# Be a Hero for a Better World



"Together we can prevent genocide from happening again. Together we can make a better future for our children."

## **Dith Pran**

(1942 - )

Dith Pran is a photojournalist and a survivor of the Cambodian Genocide. The Academy Awardwinning movie, *The Killing Fields* was based on Dith Pran's real-life experiences during the Vietnam War. As a photojournalist covering the civil war in Cambodia from 1972 to 1975, Dith Pran saved the lives of his fellow Western journalists when they were held for execution. He suffered through four years of torture and starvation in the Cambodian killing fields -- the Cambodian forced labor camps -- before he escaped.

Dith Pran and his sister were the only ones in his family who survived the genocide -- in all he lost nearly 50 relatives. He started the Dith Pran Holocaust Awareness Project to help educate American students about the genocide that took place in Cambodia between 1975 and 1979. He believes that although mass killings have occurred again and again around the world, together we can prevent genocide from happening in the future. Dith Pran was appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and in 1998, he received an Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Dith Pran was born on September 27, 1942 in Angkor Wath, Cambodia

#### Be A Hero For A Better World!

- 1. Find out more about this hero
- 2. Hold an event to raise awareness about human rights issues
- 3. Contribute to organizations working to defend human rights

### **Human Rights Organizations**

- Amnesty International (amnesty.org)
- Carter Center (cartercenter.org)
- Human Rights First (humanrightsfirst.org)
- Human Rights Watch (hri.org)
- Rights International (rightsinternational.org)
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (ohchr.org)
- Witness (witness.org)
- Women's Human Rights Net (whrnet.org)

For more information: www.betterworldheroes.com/pran.htm

#### BetterWorldHeroes.com