



# **KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

**SEPTEMBER, 2007**

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

This September, we remember many fearful events of the Past.

Examples would be the September 11, 2001 Terrorists Assaults on the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon. The Assaults came out of the Blue, which was most unexpected, with loss of life for over 3000, mostly civilians, who will not know what hit them.

Another event that we can remember would be the September 1, 1939 assaults by Hitler's Army on Poland and Occupation of it. The Event led to England and France declaring War on Germany and thus led to World War Two. At the same time, the Russian Army attacked and occupied the Eastern part of Poland. What followed later was one gruesome event, the Katyn Forest Massacre, which was ordered by Stalin himself, and which led to over 22,000 People murdered.

Then in September of 1942, there was the fierce battle of Stalingrad where the mighty German Army was faced with the reality of defeat. "Stalingrad" was one great turning point in the Second World War.

Again we can look back and see disasters brought on by Destructive Natural Forces. For example, the 1900 – September 8 Hurricane which hit Galveston Texas, where over 8,000 people died, the 1906 September 18 Typhoon that hit Hong Kong, where over 10,000 people died. Another Typhoon that hit Hong Kong on September 2, 1937 also killed over 10,000 people.

Of Earth quakes, we remember the Great September 1<sup>st</sup> 1923 Yokohama Quake, which leveled the city, killing over 143,000 people.

This September, we see the 8.2 magnitude Quake in Indonesia which resulted in wide ranging panic amongst peoples in many India Ocean Countries. The Great Aceh, Sumatra Quake of 2004, and the Fearsome Tsunami that ensued, killed over 226,000 peoples, and which was still fresh in the minds of many countries and peoples.

This month of September, in Burma, we are seeing the "Quake" due not so much to Natural Forces, but due to the pent up feelings manifested by the common people, suffering through long years of repression and neglect.

Protest marches led by Buddhist Monks and supported by thousands and thousands of citizens are now country-wide. What is clearly seen is that these Protests are conducted peacefully and orderly, especially calling on harmony, reconciliation and improved living conditions.

But Protests, however peaceful can be very dangerous in Military Ruled Burma. Its “A thet Ko Phet Net Htoke” – “Life wrapped in a leaf”. We have precedences of fatal handling of Protests by the Junta.

In 1962, just a few months after the Military take over of Power by General Ne Win, there was the Students Protest in Rangoon and where Soldiers with orders to shoot were sent into the University Compound. Soldiers did “shoot straight” and countless numbers of students perished. Not satisfied with that, the Military completely destroyed the students Union Building by dynamite, with many student activists hiding in the building.

Then, again in 1988, we saw the Four Eights Movement (8.8.88) where there again was the Country wide Protest, led by Students and Monks. That again was met by severe brutal handling by the Military. What was noteworthy was that General Ne Win, on his last Hurrah, about to hand over Power to his Proteges, mentioned that when “soldiers shoot they don’t shoot into the air, they shoot straight”. The soldiers did shoot straight and thousands died. Many are unaccounted for unto this day.

Today, Burma is still under the Brutal Rule of these same Ne Win Proteges. They will shoot straight. They are strong. They have strong Friends backing them. That is why any Protest will be just “A thet Ko Phet net Htoke.”

Now, we are seeing the Junta going their “own way”.

They are beating, shooting, arresting peoples on the streets. They are instilling fear all around. Loudspeakers are blaring that there are pictures of protesters who will all be rounded up. There are “Night Visits” to Homes where there was the knock on the Door in the Death of Night, when some one is taken away, all contacts cut off. Also it is an accepted way by the Military to Torture to get results. Imagine a young women taken away from Home, in the Death of the Night. Instant death would be a welcome relief. Even now there are reports of hundreds and hundreds of “Missing” Peoples.

One little feature is that ignorant soldiers from the Border Regions are called back to cities to control the protests. Hard to take is comments by these soldiers. “You all know what we did in the Border Regions. We will not hesitate to do the same with you.

Terrible misdeeds are being done to Monks and Citizens. This is reality in Burma Today. The “Katyn Forest Event” was one Reality.

