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MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

# MONTHLY REPORT

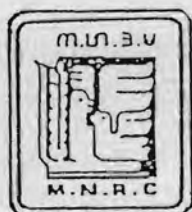
JULY

1994

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

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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.



## The Organization of The Mon National Relief Committee

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 (July, 1994)

### **☐ SLORC TROOPS OCCUPIED AND BURNT DOWN ONE SECTION OF HALOCKHANI MON REFUGEE CAMP**

On 21 st July, at 8:00 a.m. in the morning, over 100 troops of SLORC's Local Infantry Battalion No. 62, based in Three Pagoda Pass, led by deputy battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Ohn Myint, came into one section of Halockhani Mon refugee camp named Kwan Saya (Baleh Donephai) and completely occupied it. This village, with 120 households of over 500 refugees, is 2 kilometers of half-hour walk from Halockhani main camp. After SLORC troops occupied the whole village, they arrested all men and try to move and occupy the Halockhani main camp at 12:30 afternoon of that day. When they moved to the main camp, they put about fifty men in front of them used as human shields. On the way after they had gone about 15 minutes from the village, some of Mon troops ambushed them. The fighting lasted about 15 minutes and they retreated back to the village. The fighting made them very angry and they burnt down the whole village including school about 4 p.m. in the evening.

When they left from the village, they arrested sixteen men including village headmen and teacher from the primary school, as porters and prisoners. Half of them, especially village headmen, teacher were taken away in hand-cuffs because they assumed those refugees are supporters of Mon troops. According to the sources from Three Pagoda Pass, the SLORC's Infantry Battalion No. 62 was replaced by No. 61 on July 20. At night of July 20, the Battalion No. 62's 360 troops slept in the forest nearby the Kwan Saya village and only over 100 troops made disturbances to Mon refugee camp in the morning of July, while the rest troops were waiting them outside the camp.

Therefore, all Mon refugees from the whole Halockhani camp fled into Thai side of the border without their belongings. Now, about 6,000 Mon refugees are seeking shelters in Thai soil of Sangkhlaburi District of Kanchanaburi Province. They made the temporary shelters around the checkpoint of the Thai Border Patrol Police and they are staying like under the protection of those polices. MNRC, Medicins Sans Frontiers (MSF) and Burmese Border Consortium (BBC) still provided them with temporary shelters, foods and pure water. Beacauce of lack of pure water and toilets, the diarrhea patients are increasing everyday and MNRC try to make more toilets and had already built for diarrhea patient shelter. Hopefully, the MSF doctors and its medics can control the rates of diarrhea patient.

Among four Mon refugee camps under the responsibilities of MNRC, Halockhani Camp is the biggest one. Most refugees from this camp were repatriated by Thai authorities from Loh Loe old Mon refugee camp which situated in Thai soil of Sangkhlaburi District, to this new sites of Halockhani Camp which is in Burma soil in the beginning of this year. After several times discussing, MNRC unavoidably agreed with Thai authorities to relocate the Mon refugees to the new sites of Halockhani Camp that only on hour's walk from the nearest outpost of SLORC troops of Three Pagoda Pass. It is very vulnerable any disturbances might be made by SLORC troops, as MNRC hoped.

When Thai authorities repatriated these Mon refugees, they promised to take responsibility of camp security although it is in Burma soil. Following this promise, they discussed with Burmese authorities regarding the security of the refugee camps and not to make any trouble and disturbance. Hopefully, the Burmese authorities accepted the ideas from Thai authorities very easily because they urgently wanted the New Mon State Party to seperately enter in the cease-fire talks. But MNRC cannot completely believe the promise of Burmese authorities and always worry for the security of its refugees.



MNRC believes, there are two reasons why the SLORC troops occupied and made disturbances. For the first reason, SLORC troops wanted to conscript the refugees as porters and human shields to carry their ammunition and food, etc., and walk in front of troops on the way moved to Mon State. Another reason is to give more pressure to the Mon refugees in stead of Mon troops because the third cease-fire talks between the New Mon State Party and SLORC was in deadlock.

#### **□ PRESSURE FROM LOCAL THAI AUTHORITIES TO PUSH BACK REFUGEES**

On July 25, about 9:30 a.m., District Officer (Nai Amphoe) of Sangkhlaburi District informed MNRC office to meet the local authorities of District and sit a meeting regarding the current situation of Mon refugees who are seeking temporary shelters around the checkpoint of Thai Border Patrol Police. Two members of MNRC attended to the meeting with five Thai officials including District Officer. In this meeting, District Officer proposed to MNRC the following points.

