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MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY

1994



THE FIVE POINTS OF THE AIM OF THE MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

1. Resettlement of the refugees who become homeless due to the oppression of Rangoon military regime.

2. To help for the welfare of the refugees who become jobless due to the oppression of Rangoon military regime.

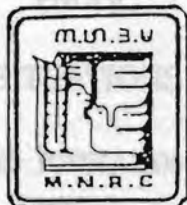
3. To take care and look after the health of the refugees.

4. To fight against illiteracy for the children in the refugee camps

5. To struggle for human rights.

MONTHLY REPORT OF MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

(May 1994)



1. THE SITUATION IN THE CAMPS

THE INCREASING NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN THE CAMPS

When the rainy season started at the end of May, some refugees in Halockhanti Camp who have no houses are very busy to build their new houses in convenient places around the camp. As the site of Halockhanti Camp lies between the two high mountains and has a very narrow valley area, it is difficult enough for refugees who arrived to the camp lately to get the suitable place for their new houses. In this situation of Halockhanti Camp, some refugees still have to live in the temporary shelter until they find a suitable place to build their new houses. Some refugees have to live in the temporary shelter until they find a suitable place to build their new houses. The Mon National Relief Committee and its Camp Committee tried the refugees to build their new houses. Although we have many difficulties, we will try to help them.

The Organization of The Mon National Relief Committee

However, the consumption of rice, food, medicine, and mangrove bark for sickle of Halockhanti Camp and the MSP field hospital will provide the needs of refugees for their health. They will be able to live in the camp and get the necessary medical treatment. By MNRC, we want to give an expression of great thanks to international relief organizations and individuals who kindly help our people in this difficult situation. We hope this process will be completed at second week of June.

1. Phra Wongsala Pala - Chairman
2. Nai Shwe Thein - Vice-Chairman
3. Nai Siri Mon Chan - Secretary General
4. Nai Pho Sein - Member
5. Nai Chit Nyunt - Member
6. Nai Kasauh Mon - Member
7. Nai Banya Leir - Member
8. Phra Nonda Pala - Member

MONTHLY REPORT OF MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE (May, 1994)

1. THE SITUATIONS IN THE CAMPS

□ THE INCREASING HOUSES AND POPULATIONS IN THE CAMPS

When the rainy season started at the end of May, some refugees in Halockhani Camp who have no houses are very busy to build their new houses in convenient places around the camp. As the site of Halockhani Camp lies between the two high mountains and has a very narrow valley area, it is difficult enough for refugees who arrived to the camp lately to get the suitable place to create good shelter for their families. In this situation of Halockhani Camp, some refugees who close relatives are staying more than two families in one house that hold nearly 15 persons and there are also many houses that hold two families. Some refugee families stayed in house of their relatives and friends for the temporary shelter until they find a suitable place to build the house. For reason to protect them from the worst health situation and to accept more exact assistance, Mon National Relief Committee and its Camp Committee urged the refugees to build separate house for each family. Although we have strong desires to approve this idea, some acknowledgements of difficulties of those families stop us to implement and gave allowance as possible as they can stay.

However, the consumption of rice, fish-paste, salts, mats and mosquito nets for stock-piling of Halockhani Camp and the MSF field hospital will provide the needs of refugees for their survival during this rainy season. After they followed along the hardship repatriation in recent dry season, we hope the refugees can rest peacefully in rainy season as they do not want to face such repatriation in future. By MNRC, we want to give an expression of great thankfulness to international relief organizations and individuals who kindly help our suffering peoples due to the long protracted civil war in Burma. Now, we are still trying hard in transportation of stock-piling assistance for Halockhani Camp and we hope this process will complete at second week of June.

MNRC has responsibility to treat and help all races of peoples from inside Burma who become homeless and arrive to its camps with humanitarian consideration. Following this decision, all Mon refugee camps are opened for the whole year and warmly welcome the peoples who want to refuge in its until they can go back their home territory. Because of the terrible human rights situations committed by Burmese Army in southern part of Burma, the new comers including Tavoyan and Karen are still building their houses in both Halockhani and Payaw camps. Although during rainy season, we hope some people will arrive to these camps and houses will increase steadily.

There are many illegal economic immigrants of Burma in Halockhani Camp who are deported by Thai authorities from Immigrant Detention Center (IDC) of Bangkok. These immigrants are related to the increasing unemployment and sky-rocket prices of commodities in Burma and came into Thailand to find suitable jobs for survival of their remaining families. They arrived to this Camp every Thursday of the week numbering between two to three hundred. In the consideration of MNRC and its Camp Committee, it is more convenience for all of them to stay in a common place and not to allow staying in several places in the camp. So, we decide to set up a building for their needed shelter and provide food for them. They can stay in this shelter until they can decide the place to proceed again. Under the strict immigrant policy of Thailand, it is too difficult to cross into Thailand again and we will encourage them to go back their homes and, if not, we can accept them as refugees who want to take haven in this camp until they can go back to their home. MNRC must be similarly responsible for those new refugees like others.

☐ THE NEEDED NEW SCHOOLS IN THE CAMPS

To fight against illiteracy for the children in the refugee camps is one of the main aims of MNRC. It is really important time to give opportunities for all children in the camps as they are lacking in every sector in comparison with the children staying inside Burma who are now attending the schools. We will continuously keep the education role of Mon National High School which starting set up in the recent Loh Loe refugee camp.