But one thing can be sure.

50 million people will in no way find it good to watch the coming “Beijing Olympics”.

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

- ▲ 3/9/2007 – The Karen Refugee Committee (K.R.C) held staff monthly meeting, reviewed and shared information's on what activities had been done and discussed what would be improved for more effective operation in future.
- ▲ 5/9/2007 – K.R.C, T.B.B.C and CMP together with the Camp Committee discussed on improvement and Correction of real eating population Figures.
- ▲ 6/9/2007 – K.R.C together with I.R.C and U.N.H.C.R discussed humanitarian trespass and Crime that had happened in Mae La Camp, and Finally reached solution that the cases must be decided at the camp judiciary level.
- ▲ 6/9/2007 – K.R.C Health coordinator, Dr. Htaw Soe Conduct Health assessment in Mae La Camp.
- ▲ 7/9/2007 – K.R.C, T.B.B.C and Mae La Camp Committee discussed the existing complexity of resettlement persons that are still in the eating figure.
- ▲ 11-12/9/2007 – K.R.C Education Coordinator and a Committee member participated in curriculum Developing workshop, organized by ZOA at Mae La Camp.
- ▲ 17/9/2007 – T.B.B.C's Director and Mae Sot T.B.B.C Field Coordinator call on K.R.C, with suggestion to reassess the population Figures For submission to the Donors.
- ▲ 19/9/2007 – K.R.C + CMP responsible persons visited Ban Don Yan and Htam Him Camp to monitor the activities.
- ▲ 20/9/2007 – K.R.C together with some CBO staffs checking on house hold population figures in Mae La Camp. The operation is continuing and hopefully will continue to the end of October 1<sup>st</sup> week, 2007.
- ▲ 21 – 26/9/2007 – K.R.C and CBOs staff altogether Twenty five persons attended Financial and Accounting Training Conducted by N.C.A in Mae Sot.  
The Main Topics Covered during this Training were –
  1. What is the budget?
  2. How a budget is important?
  3. How to Make a budget?
  4. How to Control budget?
    - 4.1 Who Control the budget?
    - 4.2 How to revise the budget, and
  5. How is budget related to Accounting and Financial statement?

- ▲ 24/9/2007 – K.R.C and T.B.B.C discussed to check and improve the registered person as well as new arrivals in Mae La Camp.
- ▲ 25/9/2007 – T.B.B.C, K.R.C, Camp committee and Section committee had a meeting In Mae La Camp and resettlement issues were discussed.
- ▲ 26/9/2007 – K.R.C held a meeting with K.E.A.B, and briefed them on the current situations and requirements for improving the circumstances and adaptating for needs of the future.
- ▲ 26/9/2007 – T.B.B.C and K.R.C joint food supply distribution in Mae La Camp.

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS SEPTEMBER, 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	9,603	17,093	16,391	5,245	4,835	3,510	3,342	50,416
	Um Pheim Mai	4,053	7,431	7,113	1,923	1,786	1,584	1,379	21,216
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,656</b>	<b>24,524</b>	<b>23,504</b>	<b>7,168</b>	<b>6,621</b>	<b>5,094</b>	<b>4,721</b>	<b>71,632</b>
<b>NORTH</b>	Mae Ra Moe	2,838	5,620	5,433	1,714	1,543	1,215	1,221	16,746
	Mae La Oo	2,622	5,487	5,011	1,661	1,507	1,105	1,029	15,800
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,460</b>	<b>11,107</b>	<b>10,444</b>	<b>3,375</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>32,546</b>
<b>SOUTH</b>	Noh Poe	3,636	5,675	5,313	1,452	1,456	1,121	1,124	16,141
	Ban Dong Yang	951	1,526	1,620	386	369	377	386	4,664
	Htam Him	1,366	2,092	2,157	754	758	552	462	6,775
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,953</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>9,090</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>2,583</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>1,972</b>	<b>27,580</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>25,069</b>	<b>44,924</b>	<b>43,038</b>	<b>13,135</b>	<b>12,254</b>	<b>9,464</b>	<b>8,943</b>	<b>131,758</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.

**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