



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER, 2007

Karen Refugee Committee
Monthly Report
October, 2007 – Newsletter

Burma, our beloved country is in big Trouble. Simply said, there is the ongoing intensifying Forced Rule-control, containment, dictates on the common people, all over the country.

For the common People, its imposition of blind obedience, Total allegiance to the Authority. Negligence will only result in retribution, severe and consistent. Old heroes die untimely deaths. Young heroes die premature deaths. The common people plod on but has become seriously affected. There is the the Total restriction, isolation and deprivation. The feature of “Fear and Hunger” is the Tool for containment years on.

An authoritative report was that over 80% of the Population of Burma are living on less than \$ 1 U.S a day. That can only be very generous. A study visit of the friendship Bridge at Myawaddy, or for that matter the visit to the Mae Too Clinic can only be very informative.

We, who are displaced in this Border region, are the outcome of the “Fear and Hunger” feature that is prolonged and firmly set. There can be no argument, no reasoning . The feature began with the taking over of power by General Ne Win. His stated intent was to save the UNION from total disintegration. There was the saying, “A Pyaw Lweh, A Loke Khet” Saying is easy, Doing is difficult. Even with Ne Win’s Grand Design of the “Burmese Way to Socialism”, there was no way of achieving success, in any way. For the simple reason that the simple, hand working, ignorant, common people are forced to go against their ways, their hopes, their yearnings, their Aspirations. What the BSWPP-set down were processes that were quite alien, quite unacceptable. There was little of freedom, self-expression and Equality.

The first show of dissent after the take over of power by Ne Win was manifested by the young Heroes of Rangoon. On the 7th of July, 1962, Students demonstrated, led by the University students Union. Retaliation by the Junta was severe, terrible. Students were shot down on the streets, in the University Compound, in the Dormitories, including those of Girl Students. Not content with that, the Junta ordered the “Blowing Up” of the Students Union H/Q Building in the University Compound. Early on the morning of the 8th of July 1962, the students H/Q. Building was “Blown Up” by dynamite, with many student Dissidents, still hiding inside. Student Heroes die young. The Tool of Fear was established. But still, the spirit of dissent continued to be manifested from time to time, although muted. The lesson of Heroes die young was still fresh in the minds. However, in August of 1988, out of Repressed feelings, there again was manifested the Four Eights movement (8.8.88) led by students. Severe repressive measures again was the Rule. But General Ne Win, the Original Great Savior must be at his “wits End”. He handed over Rule of Power to the “Dirty Dozen”, his select Proteges, Who called themselves the SLORC, State Law and order Restoration Council. But the Burmese Version can only be Nearer to the Truth. Which was “Naing Gan Dor, Nyain Woot Pi Pyar Hmu Tee Hsawk Yay a Phweh”. Which translation would be “The State, Stillness, cowering, pressed Flat, condition structuring Group”. “Ne Win, in his Departure speech gave a hint of what was to come. He clearly

warned that “when soldiers shoot, they shoot straight. And shoot straight, the soldiers did. Exactly how many dissenting Heroes died is still unknown to this day. With SLORC, the Feature of “Fear and Hunger” was truly established, Country wide. The Four Cuts Policy imposed in the Ethnic Regions seem to have encompassed the country as a whole. Still there were muted signs of dissent, discrete but quite wide spread. One feature of dissent and confrontation was the De Pae Yin Incident. The NLD, on an organizing tour led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was met with confrontation by, paid thugs near De Pae Yin in Upper Burma. Many heroes died young at that place. The Nobel Peace Laureate barely escaped with her life. The result was that the SPDC got away unscathed, for many strong supporting Friends consider the incident as only an Internal Affair, not to be meddled by outside peoples.

Now, during the last week of September 2007, and continuing into October, we are seeing again the manifestation of dissent in quite a different way. Sure there was the overriding Fear and Hunger feature, and the knowledge that Heroes die whatever. The banner of dissent was taken up by the Buddhist Monkhood. The call was based on Peace and Harmony, moving towards reconciliation and change for the better. The call however peaceful and harmonious, met with the same force and brutality. Monks were lassoed and rounded up, disrobed, mistreated, incarcerated. People who seem to have supported the “call” were also rounded up. There were the dreadful events of the midnights knocks on the Doors, peoples stealthily taken away. These are features on going all over the county. The International Peoples are concerned, angry and lending support. But for a few, self beneficial Good friends of the Junta, these are all just Internal matters to be addressed internally. One thing that can be said of the SPDC Junta is that they are very good at “Duping”. They can collect People who show support for them. They have people to be dressed up paid, fed, promoted and with other rewards. These will show a semblance of support. But these people can only be losers. They will surely live on with the Guilty Conscience of doing against what is right and proper.

