

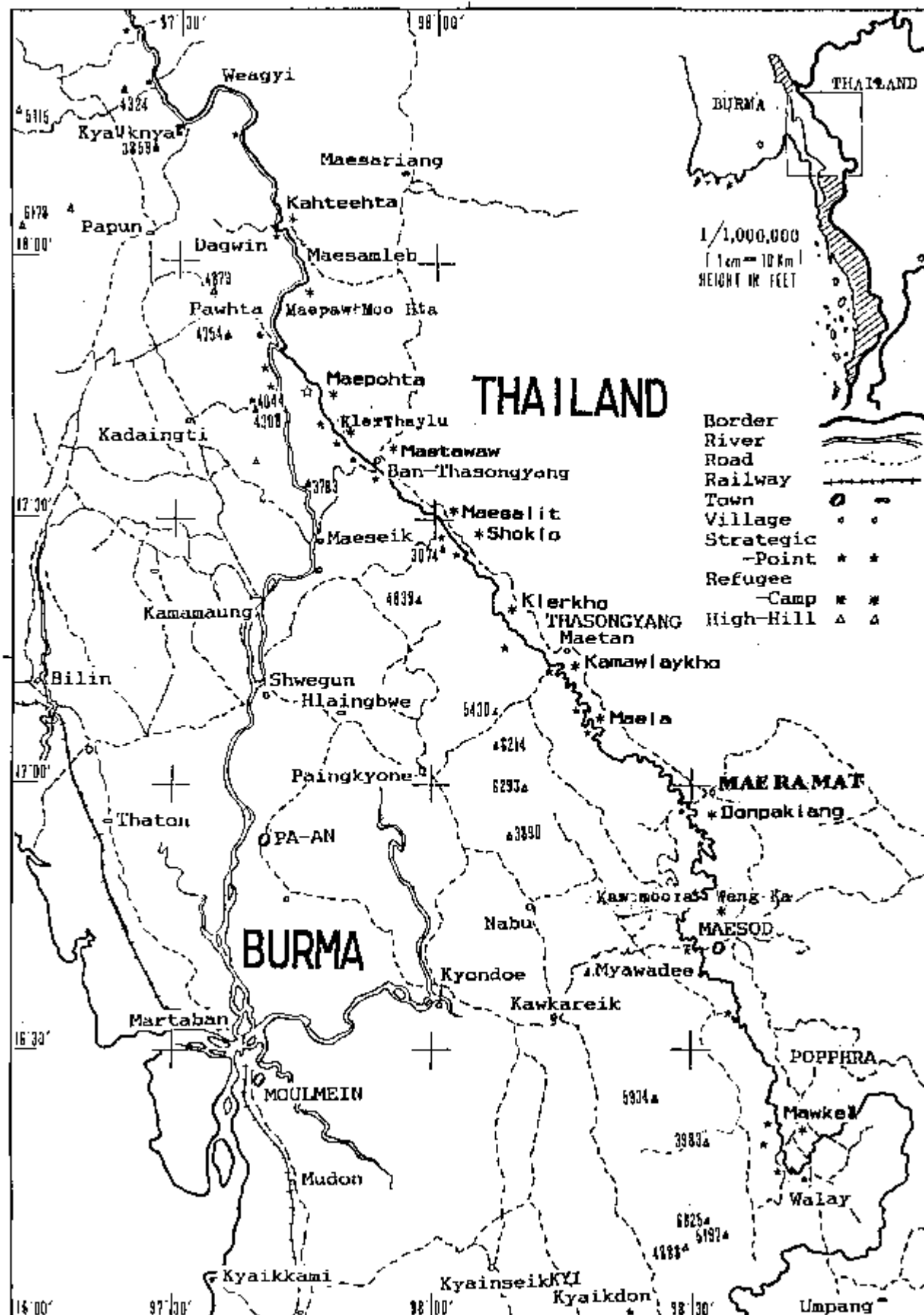


KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE

1994



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 SOT AREA	WANG KA	755	1195	1541	473	434	328	291	4262
	DON PA KIANG	503	946	858	306	291	198	238	2837
	MAE LA	1196	1537	2130	964	909	311	305	6156
	KAMAW LAX KHO	696	1178	1216	407	374	309	308	3792
	KLER KHO	586	1119	1102	366	377	278	311	3553
	SHO KLO	1546	2542	3189	1147	1065	569	665	9177
	MA'E SA LIT	631	1003	1283	461	" 461	154	163	3525
	MAE TA WAW	962	1729	1975	871	857	475	470	6377
	MAW KER	828	1695	1546	368	305	624	604	5142
		7703	12944	14840	5363	5073	3246	3355	44821
NORTH	KLER THAY LU	200	315	364	132	109	61	52	1033
	MAE PO HTA	217	155	247	333	79	53	45	912
	MAE PAW MOO HTA	388	807	882	275	254	194	211	2623
	KA HTEE HTA	488	679	836	394	416	187	242	2754
		1293	1956	2329	1134	858	495	550	7322
SOUTH	PER KLER	588	1316	1097	455	365	172	193	3598
	PANG SA NOK	410	690	618	263	263	149	159	2142
	NAT IN DAUNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
									6040
									58183

RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH

	RICE		SALT	PISH PASTE	SCHOOL SETS
	100 kg. sacks	1 kg. bags		16 kg. tins	Sets
B.B.C.	6444	15410		2393	-
CO ERR	350	-			-
Z O A	-	-			10093
	6794	15410		2393	10093

DISTRIBUTION OP RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED

CAMP:	RICE	SALT	PISH PASTE	SCHOOL SUPPLIES
WANG KA	656	1510	228	1185
DON PA KIANG	430	1010	151	533
MAE LA	914	2370	325	1801
KAMAW LAY KHO	574	1390	203	507
KLER KHO	538	1180	190	399
SHO KLO	1408	3100	492	1751 ,
MAE SA LIT	534	1270	190	634
MAE TA WAW	962	1920	340	771
MAW KER	778	1660	274	835
KLER THAY LU	-	-	-	153
MAE PO HTA	-	-	-	237
MAE PAW MOO HTA	-	-	-	591
KA HTEE HTA	-	-	-	696
	6794	15410	2393	10093

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Looking back through the first two quarters of this calendar year, one will easily notice the ever increasing number of displaced people in the Karen refugee camps just as it had consistently been during previous years. One tends to wonder why the exodus of affected civilians from Burma into Thailand continues unabated at a time when the world is hopeful that peace will somehow come back to the country and its people. It is sad to note that, even though there is no fighting along the border for some time now and even though there is very little fighting elsewhere in the Karen hills and rural areas of south eastern Burma, life for civilians in the area has become more and more difficult with each passing year. Villagers live under constant threat of war and its terrible consequences and they are also becoming poorer as the costs of living grows higher and higher.

Civilians in the Hlaingbwe and Paing Kyone area are those more seriously affected by the situation because of the fact that several major supply routes between SLORC rear bases and its front line positions along the border run through this area. Military outposts are set up at close intervals throughout the area for the security of these supply routes through which troops and military supplies carried by the local villagers, men, women and children, move constantly. Labour from the local villagers is also needed at the various military outposts, in road repair and road construction works and in other military projects SLORC has implemented in the area. This leaves the villagers with very little time to work for their own livelihood. They are not paid for the work nor are they provided with food* At times, villagers are also required to pay certain porter-related fees.

Another problem that adds to their already difficult plight is the fact that they are held responsible by SLORC for the safety and security of these supply routes. This puts them in a very precarious situation as the area is still in a constant state of war.

Sometime around the first week of June, eleven SLORC soldiers based at the NA KO KHI military outpost south of Papun on the Bilin Papun road deserted to the Karen side after killing three of their own people at the outpost. As a result of this, villagers in the area suffer. Many were arrested and so far, at least four village elders had been killed. Villagers are living in fear and many have left their villages and have gone into hiding. This happens in another area and it highlights the very precarious and unpredictable situation innocent civilians in the Karen hills and rural areas of south-eastern Burma are in.

The rainy season is here but affected villagers keep arriving at the border. They are badly in need of food and shelter. All of them have the same opinion that many more affected villagers from the area will eventually make their way to the border.

The Karen Refugee Committee again expresses its sincere gratitude to the Thai authorities and to the people of the Kingdom of Thailand for the kindness and understanding that has been shown to the Karens and other displaced persons from Burma who are in trouble and need. The committee is fully aware that this kindness and understanding is utterly vital for the survival and well being of these displaced persons during their stay in Thailand. This noble gesture of goodwill is sincerely appreciated and will always be remembered by the displaced Karens in the Karen refugee camps and by the Karens of Burma.

The committee also expresses its sincere gratitude to the individuals and agencies for the noble deeds that have been done in many ways through the years for these people in the camps. Unless for these help and support received, they will never survive.

These people left their homes and their country because of war, because of severe hardships, because of terrible experiences and because of well-founded fears. Hundreds of thousands of their compatriots still back home in Burma are struggling hard under very difficult and hostile circumstances for survival.

All of them dream of peace and a life that is free from fear and oppression. The effort for peace in Burma has offered a glimmer of hope for them and is greeted by them with high expectation even though the future still looks bleak and unpredictable.

It is their ardent wish as it also is the ardent wish of the people of Burma that, through the sincere and concerted effort of peace loving people at home and abroad, a practical solution to the Karen refugee problem and to the Burma problem could be found.

Yours faithfully,

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

Robert Htwe
Chairman
Karen Refugee Committee