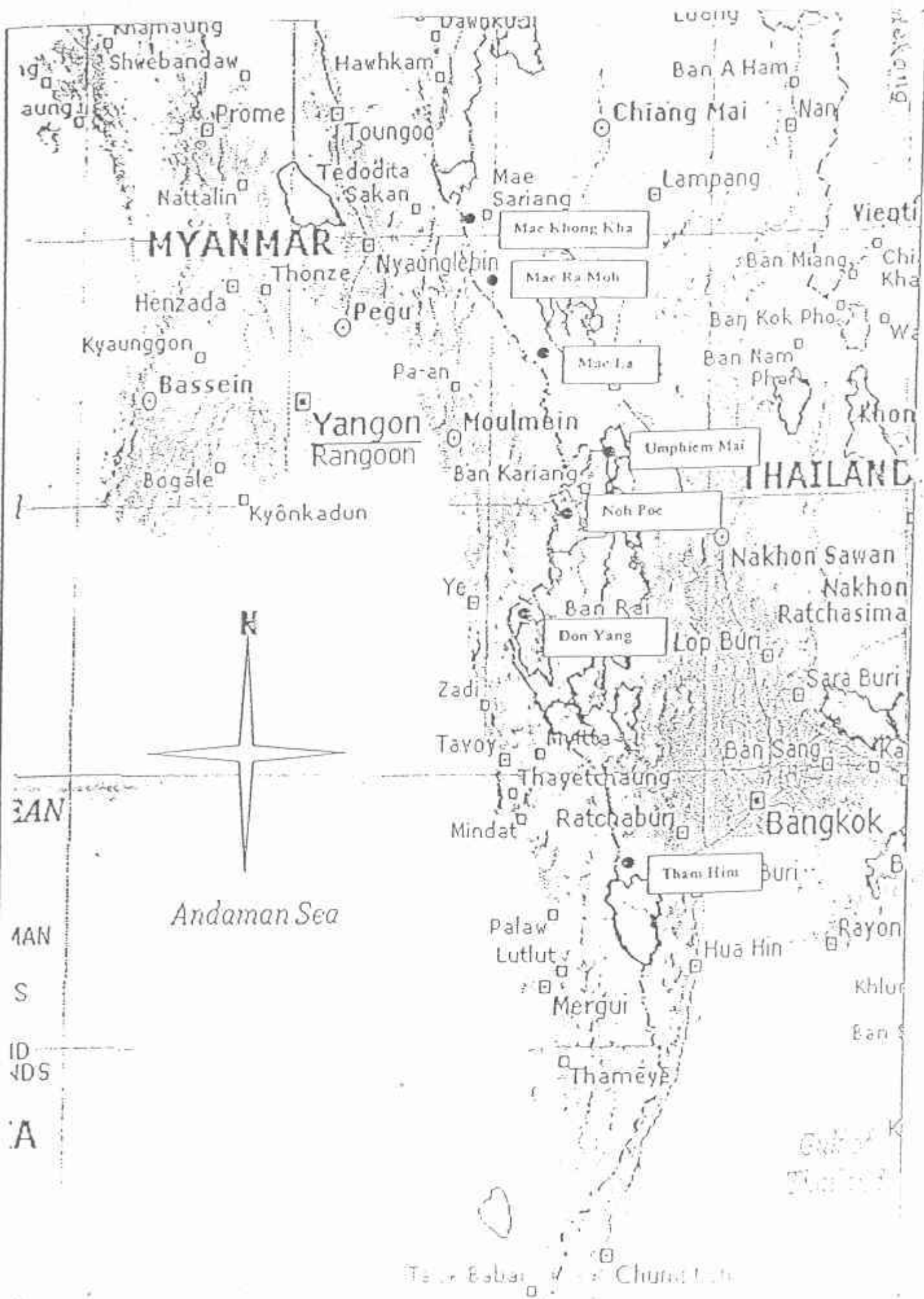




KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST, 2003



Karen Refugee Committee.
Monthly Report
August, 2003

This month , we are hearing a lot of explosions. There was the car Bomb explosion outside the JW Marriot Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, Which killed many. That was followed by the Car Bomb explosion at the United Nations, which killed, among others, the UN Envoy Mr. Sergio Viera de Mello. Then there was the car Bomb explosions in Bombay, India and the explosions at Najaf, Iraq which resulted in many deaths including the Shiite Leader, Ayatollah Mohamed Baqer al-Hakim. Still, there is as yet no sign that such horrifying acts will come to a stop. These remind us of the two Big Explosions many decades ago. In August of 1945 near the end of World War II, two Atomic Bombs were dropped on the Japanese Cities of Hiroshima-and Nagasaki. Hundreds of thousands*died in the "Blink of an Eye" from the Two Huge Explosions.

