KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

&

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER, 2008

Karen Refugee Committee
Newsletter & Monthly Report
September, 2008

Come September, we Border Refugees cannot help but look back to what happened in our beloved country after the peaceful movement for Change in 1988, and remember.

In September of that year, the SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council) was established following the severe Military Crack-down on the student/Teacher Movement- the so called 4 Eights Movement, (8-8-88) Movement of August 1988. The shoot straight crack-down resulted in Thousands of innocent Deaths, thousands more injured and many unaccounted for into this day. One horrifying Feature, the Dead, the not so-dead the injured, all loaded onto Trucks and dumped in the river. Some, piled up and burnt.

The SLORC has since Changed its name to SPDC, the State Peace and Development Council, hoping to present itself as a more benign, Fatherly Ruling Body. But to all intent and Purpose its the same severe and still more Scheming Despotic Regime, bent only on holding onto POWER.

In September of last year, there was again the severe Crack-down, that time, on the Monks' Body, those who dared to make a challenging but Peaceful Move against the Repressive Junta. There was the same response. If there are those ready and willing to die, there are those ready and willing to shoot to kill. Flesh has no way of standing up to steel. There were the same outcries, with the same results. Strong Friends were standing up for the Ways of the Generals. It was an Internal Affair, Sovereignty, no need for Intervention. No need for Meddling. Burma's Military Junta Prevailed and the People go on Suffering.

Around the world, September brings back to memory, the shock of September 11- of 2008- the Airline Assault on the New York World Trade Centre. The horrifying scene of the Airline Hit, the explosions in the Centre, the burnings in the upper Floors, the people trapped on the Upper Floors with no way of escape, doomed to die a horrible death, will remain with many, and for years to come.

Even these days, there is the fear that the same can happen, any place, any time, as there are indications that diseased minds are harboring the intent to do the "shook" just to have the satisfaction in their warped minds of doing justice for their Cause. On a daily basis, we are seeing, hearing of Explosions, fires, suicides together with mass deaths, maimings, destructions and sufferings. On the higher level, we hear of attempts for "capability" together with "wiping off the Map" of others.

There will also be the climate change and its Global Affectations to contend with. We are sure to see rising Temperatures, the melting Ice, the rising sea level threatening low lying Islands and Coastal Regions, more rain, moisture, strong winds and waves, storms resulting in Floods, Landslides, destructions of farms, food, productions, together with increase in Diseases.

Time is also that we are seeing Elections in many countries around the world- Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, North America. Elections are choosing Leaders, Rulers, whose decisions and actions can influence many great events and features.

Now, world interest is focused on the on-going Election Process in the United States of America. It is simply because America is a great Power, Politically, Economically and also in Terms of Military Capability. It is a great Bulwark for Democracy. Together with the Allies, they are in a strong position to help safe guard and maintain stability, Freedom and Harmony. Security, Containing Terrorism has became one big Issue.

As for Refugees in this Border Region, these can be change, in that many Democratic Countries are opening up with Resetdement opportunities for these unfortunate Peoples.

With no improvement in conditions, Political or Economical, back in the Home Country and with Repatriation an impossibility, many will have no choice, but to go some place, some where, where they can have freedom and equality, where they can have the pursuit of happiness, where they can "Belong". Living in Fear and uncertainty, with no self support, No Identity, No Country, No Government, No seeming Future, Prolonged Dependence on others for every needs can be very discouraging, very unnerving, out-right dreadful.

A sense of belonging, having Identity, Country and Government, self support work, equality, sharing-these can be the only Future, the Refugees will hope for. To be sure, this wishing can be seen, not only with Refugees, but with the affected and suffering peoples from a^l corners of the country we call Burma.

K.R.C - Camps — Activities — Report.
September - 2008

> 4/09/08 - KRC Coordinators meeting. Discussed were matters related to Refugee Camps Administration and Management. Also discussed were Camps Security and stability. There will be training workshops in all Camps for Camps, Security Personnel, where IRC and KRC will participate.

> 4/09/08- KRC Executive committee, Coordinators, workers, Regular monthly meeting at KRC office. Wide ranging works, activities discussions related to Refugees and camps, together with Evaluation of works processes and weaknesses, successes.

> 6/09/08 - Meeting at KRC office, Initiated by ZOA where ZOA, KEAB, KRC and KED participated. Discussed were Education Matters related to Refugees. Also, at year's end, ZOA, will be handing over their Refugee Support (Education) to another NGO, where-by the need of proper handing over and continuation of the process in the most proper way were discussed.

> 8/09/08 - KEAB, KRC, ZOA meet. Discussed were, Refugee Camps Education, the Proper process and the Roles and Responsibilities of Stake holders and Coordinators, Workers.

> 19/09/08 - TBBC, KRC, Camp Committees from the 3 Tak Refugee Camps- held meeting in KRC office. Discussed were- making Baseline Surveys in Camps together with Ration Books and Food Distribution Processes that need to be Proper and Acceptable.