Following the discussion with the Mon National Education Committee (MNEC), we need to build a high school in Payaw Camp and a middle school and two primary schools in the Halockhani Camp. At the same time, to run a complete education year, we urgently need for seeking and selecting 25 teachers for all the camps. MNEC will ask applications from Mon areas and will select the persons who are qualified to be a teacher. The old school materials like greenboards, benches, desks, tables and chairs that left from the Loh Loe Camp schools are not enough to provide all schools in the camps.

Hopefully, MNEC modernized many Mon Textbooks with new ideas and computer wordprocessing system will introduce in this education year. These textbooks are also distributed to the Mon National Schools in confrontation area and its had already been introduced in the recent Teacher Training Course of Payaw Camp. We hope this endeavour will uplift our community for its long term improvement. In other hand, the stationary needed for children in the camps were provided by ZOA completely.

On behalf of our new generation, we want to express that many thanks to all organizations who provide the complete educational assistance.

2. OPINIONS

☐ HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

Under the rule of the military regime known as State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the human rights record in Burma is worsening everyday especially in ethnic minority regions where Rangoon has loose control. Because of the long protracted civil war broke out in Burma between the central government and the ethnic armed resistance groups, SLORC troops always assume the ethnic villagers as rebel-supporters. As a result, the human rights violations such as shooting, torturing and portering of villagers, burning down of villages, raping of women are seperately committed by the SLORC troops as usual. In order to escape such those abuses, many villagers abandonned their houses and properities and fled to safe areas which situated along the neighbouring countries' border.

Nowadays, in the southern part of Burma, the tens of thousands of local inhabitants of Mon, Karen, Tavoyan, including women, children and the old, daily required by the SLORC to contribute manual labour for the construction of 110 miles long Ye-Tavoy railway route. These ethnic peoples are totally slave labours who are conscripted in daily hardwork and are not paid for their labour. According to one escapee from Paukpingwin village of Yebyu Township in Tenasserim Division who have recently fled to the Halockhani Camp, he has witnessed many worst incidents were committed by SLORC soldiers guarding the work sites of the route. Some villagers were beaten and kicked as they could not work to the satisfaction of the SLORC soldiers. The death tools were increasing everyday because of the serious sickness and the earth collapse, tool crashes, etc.. as he explained. It is no medicines and medical tratement sin case of serious sickness. Therefore, the villagers who cannot bear with such these abuses of the SLORC troops any longer abandonned their villages and fled to the refugee camps. Actually, the huamn rights violations created and increased the numbers of refugee in several camps.

If someone considered to close the refugee camps and solve the refugee problems, should remind to stop the SLORC troops' atrocious manners first.

For a long time, SLORC ignore the condemnation from the international community and lied shamelessly for its incredible improvement of human rights record. We strongly support the consideration of intensive pressure to SLORC regime by importing political and economic sanctions and arms embargo. We appeal the international community that to help Burmese peoples in changing of the ideology of the SLORC to respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by United Nations. Furthermore, the international community should put intensive pressure on the multinational business companies investing in Burma. These investments have directly contributed to the perpetuation of a military regime in Burma and to deeper and longer the suffering of the Burmese peoples which is the main source of refugees and internal displaced persons. Multinational business companies should understand that the investments related with government supported by Burmese peoples actually will have more guarantees than military junta.

We propose that it is the important time to find a solution for long suffering peoples and should not isolate the human rights situations of Burma. All the refugees are expecting to go back their sweet home territory which will enjoy with genuine peace and democratic rights in one day. Therefore, we deeply hope the world can help end the civil war in Burma. We also realize that human rights issue is not a country's affair and it is the concern of everyone who cares about peace and justice over the world.



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Need to renew this primary school in Halockhani Camp



*Scarcity of water problems in Halockhani Camp
end at the beginning of rainy season*

THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE FOUR CAMP ARE AS FOLLOW

No	Camp	House	Adult		Children		Total Remark
		Hold	M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	197	210	214	339	340	1103
2	Payaw	485	624	840	679	821	2964
3	Prachuab	245	271	282	301	393	1247
4	Halockhani	998	1013	1209	1859	1991	6072
	Total	1925	2118	2545	3178	3545	11386

THE CONSUMPTION NEEDED PER MONTH FOR THE THREE REFUGEE CAMPS

No	Camp	Total Number	Consumption per month				Remark
		of Refugees	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste	Salt (kg)	chilly (kg)	
1	Bee Ree	1103	172	367	551	367	
2	Payaw	2964	463	988	1482	988	
3	Prachuab	1247	197	415	623	415	
4	Halockhani	6072	948	2024	3036	2024	
	Total	11386	1777	3794	5692	3794	

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED BY THE MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE
(May, 1994)

No	Organization	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Remark
1	Remained from April	2831	8751	5468	-	
2	COERR	100	1250	1000	100	
3	Consortium	3000	6625	7000		
	Total	5931	16626	13468	100	

THE BALANCE OF THE MATERIALS RECEIVED AND CONSUMED
IN THE FOUR REFUGEE CAMPS IN MAY 1994

Subject	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Remark
Received from the various refugee relief organization	5931	16626	13468	100	
Distributed to the four refugee camps in April	1777	3794	5692	3794	
Balance Remained	4154	12832	7776	-	

THE LOCATIONS OF MON REFUGEE CAMPS

