



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER, 2007

Karen Refugee Committee
Monthly Report
November, 2007 – Newsletter

In November of 1917, there was the Great upheaval in Petrograd, Russia, led by the Bolsheviks under Lenin. That led to Absolute Power of Rule, changing Hands from that of Absolute Tsarist Rule to the Communist leadership Rule over all of Russia. The Intent of change in Power Rule was for the Purpose of betterment, improvement for the people and country as a whole.

There are many examples of change of Power Rule around the world and from time to time. Many end up not quite positively. Many end up with Trials, mistakes, suffering, Blood and Tears.

Burma can only be one example. Change of Power Rule in Burma, began with the Seizure of Rule Power by General Ne Win, from that of the elected Union Government of Prime minister U Nu, in March of 1962. The Stated Intent of the “Coups”, was to save the Union of Burma from “Disintegration” For there were symptoms of partiality, dissent, unrest, but which can never be unusual, seeing that peoples in diversity and difference are living together.

General Ne win, with the Intent of “saving the Country” chose his own way to achieve. The “Burmese Way to Socialism”. But to all intent, his Way was that of Applied force, rather than wisdom. With his Tatmadaw (Military) mind-set, his Way can only be that of Order, Command Discipline, Blind Obedience, no questions, no arguments, and which will never help. The feature of Despotism was set in, where-by all sectors of works- living and services were severely affected. The decline for the country as a whole was living evidence, and which is continuing unto this day.

There were dissenting voices and moves, but as always happen with force Rule, severe Crack-downs are the Rule which can surely put a stop to these dissent measures.

In 1988, there was the great Move, led by Students, Teachers and Workers. It was the 4. Eights movement, calling for change for the better. The move was met by severe military crack-down as there were confrontations, and which resulted in thousands killed, thousands lost, unaccounted for. There also followed mistreatments, arrests, imprisonment, which all are alive in memory to this day. One unforgettable remark by Ne Win at that time was “when soldiers shoot, they shoot straight” And the soldiers shoot straight. They shoot straight- inwards. The enemies are only “inside” The Tatmadaw never shoot outside. They have no enemies outside the Borders.

The result with the 4 eights movement (8-8-88) was that the “Way of the General” prevailed. There were calls and moves for condemnation of the “Way” but which however were muted, then getting lost altogether. For Power Rule in Burma had many friends- Powerful Friends, whose stand would be for “Internal matters, to be settled Internally.” “No interference by outsiders”.

With the failed 4 eights movement, there was the changing of the Guards- General Ne Win handed over Power of Rule, to his Select Protégés, who called themselves the “State Law and order Restoration Council” to continue with the Great Task. The Guards may change but the same process of Power Rule still continue, even more intensified. There was more force control where Voices are Stifled and moves immobilized- completely.

With-September last, we saw the “surprise move” led by the Monks Body, calling for change for the Better, albeit through reconciliation and Peaceful means. There were also features of timid show of support by the suffering people. The moves seem to have spread. The Generals resort to their own way.

The “Way” can only be severe. All moves People, Monks, as well as supporters suffered. There were surprising scenes of Monks being lassoed, beaten, disrobed, arrested, and incarcerated. Monasteries were raided, searched, Monks and Novices driven away. People in the streets, even onlookers are shot at, beaten, arrested. Also there followed night visits to Homes where suspect people are taken away with their fate unknown-a terrible feature.

There was the outcry, local, Regional, International. The United Nations, the International Bodies, the Democratic Countries and People. The Generals however, are unrelenting, stubborn. They have enduring support from powerful friends, but which support can only be suspect. They have the people’s Riches in their hands. They are in the position to use them at will-Whenever, where-ever-to the detriment to the suffering people.

Meantime, the Meggin Monastery in the Thin Gan Gyun Suburb of Rangoon was closed down by Authoritative Order, with all Monastery Peoples evicted. No reason was given. But the Troubling fact remained. The Monastery was highly credited, highly depended with it’s services to many patients with HIV/AIDS.

So the over all feature in Burma can be that the peoples are suffering, badly. They are crying out with their S.O.S. “Pyi Thu Jar Ga, Pyi Thu A Tharn” – “Voices from among the peoples” sent out through Air Channels. But who is listening? They are just Internal- nothing to do with the outside world.

The Peoples of Burma are in for a long, long sleep, the suffering sleep.

