Bat village, Bat commune, Angkor Chum district, Siem Reap province. Heuy was the second of 6 children in her family. She studied at a pagoda school when she was a child. After Heuy dropped out of the school, she helped her parents grind rice grains.

In 1972, Heuy decided to join the Khmer Rouge revolution. She was placed in an Art Unit and was assigned to train in Prey Rumdol. Later, she was moved to a Regional Art Unit in the Northwest Zone, Located in Prey Doun Em, Varin district. While there, she traveled to and performed at all liberated zones within Siem Reap province.

In 1975, Angkar moved Heuy to work in a hospital in Regions 5, located in Svay Sisophon high school. At the hospital, she was a nurse under the supervision of officials named Koeun and Thai. When Heuy finished her work one day, Koeun and Thai ordered her to carry some medicine to Trapeang Thmar collective, where she heard medical staff mention that there was no medicine, yet new patients were arriving everyday.

In 1978 Yeay Chem became local district chief and arrested many high ranking local Khmer Rouge cadres including: Koeun, Thai, Cheal, Et, Heong, Mong, Vall and Nhim. Heuy was also arrested and sent to Khmer Rouge prison.

In 1979, Heng Samrin forces aligned with Vietnam, defeated local Khmer Rouge forces and released Heuy from the prison. She was then taken to live in Prahnet Prah for a short time. One day, Heuy's old friend visited her and persuaded her to rejoin the Khmer Rouge. Heuy then fled to Trang, Oddar Meanchey province, where the Khmer Rouge assigned her to work in transport unit and took her to Malai. Currently, Heuy lives in Veal Hatt village, Malai commune, Prahnet Prah district.

### **15) Teob Thim**

Teob Thim is 47 year old and was born in Ma-reum village, Da commune, Kratie district, Kratie province. She is the ninth of ten children in her family. Thim was in grade 3 when she stopped attending school.

In 1978, the Khmer Rouge recruited Thim to work as a medical staff member in Da hospital. Later, Angkar assigned her to serve as a member of the European Embassy at Tuol Kok. At there she also looked after the children of Pou Chiem, who worked at the foreign ministry. When the Vietnamese forces took over Phnom Penh in 1979, Thim and some foreign diplomats fled to Malai and later the Khmer Rouge took them all to Thailand. One year later, Ta Mok recruited Thim and other young women to go to Dangrek Mountain. Once there, Thim was assigned to work in an Art unit. In 1986, Thim got married and later she moved to Malai with her elder brother.

### **16) Kong Chiny**

Chiny is now 53-years-old and lives in Trasek Chrum village, Malai sub-district, Malai district. She was born in Dei Ith village, Sar Ang district, Kandal province. In 1971, Chiny left home to join the Khmer Rouge revolution and was assigned to an art unit. In 1975, she worked in a

mobile work brigade unit and thereafter she worked in a factory on ships and boats in Prek Phnov, Phnom Penh. In late 1978, Chiny and all the workers in her factory were moved to Kampong Chhnang for awhile because Vietnamese troops had entered Cambodia. In 1979, Chiny was evacuated to region 102, known as Malai, where she worked in a transport unit. Since integration of the remaining Khmer Rouge forces in 1996, Chiny has been living in Malai because she did not want to move back to her home village.

### **17) Yin Ron**

Ron was born in Kampot province. She is now 47 years old living in Trasek Chrum village, Malai commune. In 1975, Ron was 11 years old and working in a garment office with her older sister when left home. In 1978, Ron was transferred to work at the garment office in Takeo province for approximately six months. Ron then moved to Phnom Penh, where she cleaned houses and washed dishes when foreign delegations visited Cambodia. In 1979, when the Khmer Rouge retreated from invading Vietnamese troops, Ron was evacuated to live in Pailin, where she worked in a transport unit carrying bullets and food. She also cooked for Khmer Rouge leaders from time to time. Ron married a soldier in 1980. In 1985, all Khmer Rouge soldiers and people moved to Th- 85 camp in Thailand. They returned to the Malai region in 1986 and cleared land mines to build houses. Since the Khmer Rouge amalgamated with the government, Ron has lived in the region.

### **18) San Touch**

San Touch is 53 years old and lives in Trasek Chrum village, Malai commune. His hometown is in Beong Khnar sub-district, Bakan district, Pursat province. Touch's father was a Khmer Rouge soldier in Koas Kra Lar district, Battambang province, where he fought against Lon Nol soldiers. In 1973, Touch decided to be a soldier alongside his father. After the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975, Touch moved to Pailin and then Koun Damrei (baby elephant). Besides his duties as a soldier, Touch was also required to work in a mobile work brigade unit building a dam (Mork Heun and Khai Dan) with nearby villagers. In 1979, Touch returned to Pailin, where he met his wife who worked in a transport unit. He got married in 1980 and moved to live in Malai. When the Khmer Rouge moved their people to live in Th- 85 camp, Touch stopped being a soldier and lived with his wife until the integration in 1996.

### **19) Chuon Mon**

Mon is 56 years old and lives in Doung village, Malai sub-district. Currently, Mon is a village chief in Doung. Mon was born in Trapeang Svay village, Krang Makakk commune, Ang Snuol district, Kampong Speu province. In 1970, Mon joined the Khmer Rouge revolution because her older brother was a soldier as well. She worked in a medic unit, but had not received any medical training. Mon tried to observe how to inject patients from her coworkers and then started working. A year later, Mon became a soldier under the control of comrade Vy. She was trained how to fight, but had never had to go into battle. Four months later, Mon worked as a team chief in a textile factory named T-1 near the Pochentong Airport, outside Phnom Penh. Mon worked there until 1979 when Vietnamese soldiers entered the country. Khmer Rouge leaders then evacuated people to the Northwest zone for a while. Mon and other walked from Phnom Penh all the way to Malai. Mon was ordered to control people

with her and take care of food distribution. Later, Mon worked as a medic under Khmer Rouge official Ta Roath. One year later, Mon married a Khmer Rouge captain and controlled an art team which performed for foreigners who came to visit Malai with Ieng Sary at Sa Taing. In 1984, Mon moved to Sen Refugee Camp and Pailin because the situation here became worst until 1985, Ta Chiem, a controller at the camp called her to live at Th- 85 Camp with lots of people donated from the Red Cross in Thailand. In 1987, Khmer Rouge returned to live in Malai but she returned later because her husband was very busy with transporting people to the region. After Khmer Rouge amalgamated in 1996, she was selected to be village chief until now.

## **20) Sao Naim**

Sao Naim was born in Prey Nub district, Kampot province (currently named Preah Sihanouk province). Naim has three siblings and is currently a first lieutenant and living in Wat Chass village, Malai sub-district. During the period of Democratic Kampuchea from 1975-1979, Naim lived in his home village and worked throughout Kampot province in a mobile work brigade unit. When the Khmer Rouge regime collapsed in 1979, Naim's unit chief evacuated people to the northwest zone to Lem in Battambang province. In 1983, Naim moved to Malai which was surrounded by malarial forests at the time. In Malai, Naim fought against Vietnamese soldiers while under the command of Vann Souphat, a battalion chief in Malai. In 1984, Vietnamese troops took over Malai and other areas along the Cambodia-Thailand border. As a result, many Khmer Rouge cadres fled to live in camp 85, but some soldiers guarded and observed the place. In 1985, while living in camp 85 Naim married a woman who worked in a transport unit. Naim returned to Malai in 1987 along with other soldiers to fighting against Vietnamese forces along the border. When they returned, the region was littered with buried mines, laid by both Vietnamese and Khmer Rouge forces. To this day, Naim and his fellow villagers have been clearing mines from the Malai region.

