



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST, 2007

Karen Refugee Committee
Monthly Report
August, 2007 – Newsletter

August can be called the month of Explosions.

On record was that on August 24 of year A.D. 79, Mount Vesuvius, a 4190 ft. volcano overlooking Naples Bay, in what is now Italy, became active after several centuries of apparent inactivity.

On that August 24th Day of year A.D 79, heated mud and ash flow swept down the Mountain, engulfing the cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae with debris more than 60 ft deep. A very large number of the Population in the three cities, recorded as 16,000 were killed.

On August 26, 1883, an gigantic volcanic eruption occurred on the Island of Krakatao in the East Indies, Now Indonesia, where the immediate death toll was at least 2000. The next day the 2640 ft peak of the volcano collapsed to 1000 ft below sea level, sinking most of the Island and then Killing more than 3,000. A tsunami wave, generated by the collapse killed more than 31,000 people in Java and Sumatra. The giant wave even reached the shores of England. Ash from the Eruption coloured sunsets around the world for Two years. A similar, even more powerful eruption had taken place 68 years earlier at Mount Tambora on the Indonesian Island of Sumbawa and which resulted in the related deaths of over 92,000. There can be no question that such big explosions are followed by starvation and disease which affect those who did not die from the big blast.

This month of August, for our world, its coming face to face with reality. There is no argument that the Global warming is here. With rising temperatures, there are the melting ice-shelf with the rise of sea-water looming as a threat to low-lying populated areas. Most Mega polis are in low-lying sea shores. There can be the threat from Rain-Storms. Floods, Quakes and Landslides. Even now we are seeing disastrous Floods in Korea, in China, in Nepal, India, Bangladesh. Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines.

Apart from the Great Biblical Flood, which we know very little, we surely can remember one Mother of a Flood. That was in the month of August in year 1931 in China. There was the Great Rain Flood along the whole length of the Hwang Ho River. Record was that three million, seven hundred thousand people died in that great Flood. The Hwang Ho River had since come to be called the “China Sorrow”.

For peoples of Burma, its remembering the Four Eights movement of August 1988. the 8.8.88 student Movement. The Protest movement was led by Burma’s Students and Monks and in which Daw Aung San Sun Kyi, as leader of the National League for Democracy actively look part.

The movement simply was the call for “Change towards Improvement”.

Beginning with the military take over under General Ne Win and the establishment of one party rule under the “Burmese way to Socialism”, living conditions, once one of the best in South East Asia had spiralled downwards, due to mismanagement, misrule. In a matter of two decades the country had become one of the least developed Countries in the world.

Dissent protests, Demonstrations, calls for Freedom and Equality country wide, were all met with severe Military Crack-downs, resulting in thousands of deaths, injuries and unaccounted for. Noteworthy was that the Evil Initiator of the Country’s woes, General Ne Win, who was on his “last Hurrah”, about to hand over power to his more villainous protégés, mentioned that “when Soldiers shoot, they shoot Straight”. Thus, the Soldiers “Shoot Straight”, at their own brothers, sisters, Mothers, Fathers, Children, Neighbours, fellow workers. This August, we still see the lingering fear, suspicion, dissent, loathing. The big wound still has yet to heal. To rub salt in to the wound, this month, commodity prices were raised sharply by the SPDC, resulting in protest features country-wide. However, ground dissent features were mixed with caution and trepidation, knowing full well that “Soldiers will shoot straight” and which is the Tatmadaw’s accepted way of solving problems.

Lastly, for the world at Large, this month of August, there would be need to remember the Day in 1945, August 6th to be precise, when an Atomic Bomb was dropped on the City of Hiroshima, Japan. In the blink of an eye, the whole city and its inhabitants were obliterated by the Horrifying Explosion. Another Atomic Bomb was dropped on the City of Nagasaki with the Same horrifying end result.

Today’s Nuclear weapons with many countries in possession, are much more greater in numbers and Power and these countries cannot be called friendly to each other. The Nuclear Explosions, combined can be powerful enough to destroy our world many times over.

This then is the Dangerous world we are in

K.R.C – Camps – Activities – Report.

August – 2007

▲ 2-3/8/2007 – Karen Refugee Committee (K.R.C) Education Coordinator Together with K.E.D went to Mae La Camp, had a meeting which participants include Camp Education Coordinator and Committee. The discussion were focused on how to substitute the vacant post of Teachers who will soon leave for the Third Countries. The same activities were done on 5th - 9th in Um phiem, and on 15th – 16th in Nu Poe Camp.

The solution was to provide Training to both some experienced Teachers as well as new Teacher if Require.

▲ 6/8/2007 – K.R.C Education Coordinator together with I.C.S, field Coordinator went to Um phiem for delivering of the school materials.

▲ 7/8/2007 – Have a meeting with I.C.S field Coordinator, they inquire with regard to the activities of Education in the Camp.

▲ 7/8/2007 – Two K.R.C representatives had a meeting with K.E.A.B for discussion of K.R.C Election.

▲ 8/8/2007 – The joint secretary Mr. George, one committee member and K.R.C had a meeting with Camp Committee in Mae La Camp. The issue discussed was to reassure and justify U.N.H.C.R and M.O.I Registration figures which vary to that of the T.B.B.C Feeding Figures.

