



# **KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

**JULY, 2007**

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

Julius Caesar, the Roman General, Statesman and Dictator was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of Quintilis, the seventh Roman Month, in year (100 – B.C). The name of that month was changed later to “July” to honour the Great Man. Surely this was one of the Great Names in History. But he was to die at the hands of Assassins, who include his good friend Brutus. Julius Caesar must have gone too far in his quest for Power.

Talking of Assassinations, the month of July seem to be the month of choice for such attempts. Kings, Presidents, Chancellors, Ambassadors, Ministers, Religious Leaders, Political Leaders, Revolutionary Leaders are mostly assassinated at this time of the year.

Of note, beginning with the assassination of U.S – President John Garfield, shot to death on July 2, 1881, there had been no less than twenty successful worldwide assassination attempts. One of the most horrifying would be the assassination by the Bolsheviks of the Russian Royal Family on July 16, 1918. Assassinated were Czar (King) Nicholas II, his wife Czarina Alexandra, son Czarevitch Alexis, daughters Grand Duchess Olga, Tatiana, Marie, Anastasia and four members of the Royal household.

Burma also has one July Assassination, to remember. On July 19<sup>th</sup> 1947, Burma’s Independence Leader, General Aung Sann and other Leaders, including the Shan Leader, Sao Sam Htun and the Karen Leader, Mahn Ba Khaing were gunned down by a group of assassins from a dissenting group. It was ominous. Even when Burma was on the verge of Independence from Britain, there were signs that “Freedom and Equality for all” can only be a far fetched dream. For today, the country is still under the Dictatorial Rule of the Unitary Tatmadaw. The “Democracy Lady”, Daw Aung Sann Suu Kyi is still in detention for daring to speak out and work for “Freedom and Equality”. Another “Black Day” for Burma is July 7<sup>th</sup> 1962. There was Protest Demonstrations, led by the Rangoon University Students, and which was severely handled by the Military Rulers, resulting in many deaths and injuries. Not satisfied with that, early on the morning of July 8<sup>th</sup> 1962, the Student Union Building, in the Rangoon University Compound was totally demolished by explosives. Report said that many Student Dissidents were hiding in that Building at the time of the Demolition. The Tatmadaw always say they practice what they preach. There was the saying, “Kyoo Bin Khoke, Kyoo Ngoke Ma Chan” which would mean, “Cut the reed, never leave a stump”.

This month of July would be the last stage of Burma’s SPDC Road Map. The National Convention, which the “Democracy lady” called a Sham, and which the NLD and other opposition Parties, the Ethnic Groups boycotted, is to be wrapped up, like it or not. The Tatmadaw will be the sole stake-holder, with regard to Burma’s future. As conditions are, things are not getting better. Work-living conditions are going down, from bad to worse.

Unemployment can be a world Record. Inflation is spiraling out of control. Workers salaries are not going along with the rise in Prices. Gold, which can be had for Kyats-300 a tical a few decades ago, is now selling at over Kyats-400,000 a tical. A Burmese Kyat fetching Two Thai Bahts a few decades ago is reversed. A Thai Baht now fetching over 38 Burmese Kyats. There was the saying “Yay Myint-Kyar Tint” which meant “Water rise-Lotus thrive” – Now conditions are “Water rising – Lotus sinking”. Controls, restrictions, congestions, scarcity, free forced labour, deprivations are accelerating damage, not only in Physical Woes but in Moral / Spiritual Values as well.

As conditions deteriorate, people will naturally want a new Home, with better living with a better future. Refugees, given the opportunity for resettlement are going away in droves. Displaced peoples are going away. People who see no hope at “Home” are going away. Even Refugee Camps have become “Draws” for people wanting a New Home as Registered Refugees have the opportunity to be resettled.

But for Peoples of Burma, wanting a “Home” elsewhere can not be rosy. Legal exits can mean exorbitant expenses to the “Authorities”, and Middlemen. Illegal exits can then be out right dangerous to life and limb, subject to exploitations, manipulations together with perilous weather and travels. Quite reminiscent of the Indo-China Boat people.

Then, if we look around the world, we can only see that things are not going very well. Not a day passed without seeing and hearing of Dissents, rivalries, confrontations, fights Explosions, together with Greed, manipulations and Exploitations.