K.R.C – Camps – Activities – Report. November – 2007

- ❖ 5.11.07 KRC. Social affair Coordinator delivered Speech at TBBC. CAN's Training opening ceremony in Noe Po Camp. Present at the Ceremony were; Noe Po-Camp commander, Chief of Ranger, Karen Agriculture Worker Union, Representative of TBBC Nutrition, Camp leaders and other CBOs workers in Noe Po Camp. The training was Trainer- training and specific for Representatives of respective Refugee Camps and Reprastative of IDPs. Camp. In Ii-Tu-HTa.
- ❖ 5.11.07 KRC held an emergency meeting with Representatives of Mae La, Umphiem, and Noh Poe Camp Committees and explains about AMI- recruiting Medical doctors from Burma.
- ❖ 6.11.07 KRC and KRC- (CMP)-discussed means for getting more definite Camps population figures.
- ❖ 8.11.07 KRC held a meeting including Camps committee Representatives in Mae Sot office. The issues discussed were Proper management related to daily activities with in camps and solution to humanitarian social problems often happened in Camps.
- ❖ 9.11.07 KRC- CMP including respective camp committee members hold bi-monthly Meeting in Mae Sot KRC-office.
- ❖ 12-15.11.07 KRC Joint secretary Naw Blooming Night Zan, together with KRC- Maesariang's Representative visits camps peoples of Mae La Ma Luang and Mae La Oon.
- ❖ 16.11.07 KRC-CMP organized workshop, for the purpose of improving statistics of peoples, records, and reports in Noh Poe Camp. The same day, KRC Committee Members give presents and made encouragement speeches to (CAN) Trainees during their Graduation . Ceremony.
- ❖ 20.11.07 KRC meet with AMI Country Director and have agreement in accepting two Burmese Doctors to work in Camp Health Medical Services.
- ❖ 21.11.07 KRC-CMP. Give Capacity Building Training in Mae La Camp.

- ❖ 21.11.07 TBBC Team, Mae Sot, call on KRC, shared information's of people who are eligible for receiving food support from TBBC.(eligibility feeding Rules) – KRC (CMP) with coordination from TBBC. Capacity Building Co-ordinate, Ms Joe provides Training in Mae La Camp.
- ❖ 26-28.11.07 KRC Committee, led by Thra Mu Say Say visited and share information with Camp peoples in Noe Po. – KRC. Chair person. Visited Mae La Mat Luong and Mae La Oon and shared information with regard to TBBC “eligible feeding figure Rules”
- ❖ 27.11.07 Veronica- from Collaborating Development in Action. Visit-Discussion. Meeting with K.R.C on “listening to voices” in Camps.
- ❖ 28.11.07 December, KRC representatives Saw Bweh Say and Naw Blooming Night Zan attend the workshop on “Gender and Conflict Sensitivity Programme” Organized by NCA. In Chiang Mai.
- ❖ 28.11.07 KRC- had a meeting with Poland Ambassador. Information shared during the meeting were-
 - Poland’s bitter experience under the rule of dictatorships
 - Poland support and attitude toward the Karen Refugee and to help with Freedom in Burma.
 - The important of unification and Cooperation within opposition groups and precautionary measures which are essential for future improvement.
 - The opinions of KRC related to the consequences and impacts following the peaceful Monks protest demonstrations in Burma.
- ❖ 29.11.07 KRC- had a meeting with the first secretary of the Japanese Ambassador in Bangkok. KRC’s Vice-chair person briefs on Refuge seeking new arrivals as a consequence of the unending political crisis happening in Burma. Another Topic being the local ethnic peoples are driven out of their home land, especially around the new Nay Pyidaw area for security reasons.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS NOVEMBER, 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	10,315	15,239	14,661	4,843	4,469	3,292	3,139	45,643
	Um Pheim Mai	4,050	7,401	7,084	1,915	1,781	1,627	1,416	21,224
Total		14,365	22,640	21,745	6,758	6,250	4,919	4,555	66,867
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,824	5,631	5,383	1,706	1,542	1,199	1,211	16,672
	Mae La Oo	2,713	5,528	5,112	1,722	1,529	1,044	976	15,911
Total		5,537	11,159	10,495	3,428	3,071	2,243	2,187	32,583
SOUTH	Noh Poe	3,732	6,023	5,490	1,518	1,453	1,215	1,239	16,938
	Ban Dong Yang	905	1,472	1,574	402	397	349	359	4,553
	Htam Him	1,307	1,950	2,032	723	718	533	439	6,395
Total		5,944	9,445	9,096	2,643	2,568	2,097	2,037	27,886
Grand Total		25,846	43,244	41,336	12,829	11,889	9,259	8,779	127,336

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.

AMI – 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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