## **21) Kong Vanntheng**

Vanntheng is 50 years old and lives in Kandal village, Malai sub-district. He was born in Chheu Teal Kpus village, Kanh Chor commune, Chhloung district, Kratie province.

In 1975, Vanntheng worked in a mobile work unit in his home village. He left Kratie in 1977 to work building a railroad from Phnom Penh to Kampong Som. Unfortunately, the project had not been completed when all workers were evacuated by the Khmer Rouge due to the Vietnamese invasion in 1979. Vanntheng and other people walked toward the Northwest zone, region 102. When Vanntheng first arrived in region 102, the area was a dark forest without sunshine. In 1981, Vanntheng was conscripted into the Khmer Rouge military to fight against Vietnamese and government forces. From 1982-1985, Malai was a conflict zone and almost all Khmer Rouge soldiers and their wives moved to Th-85 camp, which was a relatively secure place for soldiers and their families. Vanntheng and some other soldiers sometimes returned to guard the region until 1988, when, during a battle between the Khmer Rouge and Vietnamese, his leg was broken in a mine explosion. In 1990, all the refugees who had fled to camps returned Malai and cleaned land mines for building residences. Many people died or were crippled by mines during this time. After amalgamation, Vanntheng worked as a soldier and also planted some crops because all

soldiers were provided a plot of land. Currently, Vanntheng loves his home village of Malai dearly, because he struggled for the land for such a long time.

## **22) Khiev Rong**

Rong is 47 years old and lives in Kandal village, Malai sub-district. She was born in Kraing Chheu Teal village, Doung commune, Baty district, Takeo province. In 1975, Rong was a child living with her mother, who worked in a mobile work brigade unit. In 1977 Rong was moved to work in a children's unit for ten days and thereafter she was selected to work lathing in a factory at Kilomet 6, Phnom Penh until 1979, when Vietnamese soldiers entered Democratic Kampuchea. The Khmer Rouge evacuated everyone in the Rong's area to Battambang province by train. After arriving in Battambang, Rong walked with other people to Pailin and eventually reached Malai. While there, Rong lived with a battalion chief named Nim because his family did not have children and Rong was alone. The Khmer Rouge frequently clashed with Vietnamese forces after Rong arrived in Malai, but in 1985, the situation became worse and the Khmer Rouge moved their forces to live at Th- 85 camp, where the Khmer Rouge soldiers were sheltered. In 1990, Rong and others returned to the Malai region and was separated from her family. In 1992, Rong's parents came to Malai and visited her for awhile. They really wanted Rong to return to her home village but she refused, because she has lived in Malai for many years and it had become her home.

## **23) Ouch Sokhon**

Sokhon is 55 years old and lives in Kandal village, Malai sub-district. She was born in Kien Svay district, Kandal province. From 1970 to 1973, she lived with her parents. In 1973, Sokhon joined the Khmer Rouge revolution as a female medic. In 1974, she worked near the river in Sa-Ang district making salted fish for soldiers. In 1975, Sokhon moved to live in Phnom Penh, where she worked at the Ministry of Agriculture doing various tasks, such as taking food and oil to different offices. Later on, Sokhon was assigned to work in a factory setting up tracks. In 1979, Sokhon was evacuated to Malai, where she worked in a transport unit. In 1981, she got married and in 1985 all local Khmer Rouge cadres moved to Ta Ngok refugee camp and did not return to Malai until 1990. After amalgamation, Sokhon stopped working as a medic.

## **24) Sam Yoeun**

Sam Yoeun was born in Kandal province, is currently 51 years old and lives in Thmei village, Malai commune. In 1972, Yoeun's village chief assigned Yoeun to work in a children's art unit. In 1973, the Khmer Rouge began requiring children to carry ammunition and Yoeun was assigned this task. From 1974-75, Yoeun worked as the village chief's messenger. In 1976, Yoeun moved to Phnom Penh, where he worked cleaning houses where the Khmer Rouge hosted foreign delegations. When Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia, Yoeun was evacuated to Malai, where he worked in a transport unit in 1980. The Khmer Rouge and civilians in Malai relocated to Th-85 refugee camp in Thailand in 1985, when Vietnamese forces entered the region. Yoeun returned from Thailand in 1990.

## **25) Sakk Thuok**

Sakk Thuok is 51 years old and lives in Thmei village, Malai sub-district. She was born in Mongkul Borei district, Banteay Meanchey province. In 1975, the Khmer Rouge evacuated Thuok to Nimith village, where she was assigned to a mobile work brigade unit. Later, Thuok moved to Battambang province. In 1979, Thuok worked in transport unit in Malai. Thuok married a soldier in 1982. When Vietnamese troops entered Malai in 1985, the Khmer Rouge moved their forces to Th-85 camp in Thailand and did not return until 1993. After amalgamation in 1996, Thuok continued living in the Malai region where she plants crops for her family.

#### **26) Seth Nhim**

Seth Nhim is a former Khmer Rouge soldier from Siem Reap province. Nhim currently lives in Veal Hatt village, Malai commune, Malai district. Nhim joined the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1973 in Siem Reap province. When the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975, Nhim was sent, along with 500 soldiers, to work as a guard in Anlong Veng. In 1977, Nhim's commander was accused of being an enemy of the revolution and a Khmer Rouge official from the Southwest zone came to control Nhim's unit in Anlong Veng. When Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979, Nhim and other soldiers moved to Malai by crossing Dang Raek Mountain. However, combatant exchanged with soldiers in Malai to guard in Anlong Veng, therefore he did not stay in Thailand as other Khmer Rouge. Nhim married a woman in a transport unit and then returned to Malai in 1993.

#### **27) Preap Roeun**

Preap Roeun is a medic in Kandal village, Malai commune. She was born in Kirivong district, Takeo province. Roeun was 13 years old when the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975 and living in a children's unit in Takeo province. In 1977, Roeun was sent to work in a mobile work brigade unit in Thmar Koul district, Northwest Zone, which was under the command of Ta Nhim. Later Ta Nhim was accused of being an enemy of the revolution and Ta Mok replaced him in as commander of the region. When Vietnamese soldiers arrived in Roeun's area, Khmer Rouge leaders announced that everyone had to travel west, but Roeun wanted to return home and escaped to Phnom Kravanh district, Pursat province. However, she did not go back to her hometown because Ta Mok drove a car around persuading people go with him and Roeun was convinced after seeing Ta Mok's face. Roeun and other people followed the Khmer Rouge leaders to Sampoeu Loun district, Battambang province. In 1980, Roeun moved to Malai, where she worked as a medic until 1982, when got married to a soldier. Since getting married, Roeun and her husband have worked together. As with other Khmer Rouge people, Roeun was sent to live in Th-85 refugee camp when Vietnamese soldiers arrived in Malai and did not return until 1990. From 1992-93, when the UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority of Cambodia) came to organize for a nationwide General Election, Khmer Rouge leaders provided land for people. Roeun has lived in her home village since obtaining land at that time.

