



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE, 2007

Karen Refugee Committee
Monthly Report
June, 2007 – Newsletter

June is the beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere, where most of the World's Peoples are amassed. Summer means increased heat, Higher Temperatures, more stress, which may be one reason why there are more conflicts among "Men" during these Summer Months.

Of unforgettable summer events, on June 28th of year 1914, the Austrian Archduke, Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serbian Nationalist. The Assassination was taken as a pretext for war between competing powerful Nations.

By that time, the German Standing Army rose to more than 2 million men. Russia and France had more than a million each. Austria and the British Empire had nearly a million each. Great destructive weapons and enormous battle ships together with submarines were in service. Germany, France, Britain, Belgium, Austria, Russia, Turkey and the United States were heavily involved. The system of alliances also made the conflict wider. The fighting spread to the Middle East, to the African and Pacific colonies. That was the First World War. More than 10 million soldiers died in that War. Much of the map of Europe was redrawn.

June of 1941. Germany, under Hitler, launched a massive invasion of the Soviet Union, although both had signed a non-aggression agreement. The Soviet City of Leningrad was besieged, lasting unto January of 1944. But the city was never taken, although the long siege and fighting resulted in more than a million deaths. The people of Leningrad went through a notable heroic episode of the "900 Days" defending the city.

June 3 – 4 of year 1989 - A hundred thousand Chinese Students and Workers staged a protest march into Beijing's "Tian-An-Men" square, to demand political reforms. Troops with Tanks and armored personnel carriers rolled through the square, crushing the pro-democracy demonstrators. It was estimated that 5000 died and 10,000 injured. Many hundreds were arrested. Leaders will not tolerate dissent and opposition. It was a summer day to remember.

June 5 – 1967 – The start of the 6 day Arab-Israeli War – Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip and closed the Gulf of Aqaba to Israel shipping. Israel retaliated by taking the Gaza strip, occupied the Sinai Peninsular up the Suez Canal, Captured East Jerusalem, Syria's Golan Heights and Jordan's West Bank.

The Middle East conflict is still un-resolved, still on going. Even this month we see the conflict involving the two Palestine factions, Israel, Lebanon and Hezbollah. This can only be a small summer flare-up, if one were to imagine what kind of a flare-up to be expected,

when one more Middle – Eastern Nuclear Capable Power were to be added to the existing Powers.

June 6 – 1944 – It was on that Day, D-Day, that the allied forces, under U.S. General Eisenhower, Launched the biggest offensive ever, on German occupied France. It was the beginning of the end for Hitler and Nazi Germany. World War II was supposed to be the War to end all Wars. But in reality, it was not to be. We are seeing Wars from time to time. Man will never learn.

June 19th – the Day on which all People from Burma and friends are focused upon. It is the Birthday of Daw Aung Sann Suu Kyi, Burma's Democracy Leader. Many Peoples and Nations are calling for her release on her 62nd Birthday. The result was the extension of her detention by another year. Life in incarceration can only be a sad one. The Iron Lady may even end her days in Confinement. But one more day in detention for her could only mean one more debit for her Junta Jailors. At best, they have become the most hated, vilified and unvalued leadership in this world. They are losing friends. They are living in fear, the fear of guilt. They survive on the support of Friends, whose friendship can even be suspect.

Now, the SLORC / SPDC Road Map is about to be finalized and which will mean total Power Rule for them. One resultant feature of their stringent, evil misrule is the alarming deterioration of spiritual values, where people can't help but go "everyone for himself". Conditions are such that there can be no room for considerations or feelings for others, but think only of self, of survival.

June 20th – the Day dedicated to the World's Refugees. There are on record more than 25 million Refugees – otherwise Displaced Persons around the World. Christian Aid predicted that there would be one Billion Displaced Persons by year 2050. Failures in Humanity - Power Hunger, Political Manipulation, Greed, Competition, Subjugation, Discrimination, Intolerance, Xenophobia, Migration, Asylum, these will all be the draw factors, which will, surely increase Displaced Persons, with the passage of time. These failures are especially to be seen in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

Meantime, this June, this summer, we are seeing that even doubtful "Thomases" are coming to believe that Climate Change, and affiliated destructive forces are here to stay. The storm – rain – floods with Temperatures soaring above 45°C, resulting in great destructions, deaths and sufferings are becoming a reality. Then there is the Ugliness in "Man" always on the up. Seeing is believing. There is need to do things. But when and where?

K.R.C – Camps – Activities – Report.

June – 2007

▲ 4 - 5/6/2007 – Noh Poe Camp Elections of Camp's Committee for the 2007 – 2009 Tenure was held; over seen by the Election Committee set up for the Purpose, K.R.C members participation was with Advisory and Guidelines together with confirmation of Elected Committee members.

▲ 5 - 12/6/2007 – Karen Refugee Camps – Education

Education NGOs, Karen Education Coordinators and workers meet, to look back and evaluate on strengths and weaknesses, with the view to improve Education Processes in all the Karen Refugee Camps.