- (1) The refugees who are staying around the checkpoint of Thai Border Patrol Police must return to their Halockhani Camp as quick as. if possible, must follow this process in the evening of today.
- (2) The commander of SLORC Infantry Battalion No. 61 Col. Tin Kyaing had already promised the Thai authorities that they do not made any troubles and disturbance to the Mon refugees, if they returned back their Halockhani Camp. Infantry Battalion No.61 based in the Three pagoda Pass.
- (3) At the same time, when the refugees returned to Halockhani Camp, the Mon peoples who illegally stayed in the Songkhalia village which is situated between Three Pagoda Pass and Sangkhlaburi must remove together with them.
- (4) To prohibit any Mon troops to come with arms into Halockhani Camp and to made this Halockhani refugee camp in Burma like a "Peace Zone".
- (5) For Thai Government, by anyway, they do not allow any Mon refugees to stay in Thai soil.

As mentioned above, the District Officer commanded the MNRC to firmly follow<sup>and</sup> implement these processes immediately. In the evening of that day, MNRC explained the camp leaders, relief organizations and Mon refugees about the meeting with local Thai authorities. Most refugees refused to go back to thier houses in the camp as they are afraid, especially women and children. Even in day time, the camp leaders did not allow women and children to take their belongings which left in their houses. They believed the Burmese troops can come to their camp at any time and too afraid to go back.

For MNRC, itself, it is very hard and impossible to push its own refugees back or to organize them voluntarily to return back to the camp. At the same time, the fightings were happening over 10 kilometers beyond the border as the situation not so stable in Burma sideof the border until 25 July. The Mon refugees, mostly, are understanding that staying in difficulties and hardships around the checkpoint of Thai Border Patrol Police is better than staying under threats and oppressions of SLORC troops. At the end, it have only one way for MNRC, to explain the aspirations of Mon refugees and asked the protection from Thai Government and need the helps of world communities to encourage the Thai authorities to allow Mon refugees for seeking shelter in Thai soil again. On 28th July, MNRC released a statement on resettlement of Mon refugees who fled into Thailand.

## STATEMENT OF MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

### ON RESETTLEMENT OF MON REFUGEES WHO FLED INTO THAILAND

The protracted civil war in Burma over 40 years increased the numbers of displaced persons and refugees along the Thai-Burma border. In this armed conflict between the military government and the opposition ethnic nationalities, the Burmese troops always assume the ethnic peoples as the supporters of their oppositions and the human rights violations such as shooting, torturing, portering and conscripting of villagers, burning down of villages, raping of women are separately committed by them.

In 1990, after the Burmese troops overrun the Mon headquarters in Three Pagoda Pass, over 12,000 displaced persons fled into Thailand and took refuge. To take the responsibilities of those refugees, Mon National Relief Committee set up the Mon refugee camps inside Thailand. In 1992, the situation of Mon refugees was unstable as Thai authorities ordered that all Mon refugee camps to be relocated in one site of Loh Loe Camp. Although Loh Loe camp was very convenient for Mon refugees, it lasted only one year and was ordered to move to Burma side again.

At the beginning of this year, when Thai authorities ordered to move Mon refugees from Loh Loe Camp to the new sites of Halockhani Camp of Burma side. The Mon National Relief Committee, emphasised that there is no security as it is in Burma side and only one hour's walk from the nearest outpost of the Burmese Army. But the Thai authorities responded that it can take the responsibilities for the safety of those peoples and cross border assistances will be allowed to do as before. At the end, even though the MNRC still worry for the safety of the refugees on the other side, most of the refugees from Loh Loe Camp were unavoidably have to move to the new site.

As we hope, the terrible incidents were occurred in Halockhani Camp, starting in recent June. On 20th June, two Burmese soldiers with machine guns from Infantry Battalion No. 62 came into Halockhani Camp and made troubles to the refugees. The second terrible incident was committed by Burmese troops on 21st July again. The Burmese troops had made incursion in our Halockhani refugee camp and burnt down one section of it which hold about 120 households and over 500 refugees became homeless. Over 50 Mon refugees were also arrested by the Burmese troops. As a result of intentionally attack, all Mon refugees in Halockhani Camp fled into Sangkhlaburi District of Thailand to seek refuge.