#### **28) Kae Chhabb**

Kae Chhabb is a 62 year old farmer living in Damboul Vil village, Malai sub-district. Chhabb was born in Kampong Cham province. In 1970, he dropped out school in grade 9 and was ordered to join demonstrations with over one thousand students and teachers to demand that King Sihanouk return to Cambodia. Some of the demonstrators were arrested by the Lon Nol army and so Chhabb fled to the forest, where he remained until the Khmer Rouge were victorious, after which he was sent to work in a factory in Prek Phnov, Phnom Penh. In Phnom Penh, Chhabb married a woman who was a garment worker. When Vietnamese soldiers invaded in Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge evacuated cadres and workers to the West zone, but Chhabb did not know where it this place was. Chhabb and his wife tried to make the journey along with their two daughters. Unfortunately, both daughters died of starvation along the way. Chhabb walked past Pailin and Samlot to Koh Kong, but Vietnamese forces blocked the road. As a result, Chhabb returned to Malai in 1981 where he worked as a soldier. In 1984, Khmer Rouge leaders organized a transport unit for old people and cripple and at this time Chhabb was selected to be deputy chief of this unit under an official named Roath, who was named chief of the unit. In 1985, Chhabb escaped to Th-85 refugee camp in Thailand and did not return until 1993. It was difficult for Khmer Rouge cadres when they returned because there were many landmines buried in the area. Prior to amalgamation in 1996, there was an argument amongst Khmer Rouge leaders because Son Sen wanted to regain power and reestablish Democratic Kampuchea, but others disagreed and decided to join the government. Ever since, Chhabb has lived in Malai.

### **29) Em Ren**

Ren was born in Kandal province and currently lives in Sangke village, Beong Beng sub-district. In 1970, Ren volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution, hoping to help bring back King Sihanouk. In 1975, after the Khmer Rouge took power, Ren was sent to work as a guard in Phnom Penh. His assignment was to patrol from the Olympic stadium to Daem Kor market. In December 1975, Ren was transferred to guard the Northeast zone border in Ratanakiri province. Ren's unit was under the control of division 14, led by Sou Sophan. In 1976, Ren was accused of being an enemy of the revolution when he did not follow higher ranking officer's order and was detained in a prison until 1978 when the Vietnamese first entered Cambodia. At this time all prisoners were freed and taken to Pailin along the Cambodia-Thailand border for around one month. In 1979, Ren reached Malai, where he fought against Vietnamese soldiers. During this time, Ieng Sary assigned and official named Ta Chout temporary control of region 102. Ren married a woman who worked in a transport unit in 1980. In 1985, Ren escaped to Thailand, but sometimes returned to observe Malai until 1990, when the Khmer Rouge returned to the area, which by then was heavily mined. Therefore, many Khmer Rouge cadres cleared land mines for a living. During this period, Ren broke his left hand side in a mine explosion. After being injured, Ren worked in a transport unit. In 1996, the remaining Khmer Rouge forces integrated with the government, but Ren stayed in Malai where he has been a farmer ever since.

### **30) Ngin Neam**

Ngin Neam is currently a first deputy commune chief living in Ou Sralao village, Or Sralao commune. Neam's hometown is in Mongkul Borei district, Banteay Meanchey province. During the Democratic Kampuchea period, Neam lived and worked in a mobile work brigade

unit in Nimith village, Ou Chroeu district. When the Khmer Rouge regime fell Neam and other cadres fled to the forest in region 3, now known as Malai, because they were afraid Vietnamese soldiers would kill them. When Neam first arrived in the region, he was assigned to work as a soldier and fought against Vietnamese troops. In 1982, he married a woman who worked in a transport unit. When the conflict in the region escalated and the Vietnamese forces gained the upper hand, the Khmer Rouge transferred all Khmer Rouge families to Th- 85 refugee camp in Thailand, followed by some soldiers, although some Khmer Rouge soldiers remained in the area. Later, Khmer Rouge soldiers returned to the Malai area in 1990 to fight against Vietnamese soldiers. The fighting continued until amalgamation in 1996. After amalgamation Neam dared not visit his home village because he was afraid people would be angry with him for having been a Khmer Rouge cadre. Three years later, he decided to go home, where he found that everyone was happy to see him because they considered Neama a fellow victim of the Khmer Rouge regime.

### **31) Hoeun Vuthy**

Hoeun Vuthy is 45 years old and lives in Trasek Chrum village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Vuthy's is originally from Dang Tong village, Dang Tong commune, Dang Tong district, Kampot province.

Vuthy's father's name is Cheng Hoeun and her mother's name is Prum Sa. Vuthy's father was born in Posat province, where Vuthy's parents lived prior to the Khmer Rouge regime. Vuthy was a child during Khmer Rouge regime and her parents were Khmer Rouge soldiers.

Vuthy arrived in Malai with her parents. She does not remember her parents' positions during Khmer Rouge time. Vuthy remembers walking difficult terrain and climbing up and down mountains for a long time as a child until she arrived in Daung village in the Malai area. In 1985, Vuthy moved to Th-85 refugee camp in Thailand along with many other Khmer Rouge people who had lived in Malai. In 1987, Vuthy married But Bunthoeun. In 1990, she returned to Malai with her husband. At this time there were many land mines in and around Malia. These mines were put there by both Vietnamese troops and Khmer Rouge soldiers. When Vuthy was 7 months pregnant, she became ill with malaria and was sent to a hospital in Thailand where she delivered her baby. Currently, Vuthy stays home to look after her children. Her husband is a deputy chief of battalion stationed along the Cambodia-Thailand border in Pailin province.

### **32) Lay Bunthoeun**

Lay Bunthoeun, is 45 years old and lives in Wat Chass village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchy province. Bunthoeun's is originally from Kantuot village, Sre Cheng commune, Chum Kiri district, Kampot province.

Bunthoeun was orphaned after his parents were killed by an American bomb. In 1975, he was sent to live in an Orphan Unit on Boko Mountain. Three months later, his Unit was assigned to do farm work at Tik Chhou. While there, after finishing work each day, Bunthoeun was assigned the extra task of burying bodies to become fertilizer for the farm.

In 1979, Bunthoeun fled West to the Cambodia-Thailand border. In 1981, he returned to Cambodia to live near the border in Malai. At that time, Bunthoeun was a Khmer Rouge soldier and fought against Vietnamese troops. In 1985, a Vietnamese offensive forced all Khmer Rouge cadres to retreat to Th-85 refugee camp in Thailand.

The Khmer Rouge soldiers returned to Malai to fight against Vietnamese forces and recaptured the Malai region in 1990. In 1996, Malai was integrated into the Royal government of Cambodia.

### **33) Sin Peou**

Sin Peou is 48 years old and lives in Kbal Spean village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Peou was born in Banteay Chey village, Speu commune, Chamkar Leu district, Kampong Cham province.

During the Khmer Rouge period, Peou was placed in a Children's Unit. In 1978, he fought against Vietnamese forces as a Khmer Rouge soldier in the Eastern Zone. Peou was also a messenger for Phoeun, who was chief of logistics in Ta Pin's division. 1979, Peou's unit fled to Malai, where they hid in the forest to evade Vietnamese troops. While there, many soldiers died of malaria, starvation, lack of clean water and/or lack of shelter. In 1980, Ieng Sary, aka Vann, combined all Khmer Rouge cadres who lived in Malai into a single division named "division 450," with Ta Hong as chief of division and Sokh Pheap as deputy chief of division. In 1985, Vietnamese troops fought their way into Malai and the Khmer Rouge fled into Thai territory, where the Khmer Rouge were given one piece of land to live on, named Th-85 camp. Peou returned to Malai and fought against the Vietnamese until the Khmer Rouge drove out Vietnamese forces from the area in 1989. After this victory, Peou worked as a security guard to prevent outsiders from entering the Malai area. In 1997, Malai integrated into the Cambodian government and currently, Peou is now a truck driver.

### **34) So Ry**

So Ry is 57 years old and lives in Kandal village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Ry's birthplace is tram Kakk village, Svay Rumpea commune, Korng Pisey district, Kampong Speu province.

