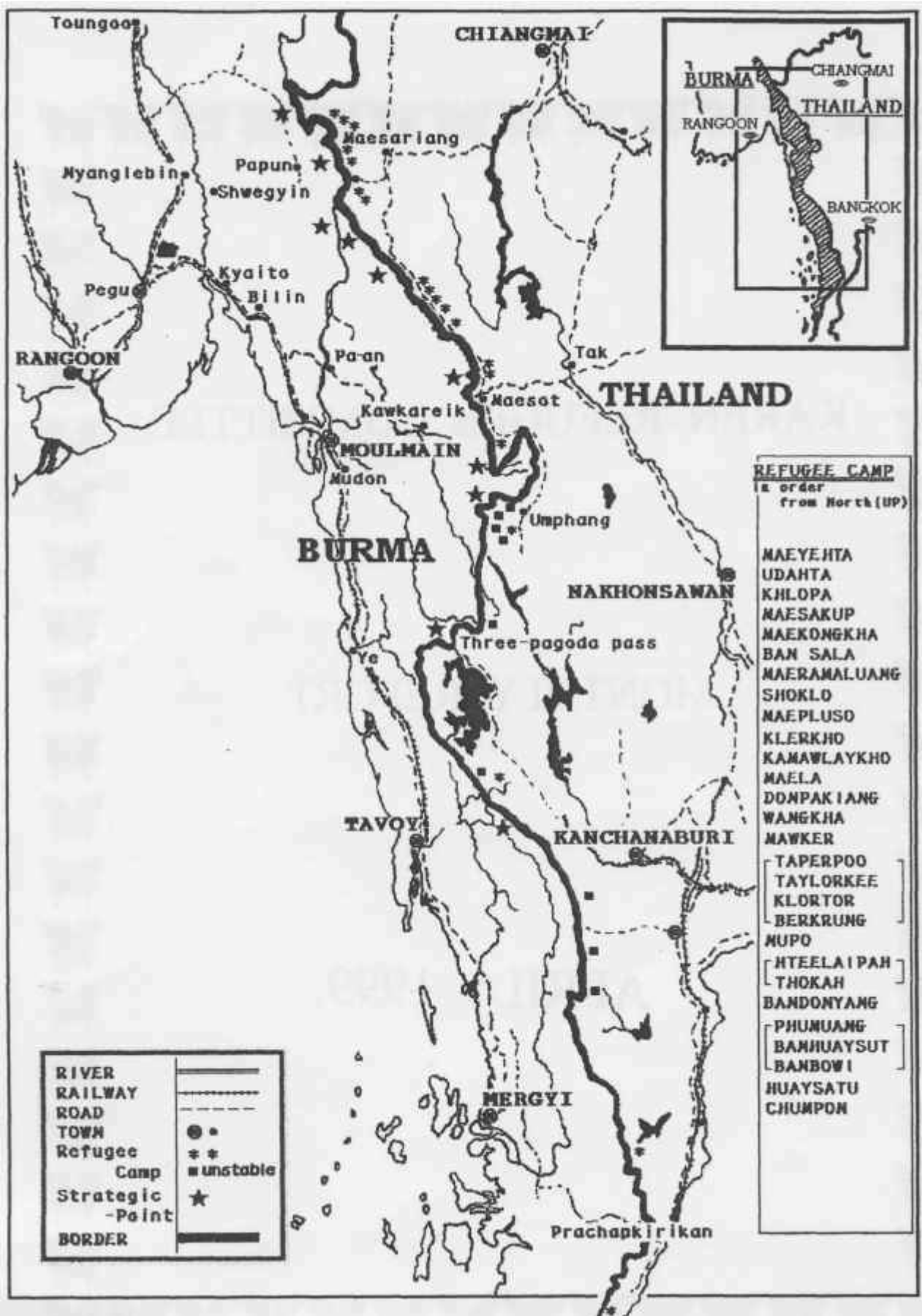




KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 1999.



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In the Burmese Calendar, April is when the Old year meets the New one . And it is time for reflecting, and also to hope for the best in days to come.

Among the Buddhist Community, the New year is being celebrated by the Water Festival whereby people throw water on each other to show Friendship and Goodwill. But in Refugee Camps, water shortage imposed restriction on these activities . People had to be satisfied, painting each other with Talcum powder, which sometimes produce adverse effects. But altogether people enjoyed the Festival all the same.

April 22nd is being designated as Earth Day. This is to remind People that Mother Earth is one Home for one People, a Titanic that is not unsinkable. To all indications, Mother Earth is suffering. Man definitely has a hand in bringing this on. The Temperature rose to 44° Celsius in India, causing hundreds of deaths. This is ample warning.

For us in Refugee Camps, there is a lot of activity. People are seen reinforcing their shacks in expectation of the coming rains, which according to astrological predictions (Thin Gyan Sar), will be heavier than normal.

Meanwhile, Media Reports in this month of April is completely dominated by the NATO air strikes in Yugoslavia. This serves as a reminder that there are places elsewhere , where the same thing is happening. Now people are becoming very much aware that there are still people ready and willing to eliminate other people.

In Burma, such misdeeds have been going on for decades, before anyone heard about Bosnia or Kosovo . The indigenous people in Burma, the Mon, the Arakan, the Shan, the Karen, the Karenni, the Kachin, the Chin and still others, are in the best position to know what Ethnic Cleansing means.

But, all things considered we refugees in this Border Region can assume that we really are fortunate . For we have people who are sympathetic, have understanding and are willing and ready to give unfailing support.

We shall always be indebted to the Host Country, the UNHCR, the Donor Groups and Individuals, the Non-Governmental Organizations for this great support in the name of Humanity.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS APRIL 1999.

MAE SOT AREA	CAMP	No,of Families	Over-12 YRS		9-12 YRS		Under 8-Yrs		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
	Wang Kha (Huay Ka Lok)	1,772	3,375	3,072	478	478	1,135	1,093	9,631
	Mae La.	5,105	10,765	9,856	2,400	2,225	3,399	3,058	31,983
	Maw Ker	1,542	2,951	2,617	431	421	1,137	1,078	8,635
		7,819	17,091	15,549	3,309	3,214	5,671	5,229	50,063
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1,257	2,719	2,199	496	496	824	791	7,553
	Mae Kha & Sa La	1,781	3,838	3,219	724	659	1,221	1,206	10,855
		3,038	6,557	5,418	1,236	1,155	2,045	1,997	18,408
S O U T H	Noh Po	1,492	2,488	2,309	907	865	522	550	7,641
	Ban Don Yang	352	472	513	103	94	296	284	1,762
	Tham Him	1,654	2,339	2,381	1,037	1,017	680	745	8,199
	KhoThay Lu	69	63	83	7	6	52	64	275
			3,567	5,362	5,288	2,054	1,982	1,550	1,643
	Grand Total.	14,424	29,010	26,255	6,599	6,351	9,266	8,869	86,350

RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH.

FROM	Rice 100 Kg Sacks	Salt Kilos	F-Paste 16kg Tins	Yellow Bean Kilos	Chilies Kilos	Cooking Oil-13.75 Liter tins	Cooking Fuel-Kg.
BBC.	7,451	20,100	1,675	70,380	6,279	46,716	311,430
COERR	350						