



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER, 2007

Karen Refugee Committee
Monthly Report
December, 2007 – Newsletter

December is the last month of the year. Its the time for Peace and Good. will -the time to send out the Message of Peace on Earth and Good -will to Man.

It is also the time to reflect on what had transpired throughout the year, whether the Message of December last was really worthwhile.

For Refugees the Message was really worthwhile. Simply because they still survive. They have space to live on in an alien land. They have comparative safety. They have acceptable shelter, living, social, and welfare supports. They even have considerations for their future. These are all Good-will in Man. Surprising is that Good-will come from strangers far and near when you only find suffering back Home.

For all the Good-will in Man, from Refugees, there can only be expression of great Appreciation and Gratitude to the People and Government of Thailand, to the World Body and International Agencies, to the Democratic Peoples and Countries of the world, to the N.G.Os working under the C.C.S.D.P.T., the Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand-for all the concern, sympathy and support.

Most remarkable is that, these Good-will Efforts of sympathy and support have been on going for decades and still there is as yet no sign that it will wither away. In fact, sympathy and Effort is getting stronger with each passing year, even with great changes, difficulties and troubles that our world is facing. There is no question of troubles with our world due to differences, dissents, confrontations, Violence, together with contests for dwindling resources and limited space. Nature's changes and destructive forces are not helping either.

All these Troubling Features apart, for Refugees, what is on-going in Burma can truly be saddening. Once, a country of abundance Stability and Peace, now there are great changes wrought on by mis-rule, mistakes and misdeeds, which resulted in dissents, confrontations, conflicts and the ever continuing repression. The country has now become a sore thumb among Nations of the world. The feature we are seeing is that hundreds of thousands have become Refugees, Hundreds of thousands more displaced, millions seeking risky life support as migrant workers, and then hundreds of thousands will find resettlement elsewhere, seeing that Home is not Home any more. Conditions inside Home are not conducive to peaceful, good, happy living any more. The truth can only be that Good leadership, Governance is sorely needed for a country to be stable, peaceful and prosperous.

For example, we can look to Singapore and see what Good and Efficient Governance mean. Singapore, made up of Multiple Ethnicity can be as diverse as can be. However, just, equal, prosperous living have made diversity to come together to work for the common Cause.

Now, at the End of the year, we see the saddening feature of the fall of a star. Benazir Bhutto was made to fall in a horrible manner. But she knew what was coming. It was not the first attempt that was made on her life.

With one fallen star, we can reflect on another star, Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi. That she is still around can almost be attributed to the Good-will of the Generals. For, the Generals always insisted that the Democracy lady was kept in isolation for her own safety. Any how, it would be like lifting someone to greater heights although the intent could be something else. It is questionable whether the Generals would like being kept in isolation for their own Safety. There was the saying, "A chun Net Ma" "lifting by a pointed object". What we are seeing is that the "Lady" has become a symbol of hope and endeavor for the suffering peoples of Burma. She has become a factor that can help with the diversity, disunity, to come together and work for the common cause. The cause being to be rid of the Despotic Evil that was set in with Ne Win in 1962.

The "Yellow Gold Movement" surely is one rallying move and which will surely continue with others joining in. Simply because suffering cannot go on and on.

And Friendly Persuasion together with Good-will is not helping in any way.

Indications are that now there are country-wide Authoritative Moves to organize a stronger U.S.D.A (Union Solidarity and Development Association), who are partial to S.P.D.C, and who are given the not so desirable nick-name of "Kyant Phoot" together with the "Swan Ah Shin" Power Masters who can only be opportunistic agitators. The Evil Intent can only be that of "Setting People against People" Money do make moves. These was the Burmese Saying "Ein Chet Chin Oh Meh Thoke Khoot" meaning "Sibling Cocks smeared Black to fight each other" Burma can be a Good study.

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

- ❖ 11-12: The KRC and CMP jointly repeated the checking of New Arrival List in Umphiem and Nu Po Camps to request food rations for them.
- ❖ 13-12: The KRC did recheck the New Arrival List in Mae La Camp, for the same purpose as above two Camps.
- ❖ 17-12: The KRC staff meeting was held in the KRC office where preparations for coming year were focused.
- ❖ 17-25: The KRC Joint Secretary Naw Blooming Night Zan and social Affair Co-ordinator Saw Bwe Say visited to Ban Don Yan and Htam Hin Camps.

Additional News

- ❖ In 2007, (1592) families (9726) people from Mae La Camp have resettled in third countries.
In 2007, there are (1266) new-born and (163) deaths in M/L Camp.
- ❖ In 2007, (641) people from Ban Don Yang Camp have resettled in third countries.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS DECEMBER, 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	10,273	15,159	14,577	4,824	4,445	3,311	3,161	45,477
	Um Pheim Mai	4,045	7,979	7,594	2,064	1,882	1,760	1,537	22,816
Total		14,318	23,138	22,171	6,888	6,327	5,071	4,698	68,293
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2771	5511	5242	1647	1532	1149	1193	16274
	Mae La Oo	2714	5564	5135	1721	1537	1039	959	15943
Total		54,85	11,075	10,377	3,368	3,069	2,188	2,152	32,217
SOUTH	Noh Poe	3,491	5,671	5,470	1,772	1,795	1,148	1,082	16,938
	Ban Dong Yang	887	1455	1561	405	391	343	350	4505
	Htam Him	1368	1930	2020	736	750	474	383	6,293
Total		5,746	9,056	9,051	2,913	2,936	1,965	1,815	27,736
Grand Total		25,549	43,269	41,599	13,169	12,332	9,224	8,665	128,246

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.

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