Resettlement processes with Educational Personnel being drawn away is affecting Camps Education, and responsible people are looking for ways to fill up the weaknesses Education NGOs are supporting with committed help.

▲ 6/6/2007 – Information was received that over 200 Displaced Persons arrived in Mae Sam Laeb in Soob Moei District (Actually there were 213 persons. They were Displaced persons from Toungoo / Than Daung District of North Karen State) K.R.C was there to monitor. But local Authorities deny entry for these Displaced persons. They went back on their own to the other side.

▲ 11 – 15/6/2007 – K.R.C members, Camp Management Program personnel, make joint field Visit to Tham Hin and Ban Don Yan Camps. There was discussions, shared information on Camps Administration and Management / Distribution Works. A short Training was conducted in Both Camps, where K.R.C Branch Members and Camp's Committees took part. Emphasis was made on proper Management and Distribution of Supports especially with regard to “Eating and Feeding” Figures together with timely reporting.

▲ 14/6/2007 – K.R.C and Camp's elders meet to discuss Camps people going out to work, going back to Camp, together with New Arrivals who seem to be getting in regularly and becoming problems for the Committees with the “Eating and Feeding” responsibilities. Great cooperative measures will be needed to address these problems.

▲ 15/6/2007 – NCA (Norwegian Church Aid) facilitated with an External Audit Team, to Audit the Karen Refugee Committee Financial Activities for the year 2006. NCA has been supporting with Finance for K.R.C functional Activities for over eight years already.

▲ 18/6/2007 – K.R.C member and staff / workers monthly meeting. Discussions centred on looking into personal and sectional work activities and to help with propriety and improvement.

▲ 19/6/2007 – K.R.C, NGOs, UNHCR meeting. The meeting used to be held every two months. The meeting was where all partners make presentations, sharing information, difficulties and troubles. The meetings are seen to be helping with good and open relationships, together with looking into problems and solving them, and making improvements as necessary.

▲ 20/6/2007 – Celebration “Refugee Day” at Mae La Camp. K.R.C Chairman and Members take part in the Celebration. Speeches were made to the assembled Camp Population. There was also a Good-will Football Match between K.R.C, T.B.B.C, NGOs fielding one Team and Playing against the Camp’s Elders Team. It was not much of “Good Football” but everyone seem to enjoy it, letting out stress and worry.

▲ 21/6/2007 – K.R.C Chairman and members meet with Mae La Camp Commander, Local Authorities, the Camp Committee and Security officials. Discussed were matters related to people going out of Camp, coming into Camp and New Arrivals seeking refuge, which can complicate matters especially with Security and illegal transactions. The matter was deemed quite important.

▲ 26/6/2007 – Celebration “Anti Drugs Day” in Mae La Camp. Speeches were made to the assembled population with stress on the evils and dangers of Drugs, where there is constant need of awareness and preventive actions, together with training / work shop activities.

▲ 27/6/2007 – K.R.C, C.M.P, T.B.B.C, (Mae Sot) T.B.B.C (BKK) make field visit to Mae La Camp. Discussions, shared information were made with the Camp Committee, Zones Committees, and Sections Committees. The visit was for the purpose of taking and getting proper Eating and Feeding Figures and to help with timely reporting. It was also to help with Support Budget Estimates for year 2008/2009.

▲ 28/6/2007 – K.R.C, C.M.P, T.B.B.C, (Mae Sot) T.B.B.C (BKK) make field visit to Umphiem Camp. Discussions, shared information were made with the Camp Committee, Zones Committees, and Sections Committees. The visit was for the purpose of taking and getting proper Eating and Feeding Figures and to help with timely reporting. It was also to help with Support Budget Estimates for year 2008/2009.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS JUNE, 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	9,860	17,724	16,882	5,408	4,988	3,458	3,319	51,779
	Um Pheim Mai	4,054	7,445	7,142	1,934	1,798	1,529	1,331	21,179
Total		13,914	25,169	24,024	7,342	6,786	4,987	4,650	72,958
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,868	5,777	5,509	1,768	1,520	1,130	1,150	16,854
	Mae La Oo	2,700	5,672	5,193	1,690	1,552	1,107	1,059	16,273
Total		5,568	11,449	10,702	3,458	3,072	2,237	2,209	33,127
SOUTH	Noh Poe	4,557	5,813	5,280	1,709	1,707	953	983	16,445
	Ban Dong Yang	957	1,528	1,636	404	400	369	376	4,713
	Htam Him	1,437	2,262	2,317	801	813	548	463	7,204
Total		6,951	9,603	9,233	2,914	2,920	1,870	1,822	28,362
Grand Total		26,433	46,221	43,959	13,714	12,778	9,094	8,681	134,447

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. TBBC is Supporting with Camps Management program to help with Administration, Management Stability improvements in all (7) 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 Educational facilities, Teachers' Training and Education for Deaf / Mute / Blinds.

TOPS – Support in Educational facilities Nurseries.

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

COERR – Rice and Educational support. **EVI** – To be involved with Extremely Vulnerable people, care and support.

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. Now helping with Resettlement.

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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