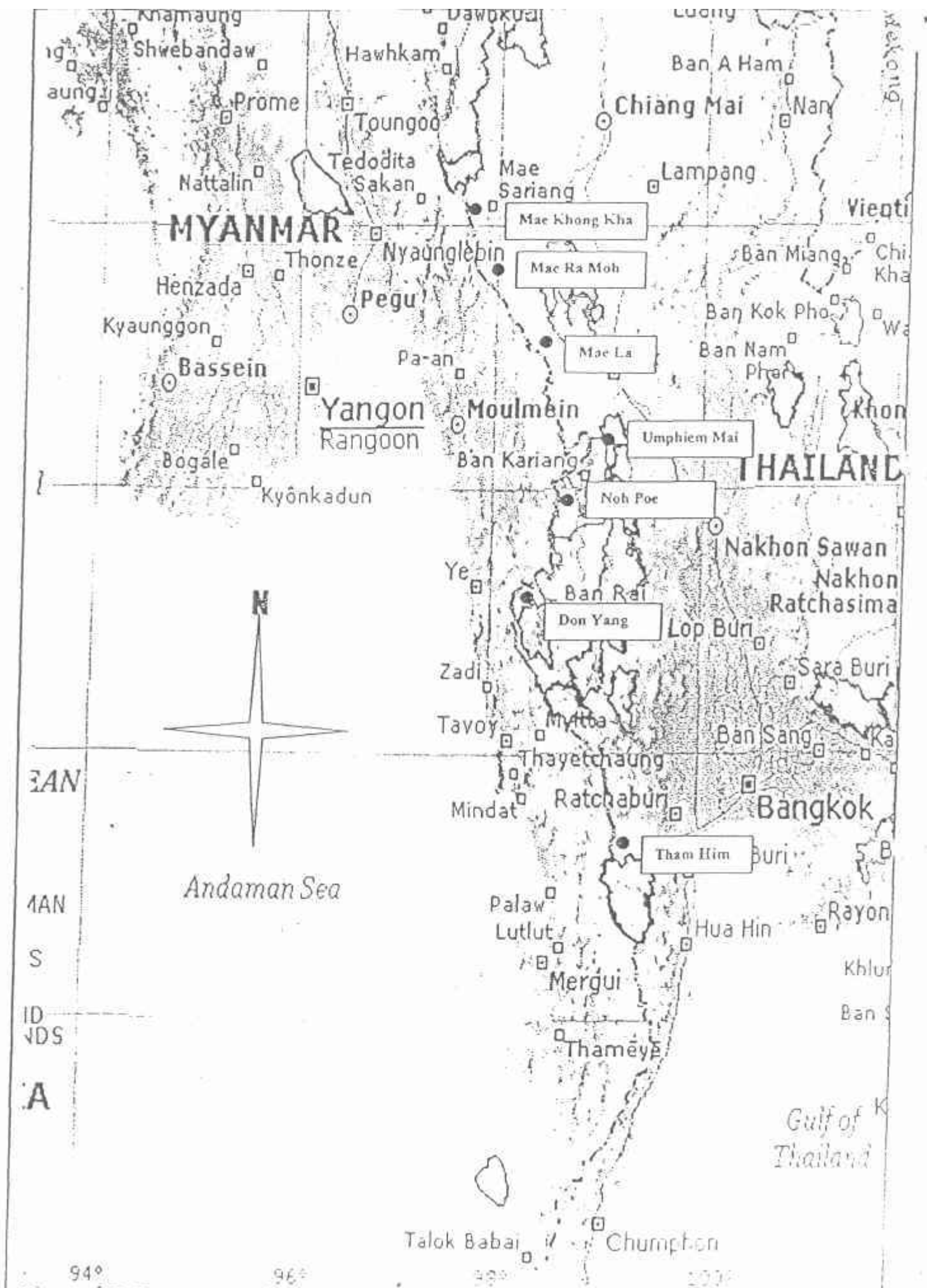


**KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**OCTOBER, 2003**



**Karen Refugee Committee**  
**Monthly Report**  
**October- 2003.**

With the coming of October, we are reminded of great historical events that shaped our world of today.

