



# **KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

**JANUARY, 2007**

**Karen Refugee Committee**  
**Monthly Report**  
**January, 2007 – Newsletter**

With January, we have come around again to another year – Year 2007. So now, we are in the year of the Pig and no doubt we will be seeing new features, although there will still be the old features with us.

Of the past, we will be remembering the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 1948. On that day, Burma achieved Independence from Britain. The Union of Burma was born on that day, with the understanding that the united peoples of the Ethnic Burmese, Shan, Karen, Karenni, Kachin, Chin, Arakan, Mon, will live and thrive, together.

But looking at Burma now, it can only be a “sad” story. There is very little of Freedom. It is as much of Mis-rule, Mis-management as well as dissent, disharmony, antagonism and conflicts. These have been leading the country into chaos and decline, and the people are suffering very badly. So much for Independence.

Looking back, this January, we have cause to remember January 30<sup>th</sup> 1933. On that day, Germany’s President, Paul Von Hindenburg named Adolf Hitler as Chancellor. Later, on Hindenburg’s death, the cabinet joined the offices of President and Chancellor and Hitler became the “Fuehrer” (leader). Adolf Hitler achieved absolute power and what followed was History. Hitler abolished Freedom of Speech, Activity and Assembly and began a long series of persecutions climaxed by the killings of millions of Jews and others - the Holocaust.

The Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, a part of the Holocaust where 1.1 million men, women and children were exterminated, was liberated on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 1945, by Russian Troops.

Holocaust was an Historical Event that cannot be denied. But, denial there was “seeing is believing”.

The case is true with parallel killings in many countries, and not seeing can be not-believing. People continue getting killed, amidst denials, amidst VETOES.

In this New Year of 2007, the United Nations will be headed by a New Secretary-General in the person of Mr. Ban Ki Moon of South Korea. He will be the 8<sup>th</sup> United Nations Secretary General and who will be sorely tested with the Task of addressing problems between the Nations of the World. To all appearances, there can be very little that he can do. Simply because the “Buck” stops with the VETO. The final decision is with the VETO. There are the five VETOES in the UNITED NATIONS and they never seem to agree.

So, in this New Year, we will no doubt be seeing a repeat or continuing of the old year features. There will surely be conflicts, fighting, killings, revenge, retaliations – internal, International, regional – Involving individuals, groups, communal, regional, National - Alien conflict would be quite acceptable. But Iraqis killing Iraqis – Palestinians killing Palestinians are quite difficult to comprehend.

Also, this New Year will see a lot of debates and arguments on “weather change”. Already, there is a lot of voices heard with regard to Global warming, the causes, what can be expected of the changes. Already, people are coming to believe that because of this weather change, we are seeing more Rainstorms, Floods, Droughts, Fires, Mudslides, Melting Ice-sheets, destruction of coastal regions, reefs and islands etc.

With the New Year, still, there can be the upsurge in aggrandizing, glamorizing and flaunting of money and wealth, which may lead to people wanting more money, and which again will result in not so honest dealings, bribery, corruption, exploitation or outright criminal activities.

Then, with the New Year, there can be change in one feature – The Refugees from Burma.

The Refugees have been surviving in this Burma Border Region for many years already, thanks to many concerned, sympathetic peoples and countries.

At first it was hoping and waiting for a change for the Better, when the Refugees will return “HOME”. Now that hope seem to be dying, as conditions at “HOME” are deteriorating rather than improving. What we are seeing now is that concerned and sympathetic peoples and countries will be providing some form of an out-let, from this uncertain, terrible situation. Concerned Peoples and Countries will be helping with “Resettlement” for these unfortunate people. Many will grasp at the opportunity. But many still will remain, uncertain, not knowing what to do. Surely, this will not be the end of the story. But there will be change – for sure.

## **K.R.C – Camps – Activities – Report.**

### **January – 2007**

▲ 8.1.2007 - U.N.H.C.R – strengthening Protection capacity Project (SPCP) Consultant – Mr. Bob Duffy – visit K.R.C on a fact finding mission. As the first step, to get information on how Refugee Camp residents are procuring, getting incomes. He will be also visiting Camps to get information. K.R.C will also help with getting information on income generating works / efforts by the Refugees.

