

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1998.

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October is especially notable for Mass Movements of People. The most notable movement being the 1917 October Revolution, which brought absolute Power to Lenin and the Communist Party in Russia.

There was the 1911 October movement which Culminated in Dr. Sun Yat Sen aspiring to the Presidency of the United Provinces of China. But more renowned was the Peoples' Revolution at the end of WW II, when on October 1st 1949, Mao Tse Tung was in a position to formally declare the establishment of the Chinese Peoples Republic.

Christopher Columbus discovered the New World in October 1492, which was followed by great movements of people from the Old to the New World. In the Americas, October 12th was commemorated as Columbus Day with great festivities, but the events would not be joyful occasions for the Original Peoples of America.

Then there was the October 1973 movement in Thailand which was cause for many to remember and Commemorate. In Burma, now, movements are being orchestrated to drive out Aung San Suu Kyi as an undesirable, unique for a Nobel Laureate, and the present movement in Malaysia is also cause for great concern.

This October marks the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but how much Human Rights is being Observed around the world is still being asked by many.

Estimation is that there are Twenty-two million refugees worldwide including the one hundred thousand in this Thai-Burma Border.

October heralds the Open Season with lessening of rain and there will be more movements of people. Refugees in Camps are seen digging protective pit shelters in anticipation of rumoured attacks or shelling. Whether the pits would provide adequate protection is the question best left unanswered.

Elsewhere inside Burma, people are still being displaced, some trying to cross into Thailand only to return back across. Seems that these displaced people are undecided and mixed up, unsure of the future and direction.

In the Camps also, Refugees are not so sure about their future and life has become a puzzle for many of them. In fact many of the young generation know nothing of life outside that of restricted Camp life.

Still, we feel that there is room for optimism. The UNHCR is getting involved in the Refugees Affair for the purpose of giving "Protection ". The Thai Government is being sympathetic and concerned and the NGO's and Aid Groups are unfailing in their support and encouragement.

We thank the Thai People, and the Royal Thai Government for providing safe Refuge and the NGO's and Concerned Groups for their sympathy and Support.

**Karen Refugee Committee
Mae Sot.**

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NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS

MAE SOT AREA	CAMP	No.of families	Over 12 YRS		5- 12 YRS		Under 5 YRS		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
	Wang Kha (Huay Ka Lok)	1622	2977	2809	921	868	398	443	8416
	Mae La	5031	10961	9960	3961	3598	1387	1310	31177
	Mae La T.B (Clinic) Prosthesis Workshop								
	Maw Ker	1349	3037	2613	801	716	658	643	8468
		8002	16975	15382	5683	5182	2443	2396	48061
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1217	2481	2154	941	752	530	530	7388
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	1680	3703	3161	1184	1022	677	601	10348
		2897	6184	5315	2125	1774	1207	1131	17736
S O U T H	Noh Po	1676	3217	2689	1179	1138	616	616	9455
	Ban Don Yang	350	465	499	272	234	102	88	1660
	Tham Him	1672	2335	2379	1037	1017	703	767	8238
	Kho Thay Lu	70	77	85	22	16	36	44	280
		3768	6094	5652	2510	2405	1457	1515	19633
	Grand Total	14667	29253	26349	10318	9361	5107	5042	85430

RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH.

FROM	Rice 100kg sacks	Salt Kilos	F- paste 16kg tins	Yellow Bean Kilos	Blanket Pcs	Knives Pcs.	Hoes Pcs	Cooking Oil 13.75 liter tins	Cooking Fuel Kg.
BBC	7541	19,950	3,333	69,980	680			46,992	274,350
BBC	# 232	#600	#100	#2,100		#130	# 130		
COERR	350								

Distributed to Noh Boe - Tha Song Yang district (for displaced people who crossed into Thai territory.)

DISTRIBUTION OF RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED.

CAMP	ITEMS						
	Rice	Salt	F-paste	Yellow Bean	Blanket	Cooking Oil	Cooking Fuel
Wang Kha	1,321	3,350	562	11,800		7,920	46,380
Mae La	5,210	13,200	2,201	46,200	600	31,032	181,890
Maw Ker	1,340	3,350	562	11,800	80	7,920	46,380
Noh Poe#							
KRC/MSF	20	50	8	180		120	