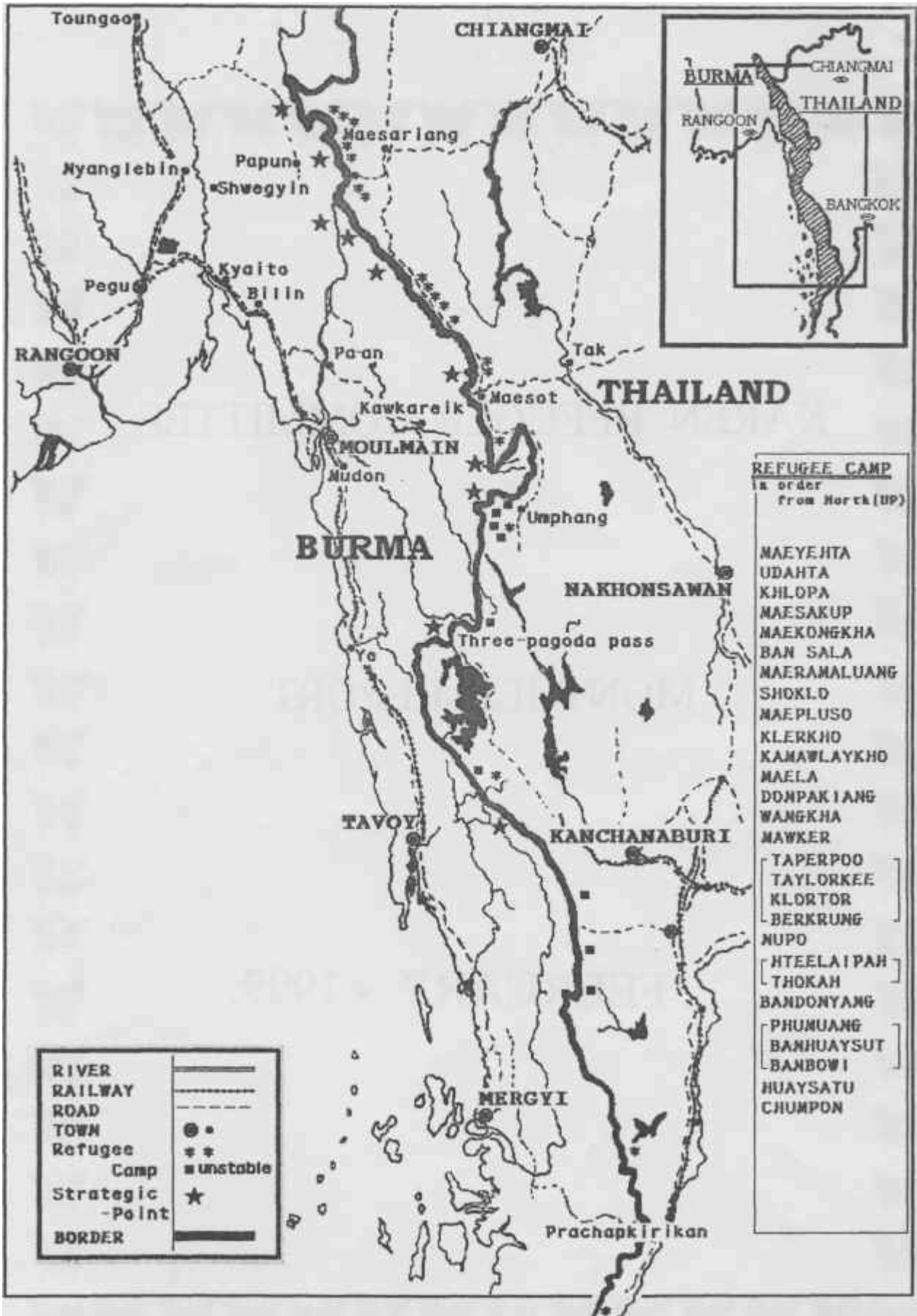




KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY - 1999.



# **KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

### **FEBRUARY 1999.**

February is the open season. Open Season is the time when Refugees have cause to fear for their safety as cross border attacks are often seen in these dry summer months.

