



# KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

## MONTHLY REPORT

**DECEMBER 1990**

This month's newsletter has a certain significance in that it contains the first report on the situation of the Karen people in Thailand since the end of 1989. It is a report on the situation of the Karen people in Thailand, and it is a report on the situation of the Karen people in Thailand. It is a report on the situation of the Karen people in Thailand, and it is a report on the situation of the Karen people in Thailand.

With regard to the human situation in the camps, the situation is not very good. The situation is not very good, and it is a report on the situation of the Karen people in Thailand. It is a report on the situation of the Karen people in Thailand, and it is a report on the situation of the Karen people in Thailand. It is a report on the situation of the Karen people in Thailand, and it is a report on the situation of the Karen people in Thailand.

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 1990

On behalf of the more than 31,000 displaced Karen civilians now residing in the 12 Karen refugee camps in Thailand along the Thai-Burma border and on behalf of the Karen people, the Karen Refugee Committee humbly tenders its sincere gratitude to the Thai authorities and to the people of the Kingdom of Thailand for their kindness in giving permission to these displaced persons to sojourn here during their time of trouble and need. This benevolent gesture of goodwill will always be remembered and cherished by the Karen people. The committee also tenders its sincere gratitude to the authorities for making it possible for the relief agencies to provide aid to these displaced people.

The committee also tenders its sincere gratitude to the individuals and agencies who, through concern and sympathy for these unfortunate people, have kindly provided for their need in various ways and through the years. We have come safely to the end of yet another year. Looking back through 1990 we can clearly perceive that the Karen refugee situation which drags on into its seventh year is still as grim and discouraging as ever. At the end of 1989 the total population of displaced Karens in the then 9 refugee camps was 20,303. But as fighting escalated, civilians in other areas along the border were affected. By February 1990 three more camps had to be opened. The total number of displaced Karens in the camps rose to 25,735 by the end of March. The difficult and perilous situation forced more and more people to seek refuge in the refugee camps and at the end of December 1990 the total number of displaced Karens in the refugee camps now is 31,330.

This number represents but a certain percentage of Karen civilians who have been displaced and uprooted by the fighting. A new round of fighting could break out again and it could escalate to other areas. In this case many more thousands of Karen civilians will be affected.

With regard to the health situation in the camps Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is working closely with the camps population in the prevention and treatment of diseases. Malaria is as ever the biggest medical problem in the camps. Respiratory infections and tropical diseases are also common. Children are vaccinated against general child diseases. There is a dispensary in every camp. In Sho Klo camp which is the biggest camp there also is a small hospital and a center for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Another medical team affiliated with Mahidol University and World Health Organisation (WHO) in the fight against malaria is also stationed in Sho Klo camp. It has a field hospital there especially for pregnant women and young children.

On the educational situation, there is at least a primary school in every camp. In bigger camps there are primary schools as well as elementary or secondary schools. The teachers in general are the displaced persons themselves serving their own community voluntarily. They don't get any salary apart from some small remuneration occasionally from the community they serve. Some individuals and agencies have expressed their concern about the lack of school text books in the camps schools. We believe that with the help and support we receive from them there will be more text books for schools in the camps next year. There are altogether approximately 5,900 pupils and 208 teachers. This does not include the number of pupils and teachers in Sa Nay Pong and Ta Kong camps.

#### 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	
WANG KA	675	881	1270	419	436	227	238	3471
DON PA KIANG	415	710	716	244	235	186	263	2354
MAE LA	792	899	1341	493	533	202	252	3720
KAMAW LAY KHO	597	974	1036	319	282	166	214	2991
KLER KHO	350	685	643	237	212	98	140	2015
SHO KLO	1338	2191	2795	783	746	432	492	7439
MAE TA WAW	461	733	890	357	378	167	171	2696
MAW KER	878	1673	1573	367	309	370	422	4714
M.AE PO HTA	55	102	121	49	53	11	12	348
KA HTEE HTA	86	129	145	62	51	28	21	436
	5647	8977	10530	3330	3235	1887	2225	30184
S NAY PONG	151							588
TA KONG	110	122	194	70	67	56	49	558
TOTAL:-	<u>5908</u>							<u>31330</u>

#### RICE RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH

From:- !

-CONSORTIUM OF CHRISTIAN AGENCIES (CCA)	3612	sacks
-CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF		
AND REFUGEES	350	"
-FULL GOSPEL CHURCH	100	"
	<u>4062</u>	sacks

DISTRIBUTION OF RICE RECEIVED

<u>CAMP</u>	<u>RICE</u>	<u>SUPPLIED</u>	<u>NEEDED FOR JANUARY</u>
WANG K'A		483	540
DON PA KIANG-		343	355
MAE LA		532	582
KAMAW LAY KHO		410	467
KLER KHO		280	316
SHO KLO		1028	1163
MAS TA WAW		366	421
MAW KER		620	720
		4062 sacks	4564 sacks

Other items received during the month

From:- |  
CONSORTIUM OF CHRISTIAN AGENCIES... Salt 230 bags  
... Fish Paste 1515 tins

Distribution of other items received

<u>Camp</u>	<u>Salt (bag)</u>	<u>Fish Paste (tin)</u>
WANG KA	28	184
DON PA KIANG	19	125
MAE LA	30	195
KAMAW LAY KHO	24	156
KLER KHO	16	106
SHO KLO	56	370
MAE TA WAW	21	139
MAW KER	36	240
	230 bags	1515 tins

Time passes swiftly and as we come to the end of 1990 we are dismayed by the realisation that even after seven years the end of the problem is still not in sight. In fact, the general situation still continues to be grim and discouraging. The refugees and the displaced Karens dream of home. They dream of peace and freedom from fear and persecution but they hardly dare think of what the new year might bring. Your continued help and support is earnestly required. Please also remember them in your prayers.

May God bless all of you for the noble deeds that you have done.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,



Robert Htwe  
Chairman

Karen Refugee Committee

