

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE.

MONTHLY REPORT

June, 2003



## Monthly Report for June 2003.

This month, attention is being greatly focussed on the "De Pae Yinn Incident," which occurred on the 30 of May, near the little town of De Pae Yinn in Upper Burma.

According to the SPDC media, an assembled group of USDA (Union Solidarity and Development Association) members, who supported the Military Junta were attacked by a big group of NLD agitators who were led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The report said that there were four deaths and some injured, resulting from that incident. Then, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) said that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was put under "Protective Custody," for her own protection, as there was imminent threat to her life. It was the seventh time she was put in protective Custody, to be sure.

But then, independent Reports came out which said that what happened was just the opposite of what the SPDC had reported. The National League for Democracy (NLD) Party members, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were making their Political Tour of the Kachin State and Upper Burma, stopping in cities and towns to make organizing speeches. Large crowds attended to hear the speeches, to the displeasure of the Authorities, who many times employed crude measures to hinder or disrupt such supportive gatherings. One can see such things in other fields as well. It is not unusual to hear of athletes using enhancing drugs, when they know they will not be able to win by fair means, and which some people may call "cheating."

The truth of what actually happened came out bit by bit. The NLD party and adherents were travelling near De Pae Yinn on the night of May 30<sup>th</sup>, when they were assaulted by a waiting group of SPDC supporters together with some toughs and prisoners. Reports also say that there are more deaths and injuries -more than what was reported by the authorities. Many are in hospitals. Many are thrown into jails. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was put in protective custody. More of what had happened at De Pae Yinn will still be coming out- of which the world is eagerly awaiting.

To all evidences, what Aung San Suu Kyi gave to the crowd was just simple and straight forward talk, nothing explosive, nothing offensive, nothing unusual. She was speaking out what everyone saw and lived. She touched on the messy, sorrowful conditions of the country and people. She talked about the breakdown of service structures, the failures, the hardships, the poverty due to inefficiency and irresponsibility. She talked about the need for change towards the better, towards reconciliation, the need for commitment and effort. She made people laugh. Huge crowds gather to see and hear her, which the Junta in all their power cannot hope to match. The Generals may be quite good at fighting with guns-still, they may find themselves limited and unequal in fighting the Democracy Lady with words, which can be more potent than bullets.

In 1995, it was rumored that a small house was built by the authorities in Inn-Sein Jail- special and apart from other buildings. People said this was the pre-planned placement, to keep some special person in isolation. Most likely it was in this little house that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi celebrated her 58<sup>th</sup> Birthday which was on June 19 ' 2003. A lonely, small, frail women, and a widow- far away from her beloved sons, without relatives or even friends for encouragement or comfort, isolated in her little St. Helena.

Another sad twist in her challenging life, is that her own elder brother, Aung San Oo, who is living the good life as a U.S. citizen and who in all Probability need support her, is suing her for possession of the house left by their late mother Daw Khin Kyi. Very sad indeed.

Even now, some people have stooped so low as to call Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, "Kalar Ma" meaning "Indian Woman," which certainly would be a derogatory remark, alluding to her marriage to an Englishman. Yet, she perseveres. There is no indication that she will ever relent. Lesser stuff would have disintegrated. But then, she's STEEL- pure and simple - We Salute Her.

## June KRC- Refugee Camps. Activities

June is the beginning of Educational Academic Year 2003- 2004 in Refugee Camps schools. In all, there are 33557 students and 1059 Teachers in 7 Refugee Camps in this Border Region.

**Noh Poe Camp:** There is increase in New Refuge seekers, together with more students, as a result of repressive military activities and intimidation inside the Burma Border.

Mass activities- Observing World Refugee Day and Anti-Drugs Movement by the Camp Population.

**Mae La Camp Activity:** Cooperative work activity between MOI and Mae La Camp's Administrative Committee in Correctional updating of Camp, Population Statistics.