A neglected, suffering foster child is crying, calling out for help. Neighbors don’t respond, don’t intervene. That will only be the death of the child.

Still there are signs for optimism. The International Body is lending Effort quite strongly. May be there will be change.

May be it will take another Generation for new heroes to emerge

K.R.C – Camps – Activities – Report.

October – 2007

▲ 1/10/2007 - K.R.C - evaluative committee meet.

Discussions on evaluation of the K.R.C - C.B.Os joint activity in Mae La Camp on making assessment with regard to the population figures exit and entry Figures, together with the, Registered – Non – Registered figures, the Request feeding and Recipient figures.

▲ 4/10/2007 - K.R.C Members – staff – workers meeting. Discussed were improvement measures need in K.R.C staff – workers. Works Co-operation and observance of regulations. There was also discussions related to the revised Budget proposal to NCA, for the coming financial year.

▲ 8/10/2007 - KRC members and C.M.P workers visit Umphien Camp. There was recording and camp Registering of New Refuge Seekers (New Arrivals) in the Camp.

▲ 9/10/2007 - K.R.C members and CMP workers continue with the visit to Noh Poe Camp. Assessment was made on New Arrivals into the Camp. There is need of proper recording, registering of the New Refuge seekers in the camp.

▲ 15/10/2007 - The K.R.C Executive work meeting. There was the preparation, discussions related to preparation of the 2008- Financial year proposal Budget from K.R.C, to be put up to N.C.A - The Norwegian church Aid.

▲ 18/10/2007 - Norwegian Church Aid Representative, Mr. Oddbjorn Vegsund visit K.R.C. Mr. Vegsund is especially concerned with the Financial Support and Report process, which need to be according to proper procedures and forms, and with which he will be helping.

▲ 23/10/2007 - A.M.I- Country Dissector, Ms. Annabelle and K.R.C members meet.

Discussed were matters related to vacant Medical Health work – posts –vacated by workers who have left for Resettlement in the Third Country. The A.M.I Country Director pointed out the need to appoint one Medical Doctor, and the availability of one doctor from Burma. The said doctor had experience of working with M.S.F - and AMI for some years. K.R.C responded with the need to discuss the matter with the Camps leaders which will be conducted in a few days time, on which there was agreement.

▲ 25/10/2007 – K.R.C – NGOs 2 Monthly meeting.

There was sharing of information, more effort for cooperation and coordination and ways to improve works processes and relation ships, especially with the Camps Committees and Population.

▲ 26/10/2007 - KRC members including the Medical Health Coordinator visit Mae La Camp. There was meeting with the camp committee and responsible Medical Health personal and workers, where there was discussions on filling vacant medical Health workers posts and the appointment of Doctors.

▲ 29/10/2007 - KRC members, including the Medical / Health coordinator visit Um phien Camp. Then there was the continued visit to Noh Poe Camp on the 31st of October 2007, Discussed were matters related to filling up of vacant Medical Health Posts, and the appointment of Doctors who are available. There was agreement as the KRC stood family on their commitment to work in harmony, cooperation and sharing with all N.G.Os.

▲ 29/10/2007 – K.R.C Chairman Visit Htam Hin Camp. Met with Branch office and Camp Committees. There was need to improve with the Camp Population Feeding Figures together with proper Registration, Recordings and Distributions.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS OCTOBER, 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	8,413	14,327	13,905	4,691	4,333	3,157	2,987	43,400
	Um Pheim Mai	4,050	7,425	7,101	1,921	1,782	1,607	1,404	21,240
Total		12,463	21,752	21,006	6,612	6,115	4,764	4,391	64,640
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,843	5,627	5,457	1,682	1,524	1,219	1,227	16,736
	Mae La Oo	2,713	5,528	5,112	1,722	1,529	1,044	976	15,911
Total		5,556	11,155	10,569	3,404	3,053	2,263	2,203	32,647
SOUTH	Noh Poe	3,612	5,746	5,356	1,455	1,452	1,130	1,167	16,306
	Ban Dong Yang	914	1,483	1,575	408	395	345	359	4,565
	Htam Him	1,311	1,961	2,046	726	721	531	435	6,420
Total		5,837	9,190	8,977	2,589	2,568	2,006	1,961	27,291
Grand Total		23,856	42,097	40,552	12,605	11,736	9,033	8,555	124,578

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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