In 1970, Ry became a messenger for the Svay Rumpea commune chief. In 1975, she became a member of Region 33, in Kampong Speu province, where she led people building a channel in District 55 in Prey Kabas district, Takeo province. From January to April 1976, Ry supervised workers at a rubber plantation in Kampong Som. In April of 1976, she became chief of a women's unit in a Lathing Factory at Kilometer 10, near Phnom Penh.

In 1979, Ry fled from Phnom Penh to Malai, where she worked in transport unit. While in the unit, Ry brought weapons and food to Khmer Rouge soldiers at the front lines. In 1985, Ry moved to camp 85 in Thailand because Vietnamese soldiers took over Malai. In 1991, she returned to Malai, where she is now a farmer.

### **35) Kim Man**



Kim Man is 57 years old and lives in Kandal village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Man was born in Trapeang Boh village, Andaung Po commune, Romeas Hek district, Svay Rieng province.

In 1973, Man was assigned to be a woman-soldier on standby in Kanchreach district, in the Eastern Zone. In 1975, she became a worker in textile factory T-1. In July 1977, she was promoted and became chief of a Lathe factory in Phnom Penh. In 1979, Man fled from Phnom Penh to the Cambodia-Thailand border. In 1980, she lived in Site 8 Refugee Camp, where she married Thou Yoeung. The couple returned to the border area to be soldiers for the Khmer Rouge. In 1983, Man had a baby. In 1985, Man and her family fled to Th- 85 camp in Thailand when Vietnamese troops took over Malai. In 1986, Man's husband died. In 1990, Man returned to Malai, where she is a farmer.

### **36) Un Nim**

Un Nim is 53 years old and lives in Kandal village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Nim was born in Trameng village, Kraing Sbauv commune, Chhouk district, Kampot province.

In 1975, Nim was assigned to a mobile work brigade unit at Koh Sla dam in Kampot province. In 1977, she was sent to work as a midwife in Phnom Penh. In 1979, she fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border. From 1980 to 1985, Chuon Choeun, Chief of the "17 April" Khmer Rouge hospital was in Malai, where he trained many Khmer Rouge cadres to be doctors. In 1985, Nim escaped from advancing Vietnamese troops to Th-85 camp in Thailand. At the camp, she worked as a midwife. Eventually Nim returned to Malai, where she continued to work as a midwife at Malai health center. She is now retired.

### **37) Tauch Phat**

Tauch Phat is 45 years old and lives in Thmei village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Phat was born in Prey Khmum village, Khcheay commune, Dang Tong district, Kampot province.

During the Khmer Rouge regime, Phat was 13 or 14 years old. At that time, he was assigned to cut small plants used to produce fertilizer. In either June or July of 1978, Phat fought as a Khmer Rouge soldier against Vietnamese forces at Hann Tea front line. In 1979, he fought against Vietnamese troops again, until they caught Phat and then sent him to Phnom Penh. Phat escaped from Phnom Penh to his homeland in 1982. In 1985, Phat married a woman named Bopha. After six months, Phat fled into forest with his cousin, Keun to rejoin the Khmer Rouge. Phat then fought against Vietnamese troops near the Cambodia-Thailand border, including Koh Kong, Samlaut, Sampeou Loun and other places. In 1990, Phat lived with Chuong, a battalion chief, at Sampeou Loun, where he was a farmer. In 1993, Phat's mother visited him at there. In 1994, Phat married a woman named Meas Nai in Malai. The couple then moved to Sampeou Loun. In 2009, they returned to Malai.

### **38) UI Ron**

Ul Ron is 59 years old and lives in Thmei village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Ron was born in Mean Rith village, Mean Rith commune, Sandann district, Kampong Thom province.

In 1972, Ron became a Khmer Rouge soldier in Region 404, Baray district, Kampong Thom province. He was in a Special Unit in Region 107, Zone 304. Ke Pork was chief of this zone. In 1975, Ron was deputy chief of the farm which supported office 870 (K-7). In this capacity, Ron sent many crops to three departments: 17 April hospital, the State Tailor's office, and Office 870. In 1976, Ron married a woman named Cheat from Siem Reap province. In 1978, Ron visited his wife's homeland where he saw that many people were starving. After this visit, Ron wrote a letter to Nuon Chea informing him of the starvation conditions Ron had witnessed. Soon thereafter, some of the leaders of the area Ron had visited were executed.

In 1979, Ron fled from Phnom Penh to Malai. There he was a soldier and was promoted to platoon chief. At that time Malai was named region 102. In 1981, Ron married another woman named Chea Thy. Ron also became deputy chief of Daung village. In 1985, he escaped to Camp 85 in Thailand when Vietnamese troops took control of Malai. In 1990, he returned to Malai and is now chief of Thmei village .

### **39) Prakk Chhean**

Prakk Chhean is 53 years old and lives in Veal Hatt village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Chhean was born in Kbal Koh village, Koh Chreng commune, Kratie district, Kratie province.

In 1970, Chhean joined the Khmer Rouge revolution at Koh Chreng commune. In 1973, he became a Khmer Rouge soldier. In 1975, he worked in a rice field at Bat Doeng-Baset Mountain. In 1976, Kham My who was Chhean's village chief chose a woman to marry Chhean.

In 1979, Chhean fled Phnom Penh and travelled west towards the Cambodian-Thailand border. In November 1979, Chhean arrived in Malai. After about two weeks, a Khmer Rouge cadre named Phin led Chhean to Dang Rek Mountain, where he met with another cadre named Yeay Chem, who was a cooperative chief. In 1982, Chhean returned to Malai to prevent Khmer Rouge base. Sok Pheap was the chief of division 450, which was headquartered in Malai. In 1985, Chhean fled to Th-85 refugee camp in Thailand when Vietnamese troops took control of Malai. In 1989, Chhean returned to Malai, where he is now a farmer.

### **40) Chann Sitha**

Chann Sitha is 44 years old and lives in Veal Hatt village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Sitha was born in Prey Svay village, Prey Svay commune, Moang Russey district, Battambang province.

Sitha's father's name is Chann Thok and he is chief of the medical center serving Moang Russey district, Battambang province. Sitha's mother, Vann Bun, 64, lives with her. Sitha has 6 siblings (2 sisters and 4 brothers). Sadly, two brothers died during Khmer Rouge period. Her father worked at medical center in Cham Ro-al. In 1979, Sitha was 15 years old. When Vietnamese forces entered Battambang province, Sitha guided her three brothers into the forest with another Khmer Rouge cadre because they were afraid of the Vietnamese soldiers. Her youngest brother was 8 months old when she carried him from their homeland into the forest. At that time, her youngest brother often cried because he was malnourished and hungry. Sitha felt very tired also but she pitied him very much. Other Khmer Rouge cadres which traveled with her into the forest always requested that she kill her youngest brother because he made too much noise. Her youngest brother eventually died from starvation and exposure to cool weather in the forest. After some time in the forest, Sitha returned home with her two brothers to see their mother. Next, Sitha's father's friend guided her family to climb down the mountain. In 1980, Sitha wanted to go abroad and find a new living environment and found her way to the Cambodian-Thailand border, eventually landing in Khav Y Dang refugee camp. However, Sitha could not pass an interview required to go to a third country. So, went to live in Sampeou Loun with her family. In 1985, she fled to Th-85 camp in Thailand because Vietnamese troops took over the Thai border area. In 1993, Sitha returned to live in Malai. Currently, Sitha sells furniture made in Thailand.

#### **41) Teap Yon**

Teap Yon is 57 years old and lives in Kandal village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Yon was born in Kork Khmum village, Kork Khmum commune, Battambang district, Battambang province.