In October of 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered the West Indies- and thus the discovery of the western World, which came to be called the Americas. He was in fact trying to find the East Indies. By going to the west, he hoped to reach *it* on the surmise that the world was round and which travelling would ultimately take him there. The discovery of the New World was a great opening for peoples of the Old World, But which was surely not good for the Original Peoples.

October, 1911. The Great movement in China, brought the Manchu Dynasty to an end, with Dr. Sun Yat Sen aspiring to the Presidency of the United Provinces of China, and bringing the most populous nation on earth onto the World stage.

The October 1919 Russian Revolution brought Absolute Power to Lenin and the Communist Party of Russia and resulted in the emergence of the Soviet Union as a World Power. The USSR detonated a 50 megaton Nuclear Device on October 29<sup>th</sup> 1961 to manifest their Power Status. It was the most powerful man-made explosion, ever recorded.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1949, the Communist Peoples Republic of China was formally proclaimed by Chairman Mao Tse Tung. To day, China is undeniably one of our worlds Super Powers, together with the United states of America and Russia. This October, China became the 3<sup>rd</sup> country that succeeded in sending their Astronaut into space and orbit the earth.

In this October, we are reminded of the Yom Kippur War, the biggest Arab-Israeli fighting, that began on October 6<sup>th</sup> 1973 and ended a week later. Still, the fall-out from that War is still affecting many peoples and regions of our World to day.

This October is also the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the "Bali Bombings" in Indonesia, which killed over two hundred people and which showed that Terrorists can and will strike at any place, any time. There was the follow up bombs explosions at the Marriot Hotel in Jakarta, bomb explosions at the UN head-office in Baghdad, the suicide bombings in Israel/ Palestine- the bombing of the ICRC Head office in Iraq. Such cycle of violence, killings, hatred, vengeance, retaliations could spin out of control.

This October, we see regional meetings like ASEAN and APEC, where member Nations will be making attempts at working towards political stability and economical improvements. We wish all success although things undeniably are easier said than done.

This October 15<sup>th</sup> - the Islamic Conference of (57) Muslim Countries was held in , Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Most surprising was the speech by Prime Minister Mahathir, which must be comparable to the speech by General Ne Win some decades ago, when he said, "when soldiers shoot, they shoot straight", /here is a saying in Burmese "Pyin Nyar Shee, Tha Deet Phyt Kheh", Which would mean "Wise Men cannot always be cautious".

Then again, we hear of some sabre- rattling, when India and Pakistan test fired missiles with hints that they are "Nuclear Capable" . And again, many people will be asking questions with regard to North Korea and Iran for their attempts at Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Means.

With regard to Iraq, what the world knew was that the Fighting ended some months ago. But according to reports the number of US Troops Casualty in Iraq, after the Fighting stopped actually surpassed that of the number suffered during the period of active Fighting.

Nearer to home we remember the Incident in Bangkok in October of 1999, when Burmese Students occupied the Embassy Compound, making demands, but which, fortunately was ably handled by the Authorities.

This month, again we hear of Religious Tensions in many parts of Burma, and which the authorities find it necessary to contain. Religion Teaches, Goodwill, Harmony and Peaceful living. But then, there can be many interpretations, some of which can never be called conducive to harmonious living.

As for the overall situation in Burma, all that can be said is that, there is as yet no improvement perceptible, only deterioration . The economy is getting worse. Politically, it is at an impasse, going nowhere, with opposition Leaders either in Custody, inactivated or in hiding. Ethnic voices are contained, subdued, .or simply neglected. The People, as a whole are completely cowed. Good living, rule of law and equality are quite foreign . Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who barely escaped with her life from the trap at De Pae

As for the SPDC Road Map, it will just go on. The military will see to that- with the support of many friendly peoples. Voltaire must have foreseen something, when he said "It is dangerous to be right, when the Government is wrong" Something to dwell on.

However we wish all the Best to the United Nations, on the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its birth, when in October of 1945, the then (51) member Nations formed the First Organization of Nations.

### K.R.C. Camps Committees - Activities.

-Education - The KRC Camps Affairs Co-ordinator, and Educator, visited Mae La, Um Pheim Camps and met with Camp Committee Members, Camps Education Co-ordinators and Camps Education Workers. Discussed were matters related to proper management and handling of Camps Education, together with support for Camps Educational Workers including Headmasters, Teachers'and Office Staffs. Support for Headmasters, teachers and Office Staffs came from ZOA, Consortium and ABWAID.