Also, Mother Nature is showing Great Frustration. There are Tremors and Quakes, Wind-Rain Storms, Floods, Landslides. There are also, Droughts, Fires, Diseases. Apart from that many regions are being hit by the rising Heat wave, going over 40 Degree Celsius & resulting in many deaths. Our World – Humanity is surely in for a very Hard Time.

## **K.R.C – Camps – Activities – Report. July – 2007**

- ▲ 2.7.2007 } K.R.C and T.B.B.C work visit Noh Poe Camp.
- ▲ 3.7.2007 } To look into and improve the Camp’s statistical Figures. Stress being made to help improve with the population Figures especially with regard to “Feeding and Eating” Figures.
- ▲ 3.7.2007 – Education Meeting in Mae La Camp. Discussions focused on Resettlement Processes, drawing, away many school Teachers in Schools.
- ▲ 4.7.2007 – Similar Education Meeting in Um Phiem Camp, where solving the problem of Teacher Shortage in Schools, due to Resettlement Processes are being discussed.
- ▲ 5.7.2007 K.R.C Members / Staff Meeting. This is the monthly Regular meeting where there was open discussions on works improvements, sharing, proper processes and commitment needed with regard to Refugee living and Welfare. There was also the need for K.R.C to find ways of addressing “New Arrivals” in camps – un – registered, with no support.
- ▲ 5.7.2007 Meeting – K.R.C with T.B.B.C’s New Contact person for Capacity Building and Joint works Process, Improvements.
- ▲ 6.7.2007 K.R.C work Visit Mae La Camp. Discussions with Mae La Camp Committee with regard to updating and improving the Camp’s statistical Figures, especially with Making proper, acceptable “Eating and Feeding Figures. Also the need to address “New Arrivals problem. Going into camps by different means, unregistered, unsupported.
- ▲ 9.7.2007 – K.E.A.B (Karen Elders Advisory Board) and K.R.C Meeting. Discussion on Holding of K.R.C Elections which is already due. There was also in depth discussions of Election process Guidelines together with setting of Time and Place of the Elections to be held. Elections to be held in the last week of August 2007.
- ▲ 9.7.2007 } K.R.C Education Coordinator together with I.C.S. Representative,
- ▲ 10.7.2007 } Field coordinator works visit to Um phiem and
- ▲ 11.7.2007 } Mae La Camps, I.C.S helping with Corrugated Iron (C.I) sheets for School Roofing.

▲ 11.7.2007 – T.B.B.C, K.R.C work Visit to Mae La Camp. This was continuation of the Joint Activities processes in Camps that has been going on from Camp to Camp since January 2007. This is to help with proper, acceptable Administration, Management, Statistical, Distribution, Reporting works in Camps.

▲ 12.7.2007 – K.R.C Members together with T.B.B.C and ILO Representatives visit Mae La Camp. ILO Burma Office Representative on Fact finding Mission on information about Refugees, Camps living, working conditions together with needs, problems, solutions.

▲ 15.7.2007 – K.R.C, T.B.B.C work visit (Joint Activity) to Noh Poe Camp Focused on getting proper statistical Figures, especially with regard to the Eating Feeding statistics, Management, Distribution.

▲ 16.7.2007 – U.N.H.C.R's Senior Regional Public Health and Nutrition officer for Asia Visit K.R.C where there was sharing of Refugees Information in this Border Region.

▲ 17.7.2007 – The Medical NGO, AMI together with E.C.H.O Members visit K.R.C. There was the Question and Answer session touching on Refugees, living conditions. Problems, difficulties, needs, on Repatriation, on Resettlement and how to contribute to stability, reconciliation and Peace in the Region.

▲ 17 – 19.7.2007 – K.R.C Members attend Training classes for understanding of Thailand's Judiciary Laws. The 3 days Training took place at the I.R.C office in Mae Sot. This will help greatly with law – and – order, harmony and stability in Refugee Camps.

▲ 18.7.2007 – AMI Field Representatives meet with K.R.C and discussed matters related to filling up vacant Medical / Health workers posts in Refugee Camps, as Many Medical / health workers are leaving for Resettlement. This has become a problem in almost all camps.