Last year's attacks and burning at Wang Kha and Maw Ker are still vividly remembered by the camps population and there are incessant threats of impending attacks since. Still, proper shelters are not being allowed to be built as these two camps are supposed to be relocated to a new site, which is as yet not being materialized.

Added to the threat of attacks is the shortage of water in camps which is unusually acute as a result of diminished rainfall the past year. In camps, people are seen digging protective trenches.

The K.R.C, is conducting meetings in all camps for the purpose of forming new camps administrative committee, informing camps people of their rights and obligations and giving instructions and guidance for propriety and harmony in communal camp living.

In Burma itself, things seem to be getting worse and more people seemed to be trying to cross over to seek refuge. There is no big fighting, to be sure, for these new arrivals to be accepted as refugees. But the plain fact is that the "Silent War," the on-going repressive measures on the long suffering common people are ever harsher and extreme, that people feel there is no possibility for normal living back home. The ordinary citizen is feeling the crunch as the economy is getting worse with the resultant scarcity of all basic commodities. Around the world we're seeing there are changes for the better. People are coming to know that contention is not the best policy and only leads to misery and hardship. India and Pakistan will be working towards lessening Nuclear Risks in the region. Developments regarding East Timor are encouraging. In Nigeria, the move is towards Democratic Civilian rule replacing the Military

The military in Burma came onto the world scene in 1988 as SLORC or State Law and Order Restoration Council. But the name in Burmese is "Na Wa Ta" which is short for Naing Gan Dor Nyain Woot Peet Pyar Hmu Tee Hsawk Yay Ah Hpwe. Some one must have done a bad job of translating it into English for there is nothing to indicate Law and Order about Na Wa Ta in the original.

Now; Naing Gan Dor is State.

Nyain	is to be still (no movement)
Woot	is cowering (in total subjugation)
Peet	is pressed
Pyar	is flat
Hmu	is condition
Tee Hsawk Yay	is construction
Ah Hpwe	is Group.

So, Na Wa Ta simple means to press, subdue, and contain the spirit of freedom. Today, the Name Na Wa Ta is being replaced by Na Ah Pha or SPDC. Name change is no indication of change in attitude. It remains for people concerned to wait and see, and to hope.

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS FEBRUARY 1999.**

MAE SOT AREA	CAMP	No.of families	Over 12 YRS		9-12 YRS		Under 8 YRS		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
	WangKha (Huay Ka Lok)	1745	3254	2981	475	469	1065	1047	9291
	Mae La Students.	5168	10800	9878	2396	2222	3371	3013	31990
	Maw Ker	1391	2996	2608	394	361	1096	1056	8511
		8304	17050	15467	3265	3052	5532	5116	49792
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1240	2620	2152	518	481	824	789	7384
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	1763	1885	3239	687	597	1250	1208	10866
		3003	4505	5391	1205	1078	2074	1997	18250
S O U T H	Noh Po	1527	2883	2358	743	687	912	912	8495
	Ban Don Yang	352	476	507	99	91	305	258	1736
	Tham Him	1672	2335	2373	1037	1017	737	789	8288
	Kho Thay Lu	70	77	85	22	16	36	44	280
		3621	5771	5323	1937	1811	1990	2003	18799
	Grand Total	14928	27326	26181	6407	5941	9596	9116	86841

**RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH**

FROM	Rice 100kg sacks	Salt Kilos	F- paste 16kg tins	Yellow Bean Kilos	BL	Mat	Mosquite Net Pcs	Chilies Kilos	Cooking Oil 13.75 liter tins	Cooking Fuel Kg.
BBC	7,567	20,250	1,695	71,160				6,355	47,784	314,910
COERR	350									

**DISTRIBUTION OF RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED.**

CAMP	I T E M S									
	Rice	Salt	F-paste	Yellow Bean	BL	Mat	Mosquito Net	Chilies	Cooking Oil	Cooking Fuel
Wang Kha	1,440	3,700	310	13,020				1,161	8,736	51,090
Mae La	5,103	13,000	1,090	45,720				4,086	30,720	215,820
Maw Ker	1,374	3,550	295	12,420				1,108	8,328	48,720
Noh Poe	1,366	2,200	227	12,360				1,352	8,292	46,480
KRC /MSF	20	50	4	180				16	120	-