Now, the Thai local authority has ordered to move the refugees back to Burma side again. Obviously, there is no longer security for the Halockhani Mon refugee camp which is in Burma side. We worry that such terrible incidents will occur for the Mon refugees, if they are in Burma side again. The situation in Burma as a whole is not improved enough to make any repatriation of refugees.

Therefore, we honestly ask the Royal Thai Government to reconsider for the allowance of Mon refugees to take temporary refuge on Thai side before they can go back to their home country.

Mon National Relief Committee  
Sangkhlaburi, Kanchanaburi Province

28th July, 1994.

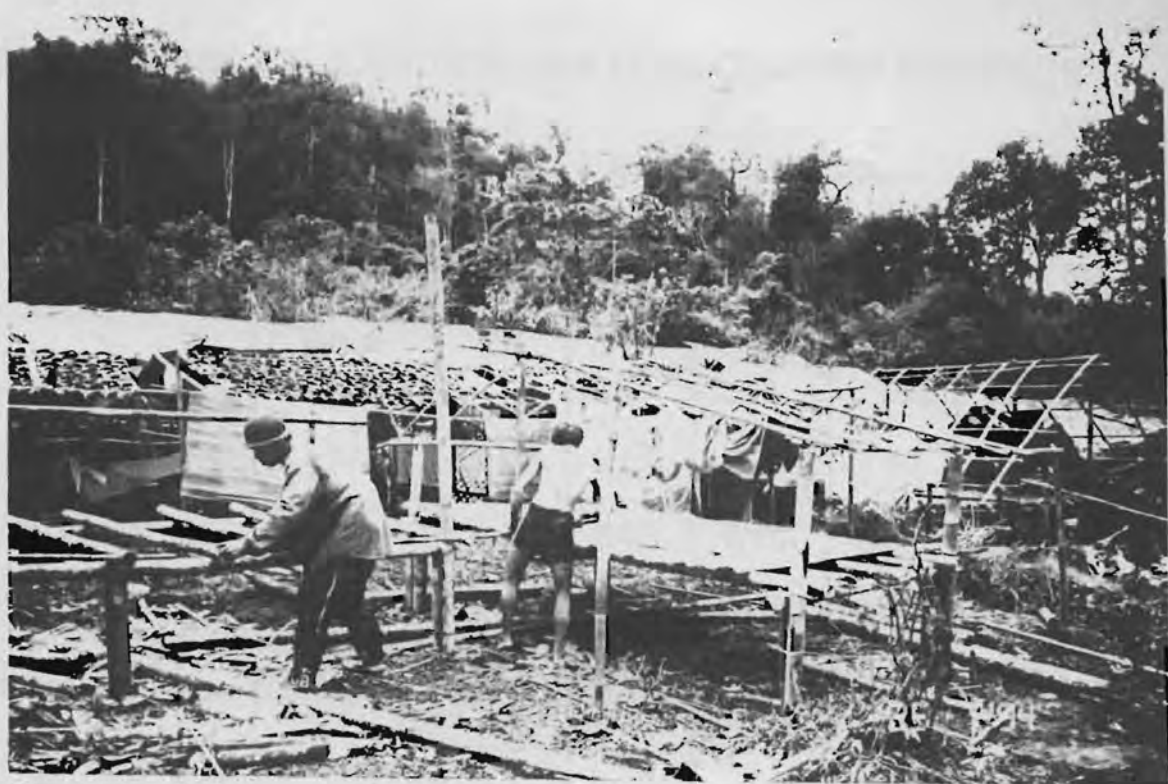


Temporary shelters for Mon refugees near the checkpoint of Thai Border Patrol Police



On 22nd July, Mon refugees, mostly children and women fled from Halockhani Camp





Temporary shelters are quickly built by Mon refugees who have uncertain future



Supplies from relief organizations and individuals are provided to the Mon refugees



THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE FOUR CAMP ARE AS FOLLOW

No	Camp	House Hold	Adult		Children		Total Remark
			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 'FOUR' REFUGEE CAMPS

No	Camp	Total Number of Refugees	Consumption per month				Remark
			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  
( July, 1994 )**

No	Organization	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Remark
1	Remained from June	3572	13363	5692	—	
2	COERR	100	1250	1000	100	
3	Consortium	—	—	—	—	
	Total	3672	14613	6692	100	

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

Subject	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Remark
Received from the various refugee relief organization	3672	14613	6692	100	
Distributed to the four refugee camps in July	1777	3794	5692	3794	
Balance Remained	1895	10819	1002	-	

