

Jul 18

2009

[Executions at Choeng](#)

[Ek "took hours," former guard tells court](#)

Posted by [in](#) [ECCC](#)

Him Huy gave a chilling account Thursday of executions at the Choeng Ek Killing Fields. Unlike former S-21 deputy Mam Nay, whom Comrade Duch accused of withholding information, Him was very forthcoming in his testimony.

Tuol Sleng detainees destined for the Killing Fields were generally loaded onto trucks around 8pm, under cover of darkness, Him told judges. If they asked where they were being taken, staff had been instructed by deputy chairman Comrade Hor to say they were "going to a new home."

The ride to Choeng Ek took around 30 minutes. When they arrived, the prisoners were led to a room underneath a small house on the site. A generator was switched on to greet the arriving transports and a light shone from the house. It must have been an eerie scene.

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Jul 16

[Former S-21 guard Him Huy testifies](#)

Posted by [in](#) [Him Huy](#) , [ECCC](#) , [Duch](#)

It was a moving -- and disturbing -- day at the court as Him Huy offered detailed testimony about operations at S-21 and the Killing Fields. I will post about this tomorrow ... [Comment \(0\)](#)

Jul 14

[Mam Nay's regret: that the Vietnamese defeated the Khmer Rouge](#)

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Former S-21 deputy Mam Nay did indeed begin testifying today, although

his much-anticipated appearance was somewhat anticlimactic. For the most part, the 76-year-old, bundled in a krama and gloves, claimed he couldn't remember much about his work under Comrade Duch.

He told judges that, despite his status as an interrogator at S-21, he did not torture prisoners. Moreover, he claimed that the detainees brought to him looked neither malnourished nor mistreated -- a comment met with disbelief by many audience members.

Mam became most passionate toward the end of the day, when explaining how he believed all of the Vietnamese brought to S-21 were somehow guilty. [Comment \(2\)](#) |

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[Former S-21 deputy to testify tomorrow](#)

Posted by [ECCC](#) in [Duch](#)

It has been a little while since I posted, partly because the Phnom Penh Post website has been undergoing an upgrade (sorry that the format is still a bit strange), and partly because I spent the last week traveling with my parents, who are visiting the region.

But I was back at court today, in time to see the chamber wrap up questioning of civil party Nam Mon. Claiming she had been a medic at S-21, Nam's story was somewhat inconsistent, which seems to have been the case for several other Khmer Rouge survivors who testified recently. Civil party lawyers were actually scolded last week for having inadequately prepared their clients. Hopefully they will do a more thorough job in the future.

At the same time, civil party lawyers have accused judges and defense counsel of lacking the necessary sensitivity when questioning trauma survivors. Lawyer Silke Studzinsky interrupted defense attorney Kar Savuth several times today, asking that he take a less “aggressive” tone with the witness.

Former S-21 deputy Mam Nay made a brief appearance in court at the end of the day. His testimony was slated to begin, but defense attorney Francois Roux objected that Mam might end up incriminating himself if Joint Criminal Enterprise were ever applied at the court. He insisted that Mam be able to consult with a lawyer. The chamber adjourned early so the witness could do so. Hopefully his much-anticipated testimony will begin tomorrow morning.

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