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MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

# MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER

1994

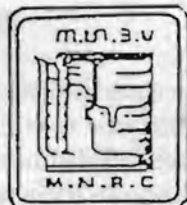
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## THE FIVE POINTS OF THE AIM OF THE MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

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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.

September, 1948



## 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

(September, 1994)

## Forcible Repatriation of Thai Army

After rice warehouse stored for refugees of Halockhani Camp, supplies assisted by the Burmese Border Consortium (BBC), was controlled by the Thai soldiers on 31st August, the commanders from the Ninth Army told MNRC that they would return rice distribution when all refugees decided to return back. In such situations, we always appealed the Army not to use pressure on the refugees and to negotiate each other concerning the repatriation process. But the Army neglected the suggestions of MNRC. On the other hand, MNRC insisted to the Army that after they were no longer tolerant for starvation and decided to return back, it was not meant "voluntary repatriation".

As we hoped, on 9th September, although the refugees did not want to return back to their former campsite, because of starvation, they unavoidably decided to do so. In this process of forcible repatriation, MNRC concluded the following points why refugees decided to return back.

1. All of their foods ran out and faced the starvation problems which made them unable to eat rice soup mixing with vegetables and bamboo shoots for many days.
2. They worried for malnutrition problems of their children.
3. As the relief workers there did not want to confront any kind of dangerous cases with the Army, if the some refugees tried to get foods from rice warehouse.

After making starvation to refugees and pushing back them was never met like voluntary repatriation standard. It was a clear kind of forcible repatriation, as most observers on Mon refugees accepted.

In the morning of 9th September, the MNRC and its camp leaders met with Commanders of Ninth Army who landed in the camp and also invited some journalists to show all refugees voluntarily return back and the humanitarian aids had been disturbed by the Army. In the meeting with Army, MNRC proposed the following suggestions for immediate arrangements in the current situations.

1. To lift the blockade of transportation road from Sangkhlaburi to the camp, allowed probably more earlier for MNRC to provide the supplies.
2. At presence, not to deport back the illegal immigrants from IDC of Bangkok and other prisons as the food in the camp was in shortage.
3. To resettle for the residences of refugees from Baleh donephai village who were homeless after the Burmese troops attacked and burnt down their houses, in a safe site.

And the Army commanders replied to MNRC as following points and suggestions.

1. Starting on 15th September, the Army will lift the blockade and allow to provide the supplies, gave access to all organizations including UNHCR, Aid Agencies, Government



Agencies, NGOs and journalists. The Army will allow MNRC to provide the supplies more earlier, after all refugees completely returned back.

2. Not to allow any Mon soldiers with arms or uniforms in the camp. If the Burmese troops knew there is some Mon soldiers in the camp, they will make troubles to refugees again.
3. They will relocate another Mon villagers, nearly 200 families, from Sangkhalia and Nam Pakoke villages, which situated on the motor-way proceed to Three Pagoda Pass from Sangkhlaburi.

Before the 15th September, the Army and Border Patrol Police ordered to refugees to destroy all huts made by them in temporary shelters around the checkpoint, because they wanted to look like the refugees kept all of their shelters and belongings quite well by themselves and voluntarily returned to their home.

Although the Army gave promises they will allow the NGOs and journalists after 15th September, some Thai NGOs were not allowed for entry to the camp. Until at the end of this month, they just allowed the officials from Aids Agencies which permanently supported the Mon refugees.

## Current Situations in Halockhani

In the second week of this month, the Mon refugees were absolutely pushed back by the Army to the unsafe area of old Halockhani campsite. They, mostly, camp leaders, health workers and education workers are in fear of the Burmese troops' another attack and attempts to arrest them. Some of them are very disappointed and not dare to stay such conditions and suggesting to MNRC to resign from their posts. Some teachers had already resigned and moved to the Payaw Camp.

As we got unconfirmed information from inside Burma, the SLORC imprisoned for two years to the teacher, who was arrested on 21 July in Baleh Donephai with other hostages to Ye. Now, we are collecting the informations about it to confirm. If this case was true, we will be in difficult conditions for the safety fo our relief workers in the camp.

At presence, we can conclude the feelings of the refugees after they were forcibly repatriation that they will face uncertain survival in future for safty and assistances. So far they permanently refused to return back to their old campsite in Burma, because of the following reasons.

1. All of them believed that there is no safety to stay in Burma side of the border without the solid guarantee of Thai and Burmese governments, and under take care of International Community.
2. They worried the Thai authorities do not allow and cut off the assistance from the international aids agencies before the peace existed in Burma under the conditions demonstrated safe for them to return to their home territory.

## Suggestion of MNRC

The situations whether it is safe or not for refugees are depended on the polical climates of the area concerned. For the time being, the New Mon State Party had already suspended the cease-fire talks with SLORC and expectedly, the fighting between the Mon and SLORC troops will occur again in coming dry season. The Three Pagoda Pass area is well known as conflict area of civil war in Burma and it may be dangerous for Mon refugees as they are staying closed to that areas.

For MNRC, it cannot take any responsibility for the safety of its refugees to avoid from the attacks of the troops. It can find just assistances for their survival, health and education of their children. Because of the Thai Army warned us not to allow any Mon troops around the camp, it is impossible for us to invite the Mon troops to protect our refugees. Before the soldiers from Ninth Army left the camp, they told to some camp leaders that the Burmese troops' officials from Three Pagoda Pass will come and meet relief workers there, therefore, not to make any problems to Burmese officials if they came. However, although the refugees returned back, the problems are not completely stopped.

In this conditions, the MNRC urgently asks the international organizations to find a good resolution for the protection of our refugees. And we invited international organizations, such as UNHCR, Government Agencies, NGOs and journalists to vist to Halockhani and collect the informations regarding the real feelings of refugees before the forcible repatriation and after that. Also, it is important to find the facts concerned the safety of them.

In the opinion of MNRC, all refugees along the Thai-Burma border who fled from the persecution of Burmese troops, should be protected accordig to the established international principles and practices. They should not be subject to forcible repatriation to Burma, until it is clearly safe for them to return to their home.

## Photos on Repatriation



Above: Such the empty shelters left, after the hardship of the starvation pushed refugees back.

below: Crying woman in returning to her unsafe home of Burma side.

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 '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  
( SEPTEMBER, 1994 )

No	Organization	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Remark
1	Remained from AUGUST	218	8275	—	—	
2	COERR	100	1250	1000	100	
3	Consortium	—	—	—	—	
	Total	318	9525	1000	100	

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

Subject	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Remark
Received from the various refugee relief organization	318	9525	1000	100	
Distributed to the four refugee camps in September	1777	3794	5692	3794	
Balance Remained	—	—	—	—	

# THE LOCATIONS OF MON REFUGEE CAMPS

