



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 1996





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Incursion into the Karen refugee camps in Thailand by armed personnel from across the border occurred several times during the month of January, 1996. In one latest incident that happened on the night of January 30, 1996 in Mae U Su village of Tha Song Yang district, three people were killed including a Buddhist monk and a Thai police sergeant major.

This greatly turbulent situation prompted the Thai authorities to again step up security measures in the affected area and the situation for the moment is once more, relatively quiet.

Some changes have also been made in the camps. Residents in section No. 1 and section No. 7 of Sho Klo camp were required for security reason to move into the central part of the camp. There is a plan to put a fence around the camp. In Mae La camp a fence is being put up parallel to the main road leaving only five entrances or gates into the camp.

Life for civilians in certain places inside Burma continues to be very difficult and perilous at times.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS.

	CAMP	No.of families	Over 12 YRS		5-12 YRS		Under 5 YRS		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
MAE	Wang Kha (Huay Ka Lok)	1176	1913	2182	649	595	561	525	6425
SOT	Don Pa Kiang	599	1022	913	290	285	262	277	3049
AREA	Mae La	3751	8259	7743	3400	3350	1239	1273	25264
	Sho Klo (Mae Song)	1148	2206	2376	1534	1572	233	297	8218
	Maw Ker	1148	2226	2125	582	537	744	675	6889
		7822	15626	15339	6455	6339	3039	3047	49845
N	Mae Ra Ma Luang	815	1491	1411	518	443	367	332	4562
O	Khun Mae Kong Kha	415	687	759	332	335	214	233	2560
R	SaLa	259	531	473	179	140	79	91	1493
T	Mae Sa Kup	281	559	538	195	166	113	138	1709
H	KhloPa	212	447	409	157	142	96	91	1342
	UDaHta	248	555	479	189	178	113	116	1630
	Mae Ye Hta	300	635	520	231	185	135	114	1820
		2530	4905	4589	1801	1589	1117	1115	15116
S									
O	Ta Per Poo	385	786	548	213	170	117	141	1975
U	No Pa Doh (Nong Luang)	126	239	198	84	82	49	54	708
T	NohKaHtaWah	367	727	623	161	191	160	164	2026
H	Mae Ta Raw Khee	689	1414	1409	762	635	230	266	4716
	Htee Hta Baw	377	655	642	308	291	171	138	2205
	T' Kwee Klaw	162	250	270	85	102	73	58	838
		2106	4071	3690	1613	1471	800	821	12466
	Total	12458	24602	23618	9869	9399	4956	4983	77427

RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH

FROM								
	Rice/Sacks	Salt/Kgs	F.Paste/tins	Pressed Saw Dust/bundles	Exercise books/Dz	Pencil Dz	Ballpen Dz	Rubber eraser/ Dz
BBC	7,590	15,750	3075	10,650				
COERR	350				800	430	242	360
Total	7,940	15,750	3075	10,650	800	430	242	360

DISTRIBUTION OF RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED

CAMP	RICE	SALT	F.Paste
	SACKS	KGS	tins
Wang Kha (Huay Ka Lok)	1,010	2,350	400
Don Pa Kiang	470	1,200	190
Mae La (area)	4,020	7,100	1500
Sho Klo	1,376	2,800	555
Maw Ker	1,064	2,300	430
Total	7,940	15,750	3075

The Karen Refugee Committee expresses its sincere gratitude to the Thai authorities and to the people of the Kingdom of Thailand for the kindness and understanding they have shown in granting refuge to the Karens and to other displaced people from Burma who are in trouble and need. The committee is fully aware of the fact that, unless for the kindness and understanding manifested in the name of humanity, the refugees would not be able to survive. This noble gesture of goodwill is sincerely appreciated and will always be remembered .

The Karen Refugee Committee also expresses its sincere gratitude to the individuals and agencies concerned, for their help and support in many ways and through the years to provide the refugees with those basic items of need. The commitment of all those involved in this mission of mercy is sincerely appreciated and will also be remembered by all of us .

The situation has again become relatively quiet for the moment but people are still living in an unpredictable state. The refugees greet the new year with a feeling of fear and uncertainty but deep in their hearts still flickers a faint ray of hope for better days. They long for peace, genuine and honourable peace to come back to their greatly troubled land. They count on the help and support of all peace loving people around the world.

The Karen Refugee Committee reiterates its firm belief that it is in the best interests of the refugees that they should ultimately return to Burma. It believes however that return must be voluntary and to a situation of safety. It is disturbing to note however that Karen civilians in many parts of Burma continue to go through very difficult and perilous times.

The committee believes that in order to allow for the safe voluntary return of refugees to Burma, effective monitoring by an appropriate independent monitoring body should be regarded as the necessary prerequisite.

Until and unless such an independent monitoring body can say in all certainty that it is safe for the refugees to go back, the Karen Refugee Committee humbly appeals to the Royal Thai Government, to the people of the Kingdom of Thailand and to the international community to continue granting permission for these refugees to remain in the Karen refugee camps in Thailand.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Htwe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Htwe
Chairman
Karen Refugee Committee