That led us again to remember the huge natural explosions of Historic Proportions that occurred hundreds of years ago. There was the Eruption of Mount Vesuvius on August 24th ,in AD 79- which buried the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum under fiery rock, lava and ash, killing thousands. There was the Massive volcanic Eruption of Mount Krakatao in the East Indies (Indonesia) in August of 1883, which killed an estimated 36000, and which was supposed to be the biggest explosion on record.

Man has been living along side explosions for thousands of years and the fascination with explosive power seem to be as strong as ever. Many Nations are now in possession of weapons of Massive explosive Power and still many are endeavoring to achieve such. There-in lies the danger Knowledgeable people are of the opinion that explosive power possessed by Man at the present, can destroy our World, many times over.

But for many people in Burma it would be the Explosion of sentiments on the 8th of August 1988 that will be remembered most- that was the so called "Four Eights Movement" , the day when the Common people, including workers, teachers and students openly, showed their dissent of the repressive Military Rule. Taking to the streets all over Burma, to protest, many were ruthlessly gunned down following General Ne Win's comment that "when soldiers shoot, they shoot straight". Many missing are unaccounted for unto this day.

This month, Burma has a new- Prime Minister. He is the same General Khin Nyunt, who used, \$< to be the SLORC/ SPDC's Secretary I. The appointment was by order of SPDC Chief; Senior GeneralLt%ic? Than Shwe. This change apparently came because of intense pressure from abroad, following the "Depaeyin Incident" and the imprisonment of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, together with other NLD Members. What really happened at De Pae Yin, coming out bit by bit, from day to day, appear to be not one desired of a civilized community.

At the end of this month, the new Prime Minister made an inaugural speech, announcing a Road Map for Democracy, where a Seven-Point plan for a transition to Democratic Rule, including "Free and Fair Elections", under a New Constitution was put up.

To be sure, there was no mention by the Prime Minister, with regard to the General Elections of 1990, which the SLORC / SPDC initiated in the first place and then failed to recognise the outcome.

With the end of this month, news have come out that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was telling people, not to send her any more food or clothing, which would imply that she's now on hunger strike. It would be very troubling, following on the heel of the De Pae Yin Incident, which had taken Reconciliation and Peace Efforts many steps back wards. Most worrying would be that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi herself was never a sturdy person, preoccupied more with National Matters than for her our personal well-being. Still she must have chosen the "Way" only after serious reasoning. For many of us its remembering the old parable of "The straw that breaks the Camel's back" But then, camels are known to be very tough and out right stubborn.

K.R.C - CAMPS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES- AUGUST 2003

- ARC (American Refugee Committee) and KRC meet to discuss implementation of HIV/AIDS-Volunteer Counseling and Testing (VCT) Services in Noe Poe, Um Phiem and Ban Dong Yang Camps. ARC was represented by Dr. Kristian R. Olson
- Beginning this month Birth Certificates were provided for children born in Refugee Camps. Starting from year 1999.
- For reasons of stability and security in Camps, Authorities have imposed strict measures on checking people entering and going out of camps. New arrivals into camps will not be accepted without any sound reasons, which would be displacement by fighting.
- ICS and ZOA provided material support for CARE Team Works Processes in Mae La and Um Phiem Camps (Drugs Addiction Education and Rehabilitation)
- Mae La Camp- Social Relations Working Group activities-Basic Human Rights and Social Development discussion session was held in Mae La Camp from the 3rd to the 10th of August for promotion of friendship and understanding between Camp's People and Thai Karen Nationals from surrounding villages. Representatives of KRC, KWO, KYO, KSNG, SRWG and from Mae Sot, Mae Ramat, Tha Song Yang, Mae Sareing and Chaing Mai took part in the discussions. Altogether (23) representatives took part.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS August, 2003.

	CAMP	No. of families	Over- 12 Yrs		6 - 12 Yrs		Under 5Yrs		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
MAE SOT AREA	Mae La	5,416	10,844	10,566	3,546	3,328	2,221	2,098	32,603
	Um Pheim Mai	3,516	6,346	6,046	2,099	1,978	1,263	1,198	18,930
	Total	8,932	17,190	16,612	5,645	5,306	3,484	3,296	51,533
NORTH	Mae Ra Mu Luang	1,901	4,178	3,688	1,260	1,125	762	733	11,746
	Mae Kha & Sa la	2,790	5,770	5,291	1,774	1,567	1,366	1,292	17,060
	Total	4,691	9,948	8,979	3,034	2,692	2,128	2,025	28,806
SOUTH	Noh Poe	2,824	4,128	3,918	1,418	1,256	717	798	12,235
	Ban Dong Yang	736	1,070	1,185	409	390	288	300	3,642
	Htam Him	1,652	2,045	2,188	1,421	1,395	874	891	8,814
	Total	5,212	7,243	7,291	3,248	3,041	1,879	1,989	24,691
	Grand total	18,835	34,381	32882	11,927	11,039	7,491	7,310	105,030

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
B.B.C	Umphiem Mai	5,848	7,546	1,258	296	2,359	89	5,279
	Mae La	14,133	18,166	3,030	713	5,689	214	10,915
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.

H.I - 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.