In 1972, Yon joined the Khmer Rouge revolution and became a soldier at Kamping Puoy, Battambang province. In 1975, he worked at a rice field in Treal village, Thmar Kaol district, Battambang province. In 1976, Yon was transferred to a mobile work brigade unit in the Northwest Zone. In 1977, Yon again fought as a Khmer Rouge soldier against Vietnamese forces near the Cambodian-Thailand border at Dang Rek Mountain. In 1978, Yon returned to Battambang province. At that time, he was sent to Malai to fight against the Khmer Serey forces for two months, but he never saw Khmer Serey or any people living there at all. In 1978, Yon was injured by a landmine explosion and he was sent to be treated at a hospital in Battambang province. From 1982-1983, Yon was a farmer and grew vegetables near a diplomat's residence in Daung village, Malai area. He saw prince Sihamony who lived at the residence for one year. In 1985, Yon escaped to live in Th-85 camp because Vietnamese troops took over Malai. In 1989, he returned to Malai. In 1992, Yon was crippled by another landmine explosion. Currently, he raise animals including chickens, duck, geese, and pigs at his home.

#### **42) Meas Kun**

Meas Kun is 53 years old and lives in Sangke village, Boeung Beng commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Kin was born in Wat Thmei village, Ta Cheh commune, Kampong Tralach district, Kampong Chhnang province.

In 1968, Kun entered the monkhood at Thmei pagoda. In 1970, he volunteered to disrobe and become a medic. From 1973-1974, Kun was chief of battalion 302 in region 302. Ta Mok was chief of this region. In 1975, Kun was transferred and became a medic in Battalion 127, Regiment 16, Division 1. In 1976, he moved to Battalion 127 in Koh Kong province. In 1979, Kun fled to Khav Lang Refugee Camp when Vietnamese troops took control of most of Cambodia. After being solicited by Khmer Rouge leaders Kun volunteered to serve as a Khmer Rouge soldier and fight against Vietnamese troops. In 1983, Kun came to Daung village, Malai region. After amalgamation with the Cambodian government, the Khmer Rouge living in Malai gained freedom and they can now do anything they want to. Kun has therefore been happy to live under Cambodian government.

#### **43) Nget Saroeun called Nget Thim**

Nget Saroeun called Nget Thim is 55 years old and lives in Dambok Vil village, Boeung Beng commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Thim was born in Kdei Chass village, Angkor Chey commune, Angkor Chey district, Kampot province.

On February 1972, Thim joined the Khmer Rouge revolution and was assigned to the position of messenger for the Phnom Kong commune chief. In 1973, Thim was chief of a group in Angkor Chey district. In 1975, Thim was transferred from Angkor Chey district to Phnom Penh, where he worked as a member of the Special Unit of Office 870. While in this unit Thim cleaned along the streets of Phnom Penh and worked as electrician at the Chinese embassy. A Khmer Rouge cadre named Lao Pho was chief of the electric workers at the Chinese embassy. Thim's next position was making technical incisions as a medic.

In 1979, when the Vietnamese military entered Cambodia, Thim escaped from Phnom Penh to the Cambodian-Thailand border. At first, Thim was a soldier in Pailin province, where he fought against Vietnamese troops around the Malai region. In 1984, Thim was named chief of a battalion in Malai. In 1985, Thim escaped oncoming Vietnamese forces by fleeing to Th-85 camp to live. While at the camp Thim married a woman named Keo Saroeung. Next, Thim became a Fax translator and medic for division 450, followed by a stint as chief of logistics for division 450. A Khmer Rouge cadre named Phy Phuon was chief of logistics of the division. In 1991, Thim was a security-guard to prevent people, who registered to their name for the first National election in Mongkul Borei district, Battambang province. In 1993, Thim was deputy chief of a battalion. In 1996, he became 1st Lieutenant of the Battalion soldier office of Division 450. In 1998, Thim was injured by a landmine explosion and lost his left leg. Currently, Thim is a member of Malai commune council.

#### **44) Khut Hoeun**

Khut Hoeun is 58 years old and lives in Boeung Raing village, Or Sralao commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Hoeun was born in Or Rumchang village, Bakk Chenchien commune, Bakan district, Pursat province.

In 1971, Hoeun was a soldier in Battambang province. He was chief of company 60, Division 1. In 1975, he was a soldier protecting Yeang village, Nimet commune, Banteay Meanchey province. In 1976, Hoeun got married to a woman named Srey Rim in Pursat province. In

1977, he was sent to work in a mobile work brigade unit. In 1979, when the Vietnamese entered Cambodia, Hoeun fled to the Cambodian-Thailand border in the Malai region. In 1985, Hoeun left Malai to live in Th-85 in Thailand when Vietnamese troops took control of Malai. Next, Hoeun became chief of battalion 127, regiment 108, Division 450. After amalgamation with the Cambodian government, Hoeun became a deputy chief of the general staff for Division 450. More recently, Hoeun is the Or Sralao commune chief, a post he has held since April 2008.

#### **45) Hou Im**

Hou Im is 53 years old and was born in Chong Khnhoung village, Moha Khnhoung commune, Koh Sotin district, Kampong Cham. Currently, Im lives in Trasek Chrum village, Malai commune, Malai district, Bantey Meanchey.

Im's father's name is Hou Voan, her mother, Chip Thon, and she has 9 surviving siblings and 4 which have died. Im joined the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1974 and volunteered to serve in the village militia. From 1975-1979, Im worked in a textile factory in Phnom Penh. In 1979, when the Vietnamese entered Cambodia, Im fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border to live in Malai. After arriving in Malai, she became a Khmer Rouge soldier and fought against Vietnamese soldiers and People's Republic of Kampuchea soldiers.

#### **46) Nget Chanthou**

Nget Chanthou is 55 years old and was born in Roveang village, Prambei Mum commune, Traing district, Takeo. Currently, Chanthou lives in Veal Hatt village, Malai commune, Malai district, Bantey Meanchey. Chanthou's father's name is Nget Kheng and he died in 1988 while his mother, Dy Nouk died in 1977. Chanthou has 8 siblings, 4 of which died during the Khmer Rouge regime.

In 1972, Chanthou was in grade 3 (old education grading system) when he volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution because he was upset by Lon Nol regime. At first, Chanthou was a militiaman in Prambei Mum village. Next, from 1973-1974, he was a soldier in Traing village, Southwest zone, region 13, district 17. From 1975-1979, Chanthou was a railway construction worker in Takeo province. In 1977, Chanthou was sent into battle to fight against Vietnamese soldiers. During the fighting, Chanthou's leg was injured and the Khmer Rouge sent him to a handicap center in Ta Khmao, Kandal province.

In 1979, Chanthou lived in Malai, where he was a teacher at Srah Keo refugee camp. He was also part of the medical staff of region 102, led by Ieng Sary. Khmer Rouge officials named Hong and Sokh Pheap were the local commanders. In 1994-95, Son Sen and Ta Mok announced that all the personal properties were being taken to be held communally. At the time, Son Sen's soldiers collected some property and Son Sen planned to create new cooperatives, but they were unable to follow their plan because of a conflict which sprung up between senior Khmer Rouge leaders, which resulted in the execution of Son Sen and his family.

#### **47) Khim Bunthau**

Khim Bunthau is 68 years old and lives in Daung village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Bunthau was born in Ta Raong village, Sa-ang commune, Sa-ang district, Kandal province. His father's name is Khim Thanh and his mother, Thaong Kris. Both of Bunthau's parents died of sickness when he was young. He also lost 5 siblings during the Khmer Rouge period.

Bunthau was orphaned when he was 13 years old and never went to school. In 1973, he joined the Khmer Rouge revolution and became a soldier in Division 1. In 1973, Bunthau's leg was injured. In 1975, he became part of the Khmer Rouge medical staff and was later sent to work in the economics division. In 1979, Bunthau fled to Malai his wife was four months pregnant. At that time Malai was a malaria area. In 1982, King Sihanouk visited Malai three times.

