

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Phone: +49 4106 804806 · Fax: +49 4106 804807

Email: bq@bucer.de · <http://www.bucer.de/bq.html>

Released for free complete or partial reproduction.

BQ 592 – No. 28/2019

Thomas and Christine Schirmacher met Norng Chan Phal, a survivor of S-21

Meeting with Evangelical Alliance of Cambodia

(Bonn, 15.08.2019) Thomas and Christine Schirmacher obtained information in Cambodia about the most important memorials to the massive human rights violations of the Khmer Rouge.

Evangelical Alliance of Cambodia

They were introduced by the General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance of Cambodia, Pastor Tep Samnang, whose parents, who were unknown to him, perished under the Khmer Rouge and who, like more than a million other Cambodians, grew up as an orphan. President of the Evangelical Alliance of Cambodia is Pastor Sok Sophon.

S-21, Killing Fields

On April 17th, 1975, the child soldiers of the communists, called Khmer Rouge, won the Cambodian civil war under their leader Pol Pot ("Brother Number One"). On January 6th, 1979, the vanquishers in turn were defeated by the Vietnamese communist troops, even though the Khmer Rouge still waged a guerrilla war from the jungle until Pol Pot resigned as party leader in 1995 and died in 1998.

In less than four years almost all the cultural assets of the country, temples, mosques and churches, palaces and villas, museums, art treasures, and the National Archives, were rudely burned down, demolished or otherwise destroyed. Only the famous temple of Angkor Wat survived in the jungle far from the capital.

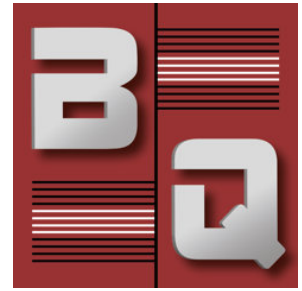


Norng Chan Pal with Christine and Thomas Schirmacher, the photo of his family and the signed book about his life story © BQ/Schirm.

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 4106 804806
Fax: +49 4106 804807
Email: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de



A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, German Branch Tübingen, EU-Office Brüssel)
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Linz, Zürich, Prague, Tirana, Istanbul, São Paulo, Delhi)
www.bucer.org

missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)
www.missiotop.org

Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance
www.europeanea.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

UN Bonn liaison for inter-religious concerns of WEA

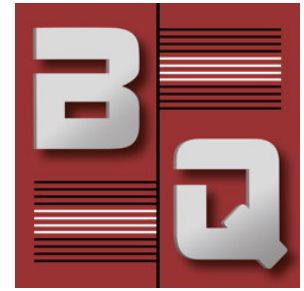
WEA Sustainability Center
www.wea-sc.org

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

SOS World (Brussels)
www.sosworld.be/page-daccueil/

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



The approximately two million inhabitants of Phnom Penh, the 'Paris of the East', were expelled from the city after the capture within one day and had to work in agriculture, no matter what their profession was. In the course the expulsion alone, 20,000 people died.

Eventually, every fourth of the eight million Cambodians were killed in the country's so-called 'Killing Fields,' 1.67 million of the approximately two million dead are documented by name. In percentage terms this is higher than the blood toll of Hitler, Stalin, or Mao. In January 1977, the majority of party officials, especially the educated among them, were themselves victims of the blood rush.

Particularly notorious was the torture centre for important persons in Phnom Penh in the former school 'Tuol Sleng,' code name S-21, although we know today that there were about 200 torture centres in the country with 10,000 to 60,000 deaths each. S-21 is a memorial today. If the victims did not already die during the torture, they were abducted to 300 different so-called Killing Fields. In order to save resources, most were beaten to death with axes, shovels, and sticks and then buried in mass graves. Infants were grabbed by their feet and their heads were hurled against one particular tree (see photo).



The tree in Choeung Ek, where the skulls of the children were smashed
© BQ/Schirmmacher

Infants were grabbed by their feet and their heads were hurled against one particular tree (see photo).

The best-known and most accessible Killing Field in the country, Choeung Ek, is, alongside S-21, now the country's most important memorial site. To date, 17,000 skulls have been recovered and displayed in a memorial stupa behind glass, along with other bones and clothing. This stupa, however, is not used for religious purposes; Buddhists were given their own stupa nearby.

S-21-Survivors and their books

In S-21 there are still two survivors who have both published their life stories with the help of scholarly authors and who met with Thomas and Christine Schirmmacher:

Bou Meng, born 1941, survived the camp as an adult, and **Norng Chan Phal**, who was eight or nine years old when he was imprisoned together with his mother and his younger brother in S-21. When the prison was evacuated in 1979, he hid his little brother

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 4106 804806
Fax: +49 4106 804807
Email: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de

A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, German Branch Tübingen, EU-Office Brüssel)
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Linz, Zürich, Prague, Tirana, Istanbul, São Paulo, Delhi)
www.bucer.org

missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)
www.missiotop.org

Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance
www.europeanea.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

UN Bonn liaison for inter-religious concerns of WEA

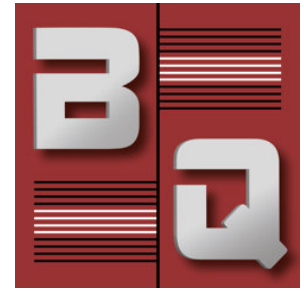
WEA Sustainability Center
www.wea-sc.org

