

THEARY SENG

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



Theary Seng was born in January of 1971 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. When the Khmer Rouge took control of Phnom Penh and the genocide began, Theory's family was forced to leave the capital city. Several weeks later, when Theory's father returned to Phnom Penh to report for military service, he was murdered. Theory and the rest of her family were forced to work in agriculture. After several years they were arrested and Theory's mother was murdered, but Theory and her four brothers were freed by the prison

guards.

Theary believes the guards had compassion for her and her siblings and took measures to save them. They made their way to refugee camps in Thailand. Then, they emigrated to the United States and lived first in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and later to southern California.

After completing a law degree in the U.S. and writing her memoir, *Daughter of the Killing Fields*, she returned to Cambodia and became a key figure in human rights and international justice initiatives. She was interviewed on July 13, 2011 in Los Angeles, California.