▲ 9/8/2007 – Mr. Timo Thy M. Scherer (Refugee Coordinator for South East Asia) call on K.R.C. The information shared was that resettlement to the U.S is not a forced but Voluntary resettlement.

▲ 10/8/2007 – K.R.C, C.M.P and T.B.B.C, Responsible Persons met with Supplier and Discussed means of properly deliver materials to the Camps.

▲ 14/8/2007 – MI, AMI, MSF, KRC Coordinators had a meeting at K.R.C office and health survey at Mae La Oon and Mae La Ma Luang were discussed.

- K.R.C had a meeting with I.C.S and K.E.D, and the issues discussed was to sign and be a partner of the I.C.S Child interest program which will be materialize in near future.

▲ 20/8/2007 – Staff meeting where future activities and Cooperation were discussed.

▲ 21/8/2007 – The training was conducted on 21-23 August 2007 at I.R.C office, by I.R.C in Mae Sot. The participants of this Training were, two Karen Refugee Committee K.R.C Members one U.N.H.C.R, two K.W.O two K.Y.O and two K.S.N.G, Staffs. The Topic Covered during this Training were

1. Basic Right of Victim in Thai Law

2. Basic Right and responsibility of the accused in Thai Law
3. Basic Law of Criminal Procedure.(police level) and Basic Law Criminal Procedure, (Prosecutor and Court level)
4. Juvenile Court System
5. Drug offences in Thai Law and -
6. Thai Law relating to the Protection of forestry and wildlife animal. Participants were Saw Wingate + Karen James bond K.R.C Committee Members.

▲ 22/8/2007 – Two K.R.C representatives attended SGVB workshop organized by Inter-Agency standing Committee (I.A.S.C)

▲ 24/8/2007 – K.R.C, C.M.P staff and T.B.B.C Capacity Building Coordinator Visited and assessed information's in Um Phiem Camp.

▲ 27 – 28/8/2007 – The Karen Refugee Committee and Representatives from Seven Camps held a General Meeting at Mae La Camp. All the Camp Committee as well as K.R.C were happy for the success of the meeting and for the opportunity to attend the meeting. The meeting resulted in better understanding to the difficulties each different camp have been facing.

▲ 28/8/2007 – All camps annual meeting, previous activities and difficulties reviews and discussed.

▲ 29/8/2007 – K.R.C, C.M.P Staff and T.B.B.C capacity Building Coordinator Visited and did assessment in Mae La Ma Luang and Mae La Oon Camp.

▲ 29/8/2007 - The Karen Elder Advisory Board (K.E.A.B) supervised new Committee Election of the Karen Refugee Committee in Mae La Camp. The Term of the new Committee will due in 2010. Among the fifteen members of whom three are women.

▲ 30/8/2007 – The Karen Refugee Committee (K.R.C) and NGOs bi monthly meeting was held at Mae La Camp. Representatives of Seven Camps were also present at this meeting. Information Slaving and discussion during this meeting Came up with better understanding and Cooperation for the future.

▲ 30/8/2007 – K.R.C Camp Committee and NGOs information sharing meeting. Previous, existing difficulties and future activities were discussed.

▲ 31/8/2007 – The new (K.R.C) Committee member (2007-2010) held the first meeting in office at Mae Sot discussed existing problems including staff placement and duty sharing.

▲ 31/8/2007 – K.R.C Staff meeting reassure staff placement.

Current Problems

According to the policy of Thai Minister of Interior, There will be no more new arrival allowed to enter into the Camps. How ever, due to the impact of Continuing crisis between Ethnic nationality and ruling Burmese Regime, the hardship of lively hood as a consequences of economic problems, and as a means of opportunity for resettlement seeker, more and more new arrival which are not register by UNHCR and MOI, have arrived every day in an understandable way. As a consequences of very strict rules and limited permission of food delivering system, the problem of lack of food will increase in camps in very near future and become community difficulties with in the camps, that can remain unsolvable by both the Karen Refugee Committee as well as the camp committees.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS AUGUST, 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	9,769	17,448	16,646	5,349	4,927	3,527	3,367	51,264
	Um Pheim Mai	4,054	7,437	7,114	1,923	1,788	1,566	1,360	21,188
Total		13,823	24,885	23,760	7,272	6,715	5,093	4,727	72,452
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,837	5,605	5,437	1,719	1,564	1,232	1,195	16,752
	Mae La Oo	2,651	5,572	5,086	1,665	1,537	1,078	1,012	15,950
Total		5,488	11,177	10,523	3,384	3,101	2,310	2,207	32,702
SOUTH	Noh Poe	3,739	5,779	5,554	1,422	1,565	928	933	16,181
	Ban Dong Yang	951	1,526	1,619	386	369	373	382	4,655
	Htam Him	1,383	2,111	2,180	764	763	549	461	6,828
Total		6,073	9,416	9,353	2,572	2,697	1,850	1,776	27,664
Grand Total		25,384	45,478	43,636	13,228	12,513	9,253	8,710	132,818

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.

Address: P.O Box- 5, Mae Sot, Tak-63110, Thailand.

E- Mail: krc.academic@gmail.com.

Ø (055) Intl: +66 55 532 947.

Fax: (055) Intl: +66 55 546 869

Mobile: +66 878 498 250