▲ 20.7.2007 – Mae La Camp Visit by Rotarian Study Group. Meeting with K.R.C, the Camp Committee and KWO and KYO representatives. There was presentation by K.R.C, K.W.O, K.Y.O and the Camp Committee. There was also the Question and Answer Session touching on all aspects of Refugee living Support and welfares. The Rotarian Group is keen on helping / providing needed services in Camps.

▲ 20.7.2007 – Knowing Children Group from Bangkok, meet with K.R.C Members. Fact finding mission on learning about Children in Refugee Camps, their living, their support, Health, Education, welfare, Recreation etc.

▲ 21.7.2007 – K.R.C members attend Child Protection work shop at Po Aye Resort. Children constitute a very large percentage of the Refugee Population.

- ▲ 23.7.2007 – Educational Meeting K.R.C, Educational NGOs, K.E.D, at TOPS office.
  - Talks on Cooperative Camps Educational Activities
  - Nursery to KG – Kindergarten level Education linkage, Continuation Process discussion.Will meet again in August to follow up on these talks when ZOA will also participate.
  
- ▲ 25.7.2007 – K.R.C members meeting. Discussion focused on holding of Annual Meeting between K.R.C, the Camps Committees and Support NGOs.
  
- ▲ 26.7.2007 – Education Meeting at ZOA office Discussions Focused on Resident Teachers Trainer for the Area, to help with Educational Improvement activities, and for sharing information.
  
- ▲ 27.7.2007 – Mae La Camp Educational meeting. Discussions focused on
  - School Teachers going away for Resettlement.
  - Filling of vacant Teachers Post.
  - Among New Teachers are New Arrivals who are not registered as Camps Residents.(ZOA coordinator Loytee approached the camp commander M.O.I to help with permission for these new arrival teachers to help teach in schools. The camp Commander will help with giving permission for these new Teachers, after provision of 2 Photo pictures each). This will help greatly with Teacher Shortage in Schools.
  
- ▲ 28.7.2007 – Ler Per Herr IDP Camp visit by K.R.C and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship study Group. Meet with Camps people, discussions on living conditions, needs, problems, together with causes and reasons for seeking refuge. Questions on why they refuse to take refuge in Mae La Camp. The answer being Mae La Refugee Camp, more confined and restricted with works / income opportunities almost nil. In Ler Per Herr there is work / income opportunities which is very helpful.
  
- ▲ 31.7.2007 – In Mae La Camp, during this month of July, there was report that there were wide spread incidents of intestinal Diarrhoeal Diseases. There was intensive preventive activities by the Camp Committee, Section Leaders, Medical / Health workers, in Medical / Health Service activities, Health Education activities, preventive activities, water sanitation activities. There is also seen more Malaria Infection in the Camp's Population.

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS JULY, 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	9,839	17,666	16,831	5,394	4,977	3,536	3,365	51,769
	Um Pheim Mai	4,054	7,453	7,137	1,927	1,792	1,542	1,350	21,201
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,893</b>	<b>25,119</b>	<b>23,968</b>	<b>7,321</b>	<b>6,769</b>	<b>5,078</b>	<b>4,715</b>	<b>72,970</b>
<b>NORTH</b>	Mae Ra Moe	2,869	5,693	5,492	1,741	1,563	1,215	1,197	16,901
	Mae La Oo	2,654	5,585	5,101	1,666	1,538	1,122	1,067	16,079
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,523</b>	<b>11,278</b>	<b>10,593</b>	<b>3,407</b>	<b>3,101</b>	<b>2,337</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>32,980</b>
<b>SOUTH</b>	Noh Poe	4,546	5,801	5,270	1,709	1,707	977	1,015	16,479
	Ban Dong Yang	956	1,523	1,641	387	372	372	381	4,676
	Htam Him	1,395	2,147	2,208	773	776	560	474	6,938
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,897</b>	<b>9,471</b>	<b>9,119</b>	<b>2,869</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>1,870</b>	<b>28,093</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>26,313</b>	<b>45,868</b>	<b>43,680</b>	<b>13,597</b>	<b>12,725</b>	<b>9,324</b>	<b>8,849</b>	<b>134,043</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. 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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