▲ 11.1.2007 - K.R.C Camps Affairs Coordinator, visit Tham Hin Camp and meet with the Camp Committee. Discussed were matters related to the C.M.P Camps Management Programme, the Annual General meeting between the Karen Elders, K.R.C and the Camps Committees from all (7) Karen Refugee Camps, The New arrivals who enter Camp for Refuge, Resettlement and other Refugee related Issues. (1979) personnel from Tham Hin Camp are now already resettled in some Third Countries. 135 more will be resettled in this month of January 2007.

▲ 16.1.2007 - K.R.C members Work / Visit Mae La Oo Camp.

▲ 17.1.2007 - Meetings held with Camps Committee Members and C.B.O. Preparations to be made for holding of Elections for a New Camps Committee. Elections are to be held in February 2007. The dates to be fixed later.

▲ 19.1.2007 - Meeting between Karen Elders, K.R.C and Camps Committees from Noh Poe, Um Phiem and Mae La Camps. U.N.H.C.R Field Coordinator Ms. Elizabeth Kirton also participated. Discussed were Administration, Management in all Camps, matter related to Resettlement and New Arrivals, to Find a proper, efficient and acceptable Judiciary processes in Refugee Camps, and also efforts and measures which would help with “Protection” related to personal, family, neighborhood, youths and the vulnerables. Also discussed were matters related to difficulties, related to Resettlement of people with responsibilities in Camps.

▲ 26.1.2007 - I.R.C and U.N.H.C.R meet.

Plans made to hold a Workshop related to establishment of the Legal Assistance Centres in Refugee Camps. The Committees to help will legal Problems in Camps I.R.C, U.N.H.C.R, K.R.C, Camp Committees and M.O.I to be Participants.

▲ 31.1.2007 - K.R.C, T.B.B.C and Um Phiem Camp Committee meet. Discussions related to Building Materials to be provided by T.B.B.C. It was agreed to have a meeting between T.B.B.C, K.R.C and Material Suppliers, for the purpose of getting material of acceptable quality together with getting them in Camp on time i.e. before Rain falls.

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS JANUARY, 2007.

MAE SOT AREA	CAMP	No. of families	Over - 12 Yrs		6 - 12 Yrs		Under 5 Yrs		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
	Mae La	9,577	16,933	16,287	5,324	4,867	3,414	3,342	50,167
	Um Pheim Mai	3,725	7,282	6,986	1,914	1,761	1,359	1,161	20,463
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,302</b>	<b>24,215</b>	<b>23,273</b>	<b>7,238</b>	<b>6,628</b>	<b>4,773</b>	<b>4,503</b>	<b>70,630</b>
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,697	5,331	5,096	1,605	1,420	1,072	1,092	15,616
	Mae La Oo	2,713	5,606	5,079	1,679	1,546	1,005	904	15,819
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,410</b>	<b>10,937</b>	<b>10,175</b>	<b>3,284</b>	<b>2,966</b>	<b>2,077</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>31,435</b>
SOUTH	Noh Poe	4,573	5,709	5,181	1,574	1,521	1,012	984	15,981
	Ban Dong Yang	996	1,528	1,632	390	366	383	367	4,666
	Htam Him	1,642	2,671	2,755	909	917	705	621	8,578
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,211</b>	<b>9,908</b>	<b>9,568</b>	<b>2,873</b>	<b>2,804</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>1,972</b>	<b>29,225</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>25,923</b>	<b>45,060</b>	<b>43,016</b>	<b>13,395</b>	<b>12,398</b>	<b>8,950</b>	<b>8,471</b>	<b>131,290</b>

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.

**TBBC** – Support in Food and Shelter Material. **TBBC** is also supporting with warm clothing for all the camps.

**MSF** – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

**AM I** – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

**ARC** – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

**M. I (Malteser International) formerly MHD** – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

**ZOA (ABW aid)** – Support in Educational facilities Teachers' Training.

**World Education / Consortium** – Support in World 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.

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