#### **48) Mean Peou**

Mean Peou is 49 years old and lives in Kbal Spean village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Peou was born in Dam Thnam village, Angkor Meas commune, Chhouk district, Kampot province. His father's name is Mean Khorn, and his mother's Li Se. Peou lost one brother during the Khmer Rouge period. He is married to a woman named Uch Kea and they have 4 children (two daughters and two sons).

Peou volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution as a soldier when he was 12 years old. From 1975 to 1979, Peou worked on a farm and produced fertilizer in Chhouk district, Kampot province. In 1979, when the Vietnamese entered Cambodia, he did not return to his homeland because he was afraid of Vietnamese troops. Instead, Peou fled to Malai. In 1980, he fought against both Vietnamese troops and People's Republic of Cambodia soldiers.

#### **49) Kin Peou**

Kin Peou is 49 years old and lives in Kandal village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Peou's homeland is in Pring village, Angkanh commune, Prey Kabas district, Takeo province. Her father's name is Kin Min and her mother, who died was named Nang. She has 7 siblings, 4 of which died during the Khmer Rouge period.

In 1973, Peou volunteered for the Khmer Rouge revolution and worked in a mobile work brigade in Angkanh commune. On June 1975, she was sent to work at a district office in the Southwest zone. In 1976, Peou was sent to work at a salt marsh in Kampot province for two months. Next, she was sent to work as a security guard and laborer at a rubber plantation in Kampong Som. From November 1977 to 1979, she worked at a textile factory in Phnom Penh. In 1979, Peou fled from Vietnamese troops to the Cambodia-Thailand border. In 1981, she married a Khmer Rouge soldier.

#### **50) Nhous Khom**

Nhous Khom is 53 years old and lives in Thmei village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Khom was born in Wat village, Khna Chhma commune,

Kampong Tralach district, Kampong Chhnang province. Her father's name is Nhouh Nhil and her mother, Pech Hai. She has 6 siblings, 3 of which died during Khmer Rouge period.

In 1975, Khom worked in a mobile work brigade for three months. Then, she was sent to work as a cook and worker in charge of gasoline at a Military office. In 1979, Khom fled from Siem Reap to Malai because she was afraid of Vietnamese troops. When first arrived in Malai, surviving was very hard because of the prevalence of malaria in the area. In 1981, she married a man named San Doeun in a ceremony along with 6 other couples. These couples were free to choose their spouse, but the wedding ceremony was still in the Khmer Rouge style.

### **51) Duong Chon**

Duong Chon is 54 years old and lives in Thmei village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Chon was born in Chek village, Phnom Sruoch commune, Phnom Sruoch district, Kampong Speu province. His father is named Khuot Mot and his mother named Sin Phoeun. He has 5 siblings.

In 1973, Chon volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution because he was angered by Lon Nol troops, who dropped bombs on his village which destroyed many homes, animals and other property. Chon became a soldier in Division 1. On 17 April 1975, Chon was ordered to evacuate people from Phnom Penh. Afterwards, he worked at a textile factory. In mid 1977, Chon was sent to work as a medic in Koh Kong province. In 1979, he fled to Malai when the Vietnamese entered Cambodia. Chon fought against both Vietnamese and People's Republic of Cambodia soldiers during the civil war period.

### **52) Thaong Den**

Thaong Den is 59 years old and lives in Veal Hatt village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Den was born in Kamprea village, Bralay commune, Stung district, Kampong Thom province.

Den started school in 1963. In 1969, he dropped out of school when he was in grade 7 of the old regime curriculum. In 1970, Den volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution and became a soldier in division 304 of the Northern Zone. Kuoy Thuon was chief of the Northern Zone at this time. In 1975, Den's division was ordered to evacuate people from Phnom Penh. Afterwards, he worked in the State Logistics Department in Phnom Penh. Ta Rith was chief of logistics and Den's commanding officer. In 1979, Den escaped to the Cambodia-Thailand border because he was afraid Vietnamese troops would kill him. After reaching the border area, Den fought against Vietnamese and the People's Republic of Cambodia soldiers. At that time, the Khmer Rouge got military aid from China.

### **53) Song Laing**

Song Laing is 51 years old and lives in Wat Chass village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Laing was born in Ta Kong village, Pott Ta Sort commune, Serei Saphaon district, Banteay Meanchey province.

When Laing was young, he received very little education. In 1975, he carried earth at Kamping Puoy dam. He then became a dyeing color worker and his job was to dye all kinds of cloth black. Laing then served as a Khmer Rouge soldier from 1979 to 1996.

#### **54) Pon Sarin**

Pon Sarin is 61 years old and lives in Sangke village, Boeung Beng commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Sarin was born in Da village, Da commune, Memot district, Kampong Cham province. His father is named Pon Siek and his mother named Mao. He has 5 siblings.

Sarin reached grade 7 at Da pagoda school during Sihanouk regime. In 1970, he helped his parents do farm work. In 1972, Da joined the Khmer Rouge revolution in the Markey forest and fought against Lon Nol troops. In 1975, the Khmer Rouge took over Phnom Penh. At this time Da was in the Khmer Rouge Navy. Ta Mut was chief of the Khmer Rouge Navy troops at this time. In 1979, Vietnamese troops fought into Phnom Penh and Da fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border. Once there, Da fought against Vietnamese and People's Republic of Cambodia troops along the border.

#### **55) Prakk Sarin aka Kim Yan**

Prakk Sarin, called Kim Yan, is 52 years old and lives in Cham Bakk village, Boeun Beng commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Yan was born in Popel village, Popel commune, Tram Kakk district, Takeo province. Her father is named Prakk Pen. Her mother is named Tes Kem. Yan has 4 siblings.

Kim Yan reached grade 11 during the Sihanouk regime. In 1970, she dropped out of school because of the Lon Nol coup d'état and helped her parents work in rice fields around her home. In 1974, Yan joined the revolution and worked in Office 05, Southwest Zone. A Khmer Rouge official named Saom was chief of office 05 at the time. Ta Mok was chief of the Southwest zone at the time. On 17 April 1975, Ta Mok sent Yan to work as a messenger for an official named Khim, chief of Office 202. Yan also worked at Prey Sar and Tuol Kei. In 1979, Vietnamese troops took over in Phnom Penh and many workers fled to the Cambodian-Thai border.

#### **56) Keo Sarim aka Keo Kum**

Keo Kum is 49 years old and lives in Trasek Chruk village, Malai commune, Malai district. Kum was born in Korki Taingren village, Beong Sna commune, Santuk district Kampong Thom province.

Kum volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1973 in Santuk district and became a messenger within Santuk district. After the Khmer Rouge came to power in April 1975, she was sent to work sewing in Borei Keila until Vietnamese troops entered in Cambodia in 1979.



Kum fled along with other Khmer Rouge to the western part of Cambodia when Vietnamese soldiers pushed the Khmer Rouge out of Phnom Penh. Kum and other Khmer Rouge cadres arrived in Malai in late 1979. In Malai, Kum was assigned to work in a transport unit.

#### **57) Prum Sokhoeun aka Phor Happ,**

Prum Sokhoeun is 56 years old and lives in Trasek Chruk village, Malai commune, Malai district. Sokhoeun was born in Phlov Bombek village, Kampong Trach commune, Kampong Trach district, Kampot province.

Between 1975 and 1979, Sokhoeun was forced to work in a mobile work brigade in Prey Lev, Babil district, Region 3, Northwestern Zone. His unit was forced to work in rice fields and producing fertilizer.