> 24/09/2008- Meeting between TBBC's Ms. Sally Thompson and KRC members. In depth discussion on especially on Camps. Feeding Figures, and Problems, difficulties related to New Arrivals. Camp are becoming "Draws" for New Refuge Seekers- Rations, Security/Registration and Resettlement opportunities given to Refugees have become the "Big Draw".

> 25/09/08 - Meeting at KRC office- between KRC members and KnRC (Karenni) members. Discussed were implementation of Camps Rules and Regulations together with CMSP/ Code of conduct in all Border Refugee Camps.

> 25/09/ 08- Mae La Camp. Meet between UNHCR, LAC, KRC, KnRC on implementation of Code of Conduct, together with updated Rules and Regulations for Camps stability Administration and Management.

> 30/9/08 - TBBC and KRC meeting. Discussions related to the Assessments made of New Arrivals in Mae La Camp by the Camp Committee.

> 30/9/08 - Meeting KRC Fact finding group from the U.S, Embassy, Bangkok. Focusing on Refugees in this Border Region, their support, living conditions, the difficulties and measures for resolving, helping. Discussions also include Resettlement offers by many countries and how Refugees are reacting to this helping Efforts, seeing that quite a large number of Border Refugees are accepting Resettlement offers.

Resettled Myanmar Refugees by Locations (Year 2006)

Locations	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Tham Hin	-	27	21	9		12	23	270	813	202	518	199	2094
Ban Don Yang	1	11	25	27	36	60	59	52	86	16	24	3	400
Nupo	5	39	40	11	11	14	62	25	26	76	63	28	400
Mae La	13	23	12	24	56	67	17	34	17	51	35	52	401
Umpium	4	17	9	14	17	1	63	7	10	47	13	6	208
Mae La Oo (HGN)		15		7	4	-		24	100	125	458	22	755
Mae Rama Luang (HGN)			9		120	53	14	20	29	5	9	2	261
Total	23	132	116	92	244	207	238	432	1081	522	1120	312	4519

Resettled Myanmar Refugees by Locations (as of 31 Dec 2007)

Locations	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Tham Hin	128	162	215	90	303	337	139	80	401	33	161	54	2103
Ban Don Yang	15	10	45	8			12	5	93	54	48	69	359
Nupo	26	6	32	16	91	28	33	21	22	19	55	24	373
Mae La	41	35	85	205	214	794	1905	2026	3360	193	181	122	9161
Umpium	26	12	54	51	109	68	16	7	22	45	29	43	482
Mae La Oo (HGN)	3				47	178	266	23	170	35	88	24	834
Mae Rama Luang (HGN)				1	2		201	52	183	56	233	10	738
													0
Total	239	225	431	371	766	1405	2572	2214	4251	435	795	346	14050

Resettled Myanmar Refugees by Locations (Year 2008)

Locations	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Tham Hin	53	71	195	183	115	76	47	114					854
Ban Don Yang	12	7	11	15	4	16	33	21					119
Nupo	33	58	31	24	16	473	853	508					1996
Mae La	560	763	1363	310	545	554	617	903					5615
Umpium	46	30	164	1083	1401	1344	548	389					5005
Mae La Oo (HGN)	12	6	44	21	12		39	8					142
Mae Rama Luang (HGN)	7	4	11	16	25	144	51	13					271
Total	723	939	1819	1652	2118	2607	2188	1956					14002

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS September, 2008.

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	7,368	13,013	12,172	5,032	4,584	2,459	2,364	39624
	Um Phiem Mai	3,904	5,279	5,016	1,530	1,480	1,010	1,078	15,393
		11,272	**18,292**	**17,188**	**6,562**	**6,064**	**3,469**	**3,442**	**55,017**
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,900	5,767	5,582	1,799	1,619	1,196	1,263	17,226
	Mae La Oo	2,824	5,764	5,358	1,790	1,664	1,114	1,060	16,750
	Total	**5,724**	**11,531**	**10,940**	**3,589**	**3,283**	**2,310**	**2,323**	**33,976**
SOUTH	Noh Poe	3,882	6,589	5,941	1,711	1,656	1,249	1,112	18,258
	Ban Dong Yang	839	1,467	1,556	394	377	375	354	4,523
	Htam Him	1,069	1,556	1,646	536	520	400	363	5,021
	Total	**5,790**	**9,612**	**9,143**	**2,641**	**2,553**	**2,024**	**1,829**	**27,802**
	Grand Total	**22,786**	**39,435**	**37,271**	**12,792**	**11,900**	**7,803**	**7,594**	**116,795**

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, Teaching, Learning Aid.

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 Resetdement.

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.
(055) Ind: +66 55 532 947.
E- Mail: krc.academic@gmail.com.
Fax: (055) Ind: +66 55 546 869
Mobile: +66 878 498250