

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER, 2003



Karen Refugee Committee
November, 2003.

Few will remember what happened in Germany, on the 9th of November 1938. What happened was ""Kristallnacht" - Night of Broken Glass", the beginning of the Anti- Semetic riots and destruction of Jewish Institutions in Germany and Austria. Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Jewish children were expelled from schools. Jewish property and business were expropriated.

That was Holocaust, the Term depicting the NAZI annihilation of 6 million Jews, during the 1930s and 1940s . Along with them, 9 to 10 million people , including Gypsies, Poles, Ukrainians , Belorussians, homosexuals and the disabled were exterminated. That was what happened, when Absolute Power was consolidated in the hands of a Group of People, or for that matter, in a Single Individual, Adolf Hitler.

Sixty years have passed by, and during all these years, we see the repeats of what had happened before, most notably " Kristallnachts" . We see Individuals or Groups, vying for Absolute Power, People attempting to subjugate or exterminate others. As a result, We see confrontations and conflicts, with every signs that they will still be continuing. Even 'ately, we are hearing of comments relating to troubling events of those far off days, and which will do little to help minimize incidents in our troubled world.

In our country, today, many will be remembering the " Night of De Pae Yin", of what happened to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her NLD Group, on their Organizing Tour of Upper Burma. From what came out of that, it can only be called " State Terrorism", as High officials are known to be involved. Eye witness accounts, personal accounts are coming out bit by bit, although the Authorities are trying their utmost to cover it up, It would be a real shocker, if it were to come out - whole. It was stuff for Drama, from planning, to execution to the aftermath.

At the end of this month, Six months to the Day, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, together with many Opposition Leaders are still in Protective Custody. NLD offices are still not allowed to function.

Of course, there was release of opposition Activists. On closer look all of those released are people in their late 70s and over 80s . Others are so afflicted with ailments, physical and mental as to be considered completely de-activated or de-fanged.

But then, to turn to the present need situation . Everyone agreed to the need for Reconciliation . There are talks of the Road Map, put up by General Khin Nyunt, of which Neighbors and Regional Powers are ready and willing to help . There are talks of the National Convention to begin with. Many are strong on the Issue. Many are mixed up. Most are agreed on the need for Sincerity.

If there were to be Sincerity on all Parties, there need to be Participation by all concerned - the SPDC, the Opposition, the Ethnic Groups. Then, there is one Person, who cannot be side-lined or disregarded- namely Aung San Suu Kyi. In fact, the SLORC / SPDC had a hand in bringing her into prominence, bringing out the hidden qualities in her. Now, what cannot be denied is that enormous attention is focussed on her. When she moves, many, many, move. When she speaks, people listen with rapt attention. The world also listen and react. But looking at it, her actions and speeches can never be called combative or intransigent. She was speaking out for needed changes, for propriety and processes befitting Human Beings . She speak out for reason, for balance, with the single purpose of bettering the sorrowful condition of the Country and the People .

She cannot, and need not be side-lined, in the same way that the Ethnic Voices cannot

KR.C / Refugee Camps - Activities

19/11/03 - There was a meeting on 19/11/03 at Mae Sariang, presided by the Assistant Governor of Tak Province, where KRC and Branch KRC (Mae Sariang) participated.

The meeting was concerned with Relocation of Mae Kong Kha Camp- to the new site at Mae La Oo. The relocation Process was to begin on the 25th of November 2003. KRC was asked to help with smooth and proper relocation processes.

20/11/03- The Election of Mae La Camp Committee members was successfully conducted with Support and Participation of all sectors.

Committee Members Elected were.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1/ Saw Law Hti | - Chairman. |
| 2/ Saw Jolly | - Vice - Chairman. |
| 3/ Saw Tha Ker | - Secretary. |
| 4/ Saw Bu Ghay | - Joint - Secretary. |
| 5/ Saw Ther Ray | - Treasurer. |
| 6/ Saw Ton Ton | - Member. |
| 7/Saw Doh Ghay | - " |
| 8/ Saw Lay Tha Kee | - " |
| 9/Yin Min Pike | - " |
| 10/NawTayTay | - " |
| 11/Saw Lawrence | - " |
| 12/SawBawNer | - " |
| 13/SawThaDok | - " |
| 14/SawHsaLweh | - " |
| 15/MahnKyaw Aye | - " |

21/11/03 - Mr. Vincent. From E.U (ECHO), Evaluation Team visited Mae La Refugee Camp, accompanied by KRC Members to do some pre- evaluation assessments

21/11/03- There was regular KRC/ NGOs meeting at KRC Head office Mae Sot. There was information sharing together with discussions on topics of mutual interest.

23/11/03 and **24/11.03** E.U (ECHO) Evaluation Team headed by Mr. Claudio- accompanied by two other members, together with KRC (Mae Sot) members BBC staff visited Mae La Camp.

There was a meeting with the Camp Commander, who presented a wide ranging briefing on the Camp situation. The Evaluation Team visited Material Distribution Centres, Schools, Nurseries, Hospitals, Clinics, and made Evaluation Assessments. There was also spot visits to isolated families and questioning of living conditions of the Camps residents.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS NOVEMBER, 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	5,427	10,834	10,573	3,547	3,336	2,337	2,212	32,839
	Um Pheim Mai	3,512	5,584	5,342	2,830	2,726	1,305	1,204	18,991
	Total	8,939	16,418	15,915	6,377	6,062	3,642	3,416	51,830
NORTH	Mae Ra Mu Luang	1,911	4,168	3,687	1,282	1,126	760	736	11,759
	Mae Kha & Sa la	2,790	5,787	5,306	1,920	1,738	1,204	1,162	17,117
	Total	4,701	9,955	8,993	3,202	2,864	1,964	1,898	28,876
SOUTH	Noh Poe	2,768	4,056	3,877	1,421	1,263	760	832	12,209
	Ban Dong Yang	736	1,055	1,175	409	388	308	323	3,658
	Htam Him	1,652	2,041	2,186	1,421	1,395	904	908	8,855
	Total	5,156	7,152	7,238	3,251	3,046	1,972	2,063	24,722
	Grand total	18,796	33,525	32,146	12,830	11,972	7,578	7,377	105,428

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	5,880	7,600	1,265	297	2,370	-	-	6,025
	Mae La	14,276	18,400	3,067	722	5,760	219	12,110	-
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.