-Camps Boarding Houses. With regard to this matter, KRC finds that although there are a lot of Boarding Houses, each being run by their own management and work personnel. For the sake of propriety, and uniformity in the management of Boarding Houses, the KRC Vice Chairman and some members visited Mae La Camp and met with the Camp Committee, Zone / Section leaders and Boarding House Heads. Matters related to Management, registration, control, welfare, service and discipline were discussed. There will be a follow up meeting with support NGOs and UNHCR some time later.

-Mae Kong Kha Camp Relocation.

On the 16 October, the Mae Hong Song Thai Authorities met with UNHCR, KRC and support NGOs, to discuss, relocation of Mae Kha Sa La Refugee Camp to another site.

-Discussed were, building of the road to the new site.

-Then to send first group of people for site clearance and shelter building.

-To start sending Camps people beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>.

-Military authorities will be responsible for security.

-UNHCR, KRC& NGOs put up their concerns with regard to security, Transport, Medical/ Health and Educational disruption.

-5-12/ October, a workshop on Karen Basic Human Rights and Social Development was held in Mae La -Camp. Participating were Karen Youth Organization and Karen Women Organization members, Representatives of "Friends Without Borders" Discussed were matters related to Relations between the Camp Refugee Community and the local Thai- Karen Young people and women, about social problems, ways for improvement and addressing of social related problems.

-15-16 October.

The MOI and KRC cooperated in forming an electoral Commission to conduct the Election in Um Pheim Camp, of (15) Camp Administrative Committee members. The election was conducted through secret voting by selected Delegates. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, the Um Pheim Camp Administrative Committee selected (10) Zone B, Administrative Committee members and then on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October selected (10) Zone A. Administrative Committee members. The selection Processes were conducted through secret Voting. MOI and KRC Cooperated in overseeing all the Election Processes.

-From 20<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October, BBC, ZOA and KRC members went to Mae La, Um Pheim and Noh Poe Refugee Camps, for cooperated effort in Food Security measures. There were discussions with camps MOI and Committee members and inspection of vegetable gardening works in the camps, and which efforts will be expanded with cooperation and support from other interested NGOs.

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

MAE SOT AREA	CAMP	No. of	Over-	13 Yrs	6 - 12	Yrs	Under	5Yrs	Total
		families	M	F	M	F	M	F	
	Mae La	5,429	10,841	10,581	3,550	3,337	2,310	2,188	32,807
	Um Pheim Mai	3,512	5,585	5,344	2,830	2,726	1,292	1,192	18,969
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,941</b>	<b>16,426</b>	<b>15,925</b>	<b>6,380</b>	<b>6,063</b>	<b>3,602</b>	<b>3,380</b>	<b>51,776</b>
<b>NORTH</b>	Mae Ra Mu Luang	1,898	4,159	3,673	1,282	1,123	749	722	11,708
	Mae Kha & Sa la	2,790	5,792	5,311	1,892	1,716	1,208	1,158	17,077
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,688</b>	<b>9,951</b>	<b>8,984</b>	<b>3,174</b>	<b>2,839</b>	<b>1,957</b>	<b>1,880</b>	<b>28,785</b>
<b>SOUTH</b>	Noh Poe	2,758	4,050	3,869	1,420	1,261	747	816	12,163
	Ban Dong Yang	736	1,056	1,175	409	388	304	316	3,648
	HtamHim	1,652	2,041	2,186	1,421	1,395	904	908	8,855
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,146</b>	<b>7,147</b>	<b>7,230</b>	<b>3,250</b>	<b>3,044</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>24,666</b>
	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>18,775</b>	<b>33,524</b>	<b>32,139</b>	<b>12,804</b>	<b>11,946</b>	<b>7,514</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>105,227</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 sacks	Charcoal 25 kg sacks
B.B.C	UmphiemMai	5,887	7,600	1,266	298	2,370	-	-	6,379
	Mae La	14,223	18,300	3,052	718	5,730	218	10,993	-
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.