In 1979, Sokhoeun fled along with other youths in his unit to Battambang and then to Babil, Pailin, Kamrieng and, in late 1979, Sokhoeun arrived in Malai. There, he was assigned to be a soldier in division 450 under the supervision of Sokh Pheap.

#### **58) Pek Choeun aka Keo Savoeun**

Pek Choeun is 59 years old and lives in Watt Chass village, Malai commune, Malai district. Choeun was born in Kang Kep village, Sra Nok commune, Kampong Leng district, Kampong Chhnang province.

Sokhoeun volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution and became a soldier in 1973. In 1975, he assigned to work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a seller of food and other goods to international guests and diplomats at Central Market (Phsar Thmei).

Sokhoeun fled to the Cambodian-Thailand border along with his colleagues from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in early 1979 and eventually he came to live in a refugee camp in Thai territory. Sokhoeun decided to return to Cambodia and traveled to Malai in 1981. Upon arrival he was assigned to be a soldier in division 450 under the supervision of So Hong and Sokh Pheap.

#### **59) Muy Soth**

Muy Soth is 56 years old and lives in Kbal Spean village, Malai commune, Malai district. Soth was born in Damkeap Khpuos village, Raung Chrey commune, Battambang district, Battambang province.

Soth dropped out of school in grade 7 and worked in the rice fields with his parents. When the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975, Soth was sent to work in a Mobile Work Brigade Unit in District 70 (Babil district), at Prey Thom. At that time, Soth was promoted to chief his Mobile Work Brigade Unit.

1979, Soth fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border along with his subordinates. When Soth and his unit passed Chamlang Kuoy, Samlot district, the Khmer Rouge provided weapons to

his unit and reformed it as a military unit under the supervision of Ta Dan and Ta Kan at Sampov Loun. Soth then moved to Malai and served as a soldier in division 450 in 1980.

#### **60) Tol Sem**

Tol Sem is 50 years old and lives in Kbal Spean village, Malai commune, Malai district. Sem was born in Po Tunle village, Koh Thom commune, Koh Thom district, Kandal province.

Sem volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1973. First, he was assigned to work as a messenger for Ta Sokh, who was Koh Thom district chief at the time. Later, Sem was sent to work as a messenger of the Division 12 office. After April 17, 1975, Sem became a bodyguard for Vorn Vet, who was deputy prime minister of Democratic Kampuchea. Later, Sem was sent to work at a Lathing Factory.

In 1979, Sem fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border, along with other workers from the Lathing Factory. He arrived in Malai in late 1979 and was assigned to be a soldier in division 450. Sem worked as a soldier until he was disabled in 1985.

#### **61) Chet Sokh**

Chet Sokh is 53 years old and lives in Kandal village, Malai commune, Malai district. Sokh was born in Arkreach village, Prey Chhor commune, Kampong Trabek district, Prey Veng province.

Sokh joined the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1975 and was sent to work in a Mobile Work Brigade Unit in Chhouk, Kroch Chhmar district. In 1977, she was reassigned to Makara Hospital near Watt Phnom and in 1978, she was sent to work in a salt marsh in Kampot province.

In 1979, Sokh fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border along with other workers from the salt marsh. Sokh arrived in Malai in late 1979 and was assigned to work in a transport unit carrying food and weapons to soldiers in battlefields.

#### **62) Tao Thoun**

Tao Thoun is 52 years old and lives in Thmei village, Malai commune, Malai district. Thoun was born in Ta Nei village, Puok commune, Puok district, Siem Reap province.

Thoun dropped out of school during grade 10 in 1970 and volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in the early 1970s in Angkor Chum district. Thoun was sent to be a soldier in Region 35 (Siem Reap) in 1974. After 1975, he was sent to work at Kampong Som port.

Thoun fled to the Cambodian-Thailand border along with other workers in 1979 through Koh Kong province, eventually entering a refugee camp in Thai territory. In late 1979, Thoun volunteered to serve as a soldier and returned to Cambodia. He arrived in Malai in 1980 and became a soldier in division 450 under the supervision of Sokh Pheap.

### **63) Teong Pach**

Teong Pach is 56 years old and lives in Thmei village, Malai commune, Malai district. Pach was born in Kanh Chel village, Kampong Reap commune, Prey Kabas district, Takeo province.

Pach dropped out of school in 1970, when he was in grade 7 and volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1973. At first, Pach was a soldier. In 1975, Pach was sent to Phnom Penh and then in 1976, he was sent to be a soldier in the Northwestern zone in a unit patrolling along the Cambodia-Thailand border.

In 1979, when Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia, Pach fled to Malai and became a soldier in division 450 under the supervision of Sokh Pheap.

### **64) Heu Sri**

Heu Sri is 64 years old and lives in Veal Hatt village, Malai commune, Malai district. Sri was born in Koh Thom village, Koh Thom commune, Koh thom district, Kandal province.

Sri got married in 1976 to a man named Sa Yat, who is now 65 years old and is also originally from Koh Thom village. Sri volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1971. At first, Sri worked doing sewing and weaving in Region 25, within Koh Thom.

After April 1975, Sri was sent to work as medical staff in Ta Khmao, Kandal for one year. After this assignment, Sri was moved to work at Monivong hospital near Central Market (during this time, the Khmer Rouge called this the hospital of General Staff). In 1978, Sri was sent to treat soldiers who were injured in battles along the Cambodia-Vietnam border until Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in 1979.

In 1979, Sri and her husband fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border along with other Khmer Rouge cadres. Sri arrived in Malai in 1980. There, she was assigned to work in a transport unit and brought food and weapons to supply soldiers at frontline battlefields.

### **65) Lem Sokhom**

Lem Sokhom is 49 years old and lives in Veal Hatt village, Malai commune, Malai district. Sokhom was born in Kanleng Khla village, Cham Bak commune, Baty district, Takeo province.

Sokhom did not go to school when he was young. In 1973, Sokhom was forced to separate from his family and live in a Children's unit. In 1975, he was selected to work in a Lathing Factory in Takhmao, Kandal.

When Vietnamese troops entered in Cambodia in 1979, Sokhom fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border along with other workers. Sokhom arrived in Malai in late 1979, where he was assigned to be a soldier in division 450.

### **66) Rochem Tornn aka Phi Phuon aka Chiem**

Rochem Tornn, aka Phi Phuon, aka Chiem, is 63 years old and lives in Daung village, Malai commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Chiem was born in Ket village, Nheng commune, Andaung Meas district, Ratanak Kiri province.

Chiem is a member of Cambodia's Charay ethnic minority. He did not go to school when he was young and he volunteered to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1966. Chiem lived with Ieng Sary and Pol Pot in 1967, when Pol Pot and Ieng Sary stayed and worked at office 100 and office 102. After joining the revolution, Chiem worked as a messenger for offices 100 and 102 (these offices were located in Kanleng village, Bokeo district, Ratanak Kiri province) and he also helped with work in rice fields with other comrades and cadres to support the offices. In the late 1960s, offices 100 and 102 were moved to Bet Thno in Steng Trang district, Kampong Cham province. At this time Chiem was one of Pol Pot's bodyguards. Chiem walked in the forest from Ratanak Kiri province for almost seven months in order to reach Steng Trang district along with more than 80 other cadres including Pol Pot, Nuon Chea, Tiv Ol, Pang, So Hong.

