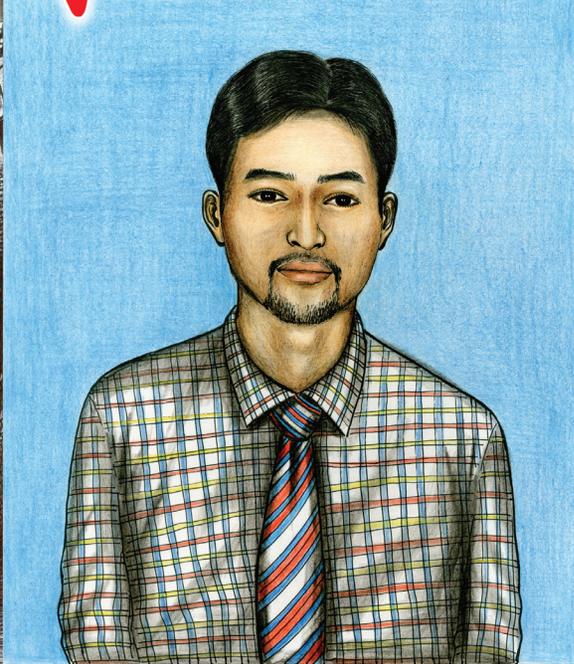


សេចក្តីស្តាប់ស្តាប់
ក្នុងការកែប្រែសេចក្តីស្តាប់ស្តាប់

Slavery at Sea

Drawings by Prum Vannak



Foreword

I want everyone to know about this. Through my pictures, I want to warn all cross-border migrant workers to be careful. Even if they do not keep my own story in mind, they will at least have an idea of what life is like for people trafficked onto boats for forced labor - Vannak

Vannak is a Cambodian survivor of human trafficking. His story is one of extreme poverty and of what people are sometimes forced to do to take care of their families.

Many trafficking victims don't live to tell their stories. Vannak is one of the lucky few who return home after their ordeal.

Unable to pay for his pregnant wife's hospital bill, Vannak decided to look for work away from home, on the Thai border.

With others like him, he was caught in a web of trafficking and corruption, realizing only too late that he had been sold as a slave to a fishing boat.

Beatings, cruelty, and disease were daily occurrences. Finally, Vannak and a friend jumped into the water and, hugging empty fish-sauce containers because they could not swim, reached Malaysia.

There, they were sold again, this time to a plantation owner. When Vannak finally came home with the help of a local NGO, no one would believe his extraordinary story.

He resorted to drawing pictures of what he remembered.

Vannak never had a formal education or training in art. As a child, he said, he drew "in the dirt, just for fun."

Later, he practiced drawing on wooden writing boards with dried clay until the day when a Vietnamese soldier gave him paper and pencils.

"That's when I learned to draw on paper. I really love being an artist," Vannak told our correspondent.

These drawings bear witness to Vannak's ordeal, and to the lives of others whose voices have been silenced.



ជីវិតមុនពេលចេញទៅ ចុះទូកនៅ
ប្រទេសថៃ និង ប្រទេសម៉ាឡេស៊ី

My life before leaving for work on the fishing boat in Thailand and Malaysia.



ដើម្បីជៀសវាងការប្រឆាំងប្រយោជន៍របស់អាជ្ញាធរស្រុក
ខ្មែរក្រហម ដើម្បីជៀសវាងការប្រឆាំងប្រយោជន៍
របស់អាជ្ញាធរស្រុកខ្មែរក្រហម ដើម្បីជៀសវាងការប្រឆាំង
ប្រយោជន៍របស់អាជ្ញាធរស្រុកខ្មែរក្រហម ដើម្បីជៀសវាង
ការប្រឆាំងប្រយោជន៍របស់អាជ្ញាធរស្រុកខ្មែរក្រហម

When crossing the border to Thailand in the darkness through the Srah Keo road, migrants were forced to lie down in a stack, covered by a black cloth.



ពោលពេល៖ ធ្វើការពោល ឆ្លង រលឹក ក៏ ទុំ
ចិត្ត ដើ ឆ្លង រលឹក ពោល ពោល៖ មាន គ្រឿង
ប្រាក ដំ រលឹក យ ឆ្លង ឆ្លង រលឹក យ ឆ្លង៖
ដំ រលឹក យ ឆ្លង ឆ្លង រលឹក យ ឆ្លង

Workers fix a fishing net during a rainstorm with huge waves. We always work nonstop.



ជីវិតនៅលើទូកមានភាពគ្រោះថ្នាក់គ្រប់គោល
សំបាប់នេះគឺនៅពេលយប់ស្ងាត់
នៅទីនេះមាននរណាម្នាក់ . សម្រេច វាពេញពេញ
សម្រេច វិស័យ ហើយ សម្រេច ចែក ចែក

It is deadly dangerous living on the boat. This decapitation was done in the middle of a quiet night. This is the true story of life on boats in Malaysian, Indonesian, and Thai seas.



