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MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY

1995

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.

The Organization of The Mon National Relief Committee

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Phra Wongsala Pala | - Chairman |
| 2. Nai Shwe Thein | - Vice - Chairman |
| 3. Nai Banya Leir | - Secretary |
| 4. Nai Kasau Mon | - Joint - Secretary |
| 5. Nai Chit Nyunt | - Member |
| 6. Nai Pho Sein | - Member |
| 7. Phra Nonda Pala | - Member |

MONTHLY REPORT OF MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE (February, 1995)

Worst Human Rights Situation in Mon State

Even the UN special rapporteur Professor Dr. Yokota investigated for the human rights inside Burma including the conditions on the railway construction in Mon State, the SLORC (the Burma ruling military clique State Law and Order Restoration Council) has consistently absented to respect for the UN Human Rights Declaration. The military in Burma is still violating the human rights of ethnic community and using slave-labours in their infrastructure projects under the name of *"Border Developing Program"*.

In Mon State, like last year, the local inhabitants of Mon, Karen, Tavoyan people have being conscripted by SLORC soldiers in the Ye-Tavoy railway construction when they restarted the second year process. As the people had experiences of hardship in the construction project last year, after the SLORC restarted the construction, some civilians have fled into some safe area which under the control of New Mon State Party (NMSP) or Karen National Union (KNU).

Besides the railway construction, other kinds of human rights abuses, like forced portering, forced relocation, tax extortion, etc., separately violated by SLORC's soldiers in Mon State. Generally, the civilians in Thaton District whom stayings at the confrontation areas are treated by SLORC troops for forced portering, forced relocation and to pay high taxations while the civilians in Tavoy District are also serving for forced labours and many kinds of tax. The cases of forced portering and tax extortions are still going on for civilians in Moulmein District areas even it has no infrastructure projects or the most areas are not lied in the conflict positions between the SLORC and ethnic guerrillas.

The Sufferings of the People

According to facts gathering from the new arrivals in Mon refugee camp, mostly, the civilians fleeing from the Tavoy District are to escape from the railway construction. Besides they constructed in the railway, they were also conscripted as forced labours to built the military encampment. Now, many civilians are also still fleeing to Halockhani refugee camp. According to them they have fled for the reason of forced portering and high taxation. But for the civilians in Thaton District, even they have being faced many hardship of human rights violations, they are difficult to flee to refugee camp. Seriously, they have consistently fled around the jungles and in fields as internally displaced persons.

We can analyze on the refugees and internal displaced persons. When the civilians fled into those areas, some brought foods with them and some could not. In this case, the civilians who being faced food shortage had to flee to the refugee camps of the border. Some civilians even they are facing the food shortage problems, they did not want to flee away from their villages or farmlands. They did not want to abandon their living stocks and if possible, they hoped they can return back to their villages or farmlands in the rainy season.

Another case is the SLORC troops always tried to confiscate the food owned by the local civilians. As mentioned above, the civilians who escaped from the conscription of slave labours and porters, some brought the foods with them and later, the SLORC troops issued many orders to prevent keeping the foods in the places they stayed. Starting from November, some commanders of SLORC Light Infantry Battalion No. 410 issued an official order for the locality. (*The order is enclosed in the next page*). Besides this order, many the same orders were issued by local SLORC troops in all districts of Mon State at the regarded areas where the troops have military activities and the SLORC troops have legal rights to confiscate the foods or rice of civilians who are staying outside the villages. So far for the civilians who kept the foods in the jungles or in the plantation areas are suffering of food shortage because the SLORC troops

At the same time, they can accuse any villager who is outside of the village, or staying in the farmland, as insurgents or supporters of the rebel, for the reason to prevent the villagers trying to flee from the villages. As an example, after they restarted the railway construction, they need a lot of men labours instead of women. But they could not get men labours as the men flee into the jungle or tried to get some small income for the survival of their family.

410th Light Infantry Battalion
Letter No: 100/ 1/ head-3
Date: 12th November 1994

To

Chairman,
Village Law and Order Restoration Council
----- Village

SUBJECT: Issuance of order for the locality

- (1) The villagers living within this area must obey all the following order.
 - a. They (the villagers) must not run away if and when they are encountered (anywhere) by the *tatmadaw* troops and must remain right at the place being encountered; otherwise (if they run away), they will be shot and arrested (by the *tatmadaw* troops).
 - b. Those villagers who are found serving as informers/ messengers for insurgents will be subject to severest punishment (by the *tatmadaw* troops).
 - c. They (the villagers) must not travel from one village to another during the night.
 - d. They (the villagers) must not keep any extra food at their farms, other than the amount of one meal for the farm worker(s) available; if food more than the allowed amount is found on their farms, it will all be seized and destroyed (by the *Tatmadaw* troops).
 - e. Only one person is allowed to stay on each farm as a farm guard during the night; if more than one person is found staying on a farm (in the night time), they will be regarded as insurgents and as such will be subject to legal actions (by the *Tatmadaw* troops).
 - f. Those villagers who stay on their farms at night must make and keep up (wood) fire the whole night (at their farm huts).
- (2) The village headmen must in advance inform each and every member of their respective village community of all the details of this order, and at the same time must ensure that all members of their village community definitely obey this order.
- (3) This is to inform (the village headmen) that the *tatmadaw* will severely and forcefully take actions against those who fail to obey this order.

Signed: Commander (pro tem)
410th Light Infantry Battalion

THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE FOUR CAMP ARE AS FOLLOW

No	Camp	Families	Adult		Children		Total	Remark
			M	F	M	F		
1	Bee Ree	261	302	347	468	480	1597	
2	Payaw	563	740	925	812	948	3425	
3	Prachuab	317	831	374	443	527	1725	
4	Halockhant	852	968	1037	1325	1889	5219	
	Total	1993	2391	2683	3048	3844	11966	

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED BY THE MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

(February 1995)

No	Organization	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Bean (kg)	Remark
1	COERR	100	1250	1000	100		
2	Consortium	2490	8075	5730	-	24360	
	Total	2590	9325	6730	100	24360	