Between 1970 and 1975, Chiem was a messenger for Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Nuon Chea. He often took letters from Pol Pot, Ieng Sary or Nuon Chea to other Zone or Region leaders throughout the country. Sometimes he acted as a bodyguard for Pol Pot, Ieng Sary or Nuon Chea when they went to meet with Zone, Region or military leaders. In 1973, Chiem joined with Pol Pot, Nuon Chea, Son Sen and others to welcome Prince Sihanouk, the princess and Chinese journalists who came to visit Liberated zones in Cambodia. The king crossed from Vietnam to Steng Trang province. At the time, Pol Pot and his group took the prince to Koulén Mountain and Siem Reap Angkorian temples.

After April 1975, Chiem traveled to Phnom Penh along with Pol Pot, Nuon Chea and other Khmer Rouge leaders. In Phnom Penh, he worked as a bodyguard at office 870. He also worked as a cadre in the Protocol Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chiem always guarded the inside of office 870 when Pol Pot and Nuon Chea had meetings of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK). In early January of 1979, Ieng Sary ordered Chiem's team to take King Sihanouk and his family to Svay Sisophon and one day later (January 5, 1979), Ieng Sary called him and instructed him to take the king back to Phnom Penh.

On the evening of January 6, 1979, Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Nuon Chea and Son Sen organized a party for King Sihanouk at House 1 (Currently the CDC building near Watt Phnom). After the party, Chiem took the king and his family to Pochentong airport.

In 1979, Chiem led cadres from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to flee to the Cambodia-Thailand border. In late 1979, Chiem was responsible for a transport unit in Malai (Region 102). After amalgamation with the Royal Government of Cambodia in 1997, Chiem was promoted to deputy of Malai's district chief until 2005.

## **67) Saom Yeng**

Saom Yeng is 73 years old and lives in Sangke village, Beong Beng commune, Malai district. Yeng was born in Po Tunle village, Koh Thom Commune, Koh Thom district, Kandal province.

Yeng joined the Khmer Rouge revolution in the late 1960s. After joining the revolution, Yeng worked at Koh Thom (Region 25) office. Yeng worked with comrade Sokh, who was a member of the Region 25 committee.

In 1975, Yeng was sent to work at an agricultural site along with Norng Suon, aka Chey, at Kien Svay. In 1977, Yeng was moved to work in a transport unit in Prek Pnov. There, he worked as a carpenter building 70 ton wooden boats.

In 1979, Yeng and his family fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border, along with other cadres. Yeng arrived in Malai in late 1979, where he was assigned to control people in Boeng Beng area until 1997.

### **68) Huon Hin**

Huon Hin is 65 years old and lives in Cham Bak village, Beong Beng commune, Malai district. Hin was born in Nipech village, Nipech commune, Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province.

Hin dropped out of school in 1968 and was ordained as a Buddhist monk until 1970. In March of 1970, Hin resigned from being a monk to join the Khmer Rouge revolution in Region 43 (Kampong Thom). At first, Hin was assigned to be chief of a mobile work brigade unit and later was reassigned to work as a Commercial member of Zone 304. In 1975, Hin worked as chief of a mobile work brigade unit in Kampong Svay district after that, he was moved and became chief of three Communes including Sankor, Sralao and Kampong Svay communes.

In 1979, Hin fled to the Cambodia-Thailand border and eventually arrived in Malai in 1981, where he worked in a transport unit. In 1985, Hin was assigned to be a teacher in Th-85 camp in Thailand and continued to teach Khmer Rouge children when the Khmer Rouge returned to live in Malai in 1990.

Hin was assigned to be a member of the Malai commune council from 1993 to 2008 and was elected as a member of the Malai district council in 2008.

### **69) Pek San aka Pek Laom,**

Pek San, aka Pek Laom, is 60 years old and lives in Beong Raing village, Or Sralao commune, Malai district. Laom was born in Prek Sangha village, Banteay Neang commune, Mongkul Borei district, Banteay Meanchey province.

In 1975, Laom was sent work as chief of a mobile work brigade unit in Kondamrei, Or Chrov district. There were around 50 people in her unit and she worked as a supervisor of the unit until 1979.

Laom arrived in Malai in 1979, where she was assigned to work in a transport unit. At that time, Laom and her team brought food and weapons to the soldiers at frontline battlefields.

#### **70) Im Man**

Im Man knows as *neary man*, female, 56 year olds, and lives in Daung village, Malai commune, Malai district Banteay Meanchey province. During the Khmer Rouge time, Im Man served as a village chief of Trapeang Veng village, Preah Neth Preah Commune, Preah Neth Preah District, Banteay Meanchey (then, Battambang) province.

Im Man's birthplace is in Prey Run village, Sra Nge commune, Treang district, Takeo province.

Im Man knows that Im Chaem was a Chief of Preah Net Preah district and Chaem came from Tram Kak district Takeo province. Im Man attended several meetings under Im Chaem in 1978.

#### **IV. Observation**

During the field trip in Malai district, our team learned that former Khmer Rouge cadres who are residents of Malai originally hail from 24 different provinces and cities throughout Cambodia. During the Democratic Kampuchea regime, these residents served in various sections of the Khmer Rouge regime in Phnom Penh as well as various other zones and regions.

Our team observed that former cadres living in Malai retain much Khmer Rouge ideology. They continue to use Khmer Rouge style and mannerisms in the way they work and communicate with each other. Even their appearance and style of dress look resemble that of Khmer Rouge cadres between 1975 and 1979. These former cadres also appear to always respect authority figures, including their village chief.

Some of these residents told our team that they have lived very far from their homelands for so long that they do not have much emotional connection to their relatives, old friends and neighbors in their home villages. Instead, they have lived with their Malai comrades for more than 30 years and over this period, have developed a strong sense of solidarity with each other, resulting in a close-knit community.

Some of these former Khmer Rouge cadres also tried to find some value in the Khmer Rouge regime and protect it, even though they know that nearly two million people died during the Khmer Rouge regime.

#### **V. Challenges**

It was raining for most of time our team was in Malai and many areas were flooded, particularly the road from Kaun Damrei to Malai downtown. Our vehicle got stuck in some

of the villages our team visited during heavy rain. October is also harvest season in Malai and other areas along the Cambodia-Thailand border and as such, many cadres were busy with their farms.

Additionally, some former cadres do not want to talk about their past experiences, even after we explained our main objectives to them in detail. Many of these people who declined to talk about the Khmer Rouge period worry about coming under the scrutiny of the ECCC.

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### **About Long Dany**

Long Dany was born in 1974, a year before the Khmer Rouge came to power, in Kampong Cham province. In November 1999 he began working as a volunteer at DC-Cam and was assigned to research the Vietnamese under Khmer Rouge regime. In 2001 became a field investigator and Team Leader of the Promoting Accountability Project.

In 1999 Mr. Long received a Bachelor's Degree in economics (specialization in tourism and hospitality) from Hanoi National Economics University, Vietnam and in 2010 he was awarded an MA degree in Peace and Reconciliation Studies by the University of Coventry, UK. He has also participated in numerous short courses, such as the Cambodian Khmer Rouge Tribunal fellowship Program-Study Tour to Germany and Hague in 2008.

Mr. Long received an Asia Fellows Awards to conduct research on "Transcending Citizenship: The making of nation through the experience of Vietnamese-Cambodian and Cambodian-Vietnamese living in the two countries in 1970s." He completed his research and submitted a paper to the Asian Scholarship Foundation (ASF) in early 2010. He also participated in a collaborative research project on the "School as a Site of Contested Subjectivities-A Comparative Research of Critical Ethnography of Education in Multi-Ethnic Highlands of Cambodia and Vietnam" in collaboration with Dr. Truong Huyen Chi, an independent Vietnamese researcher, and funded by the Southeast Asian Studied Regional Exchange Program 2007-2009. A book project is underway that is scheduled to be completed in 2013.