Categories:   Registered Population  
                  Rejects  
                  New arrivals

MOI collecting figures of persons who have not yet received basic support- and which will be sent to BBC for provision of support Material.

On 17-6-03:

ZOA together with the Thai Education Foundation Personal Visited KRC and Refugee Camps for information regarding need provision and support in Vocational Training's in Camps.

On 26- 6- 03:

Mae La Camp's Anti Drugs Day Celebration Mass Assembly- where 5000 Camps People attended. There was the oath swearing Ceremony where (84) addicts made Drugs renunciation pledges in front of the assembled People.

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS June, 2003.

	CAMP	No. of	Over-	12Yrs	5-12	Yrs	Under	5Yrs	Total
		families	M	F	M	F	M	F	
<b>MAE SOT AREA</b>	Mae La	5,416	10868	10577	3549	3329	2137	2027	32,487
	Um Pheim Mai	3,595	6,484	6160	2149	2021	1,216	1,158	19188
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9011</b>	<b>17,352</b>	<b>16737</b>	<b>5,698</b>	<b>5350</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>3,185</b>	<b>51675</b>
<b>NORTH</b>	Mae Ra Mu Luang	1,903	4,220	3,722	1,257	1,149	741	<b>717</b>	11,806
	Mae Kha & Sa la	2,800	5,679	5197-	1,484	1,413	1,726	<b>1,591</b>	17090 -
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,703</b>	<b>9,899</b>	<b>8,919</b>	<b>2,741</b>	<b>2,562</b>	<b>2,467</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>28896</b>
<b>SOUTH</b>	Noh Poe	2,883	3928	3,758	1,718	1,585	734	<b>810</b>	12,533
	Ban Dong Yang	736	1,083	1,198	412	391	280	287	3,651
	Htam Him	1,652	2,047	2,188	1,422	<b>1,395</b>	857	<b>871</b>	8780
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,271</b>	<b>7058</b>	<b>7144</b>	<b>3,552</b>	<b>3,371</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>1968</b>	<b>24,964</b>
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>18,985</b>	<b>34,309</b>	<b>32,800</b>	<b>11,991</b>	<b>11283</b>	<b>7,691</b>	<b>7,461</b>	<b>105535</b>

### RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH

FROM	CAMP	Rice 100 Kg Sack	Salt Kilos	F -paste 15-Kg Tin	Yellow Bean- 60 Kilo Sack	Chilies Kilos	Cooking Oil 200 ltr	Charcoal 30 kg saks	Charcoal 25 kg sacks
B.B.C	Umphiem Mai	5,839	7,550	1,256	295	2,340	89	-	6,328
	Mae La	13,209	17,100	2,850	669	5,340	200	10,174	-
COERR	Um Pheim	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

We shall always be grateful to the Thai people and Government for their sympathy and understanding in allowing us safe refuge.

We are also indebted to the NGOs for their Supports and Services.

BBC- Support in Food and Shelter Material. BBC is also supporting with warm clothing for all the camps.

MSF - Support in Medical and Health facilities.

AMI-

ARC-

MHD-

ZOA (ABWaid) - Support in Educational facilities Teachers' Training.

Consortium - Support in Educational facilities, Teachers' Training and Education for Deaf/ Mute / Blinds.

TOPS - Support in Educational facilities.

ICS-Asia- Support in Educational facilities and school buildings.

COERR - Rice and Educational support. EVI - to be involved with Extremely Vulnerable People.

HI - Support for Refugee Handicaps with Prosthesis and rehabilitation and also year- end sporting events for Handicaps.

NCA- (Norway Church Aid) has been providing KRC with administrative & Organizational Support.

It has also supported with remuneration for KRC members and workers.

UNHCR- For Registration Process Protection and Ultimate Safe Repatriation.

SMRU - Support with Malaria Control, Prevention and Treatment.

SVA- to support with Libraries in the camps.

PPAT- Parenthood Planning Association Thailand - Supporting with Family Planning and Preventive/ Education in Refugee Camps.