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

SOS World (Brussels)
www.sosworld.be/page-daccueil/

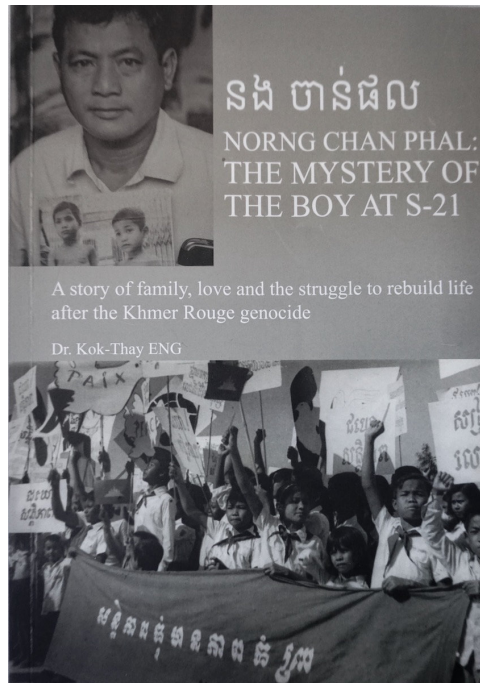
Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



and both were found together with two other surviving children by Vietnamese soldiers and taken with them. They then lived among the soldiers for a lengthy period of time. Later he became one of the most important witnesses in the trials against the leaders of the Khmer Rouge. Norng Chan Phal dedicated a copy of his book to Thomas Schirmacher on behalf of the ISHR.

- InKok Thay Eng. Norng Chan Phal: *The Mystery of the Boy at S-21*. Cambodian Institute for Peace and Development: Phnom Penh, 2018. ISBN 978996390067.
- Huy Vannak. *Bou Meng: A Survivor From Khmer Rouge Prison S-21, Justice for the Future Not Just for the Victims*. Documentation Center of Cambodia, 2010. ISBN 978-9995060190.



Cover of the book by Norng Chan Phal

Documentation: Self presentation of the website of the Evangelical Alliance of Cambodia

“Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia (EFC) has played an important role in facilitating the work of the Christian community in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in Cambodia, promoting unity of the Church, and building capacity of its Christian leaders and community. EFC, since in inception in January 14th, 1996 as a local indigenous umbrella religious organization, has made some positive changes toward the rebuilding of Cambodia. EFC is a national Church movement, which is recognized by the government as one of the biggest umbrella organizations, which has churches, organizations and missions as members. The national church remains one of the potentially effective mechanisms to overcome the problems faced by this society. The church can be a spiritual dynamo where long term sustainable transformation of lives can take place.”

Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** Norng Chan Pal with Christine and Thomas Schirmacher, the photo of his family and the signed book about his life story © BQ/Schirmacher

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 4106 804806
Fax: +49 4106 804807
Email: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de

A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwwonline.com

Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIIS) of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, German Branch Tübingen, EU-Office Brüssel)
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Linz, Zürich, Prague, Tirana, Istanbul, São Paulo, Delhi)
www.bucer.org

missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)
www.missiotop.org

Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance
www.europeanea.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

UN Bonn liaison for inter-religious concerns of WEA

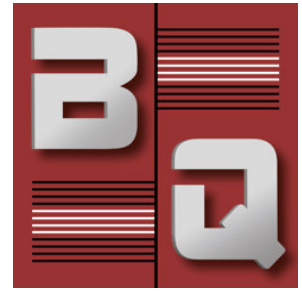
WEA Sustainability Center
www.wea-sc.org

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

SOS World (Brussels)
www.sosworld.be/page-daccueil/

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



- **Photo 2:** Cover of the book by Norng Chan Phal
- **Photo 3A:** Dedication of the book by Norng Chan Phal for Thomas Schirmmayer © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 3B:** Vietnamese soldiers deliver Norng Chan Phal and his little brother (Documentation Center of Cambodia) © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 4:** Thomas Schirmmayer in the entrance of the memorial stupa in the center of the Killing Field Choeung Ek © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 5:** Memorial stupa in the center of the Killing Field Choeung Ek © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 6 and photo 7:** Skulls in the memory stupa in the center of the Killing Field Choeung Ek © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 8:** The tree in Choeung Ek, where the skulls of the children were smashed © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 9:** Drawing of survivors to Choeung Ek © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 10:** Mass grave in the Killing Field Choeung Ek © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 11:** The courtyard of S-21 © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 12:** A cell of S-21 © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 13:** Site plan of S-21 © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 14:** Photos of murder victims taken in S-21 © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 15:** The royal palace at night © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 16:** The Coronation Hall © BQ/Schirmmayer
- **Photo 17:** View of the king's private palace from the coronation hall © BQ/Schirmmayer
- Wikipedia entry on Khmer Rouge Killing Fields: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_Rouge_Killing_Fields
- The Killing Fields Museum of Cambodia: <http://www.killingfieldsmuseum.com>
- Khmer Rouge Trial Monitor – Hearing: <https://krtmonitor.org/tag/nong-chan-phal/>

A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, German Branch Tübingen, EU-Office Brüssel)
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Linz, Zürich, Prague, Tirana, Istanbul, São Paulo, Delhi)
www.bucer.org

missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)
www.missiotop.org

Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance
www.europeanea.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

UN Bonn liaison for inter-religious concerns of WEA

WEA Sustainability Center
www.wea-sc.org

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

SOS World (Brussels)
www.sosworld.be/page-daccueil/

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 4106 804806
Fax: +49 4106 804807
Email: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de



This text is licensed under the Creative Commons license (by-nc-sa).