ករណីពេលពេលព័ទ្ធជា ម្នាក់បានឆ្លៀតទៅ/ចូលទៅ
ម៉ែរពេញ ដើម្បីជំនួយឈាមយប់ៗលើកន្សៃ
ហើយពោលនោះមានម៉ូឌុលមនោគាសរត់រត់
ចេញពីទូក ពីរនាក់ដំណើរតិចប្រយោជន៍

We escape from the fishing boat. When the boat was moored at a dock to pay tax in Malaysia, one of the Thai workers and I used this chance to escape the boat.



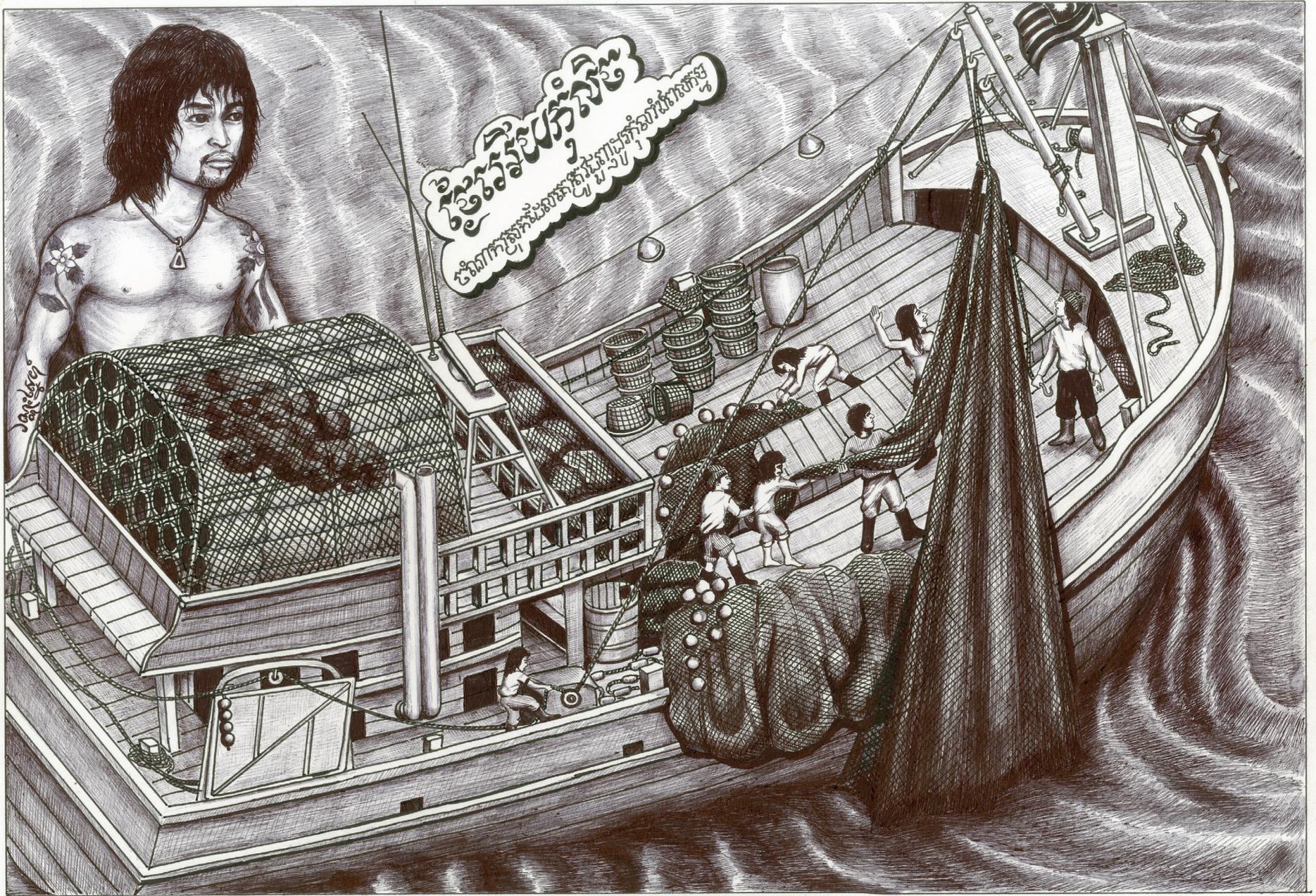
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Working at an oil palm plantation on Sibu Island, Malaysia. There were a lot of different nationals working on that island. The managers were Malaysians or Chinese. The plantation owner, who was known as Mr. Din, is Chinese.



ឧបនាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រី ហ៊ុន សែន
លោក ស៊ី ណារ៉ាណ ខេត្តកំពង់ស្ពឺ

Prum Vannak Anan. Jrolorng Nhus Village, Tom Por Meas Commune, Som Rong Torng District, Kampong Speu Province.



To the sun: Please don't set on the migrant workers who are trafficked for forced labor.