



ကမ္ဘာတိုက် မင်္ဂလာအဖွဲ့
ကို
ပရဟိတအဖွဲ့အစည်းများအတွက်

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY

2005

Aim and Objectives of Mon Relief and Development Committee

Aim:

Provide temporary shelters, basic needs and development assistance to refugees and the displaced persons who become homeless and helpless situation due to the oppression of Rangoon military regimes in Mon territory along Thailand-Burma border.

Objectives:

1. To help the welfares of the refugees in border areas and IDPs who are displaced inside the country, with foods, shelter and possible protection.
2. To coordinate with local Mon people in developing the grassroots community in the fields of health, education, literacy, agriculture and other rural development projects.
3. To empower the local community for the participation of decision making processes for their own lives and communities.
4. To struggle for the human rights.

The Organization of Mon Relief and Development Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Nai Wongsa Pala | - Chairman |
| 2. Nai Kasauh Mon | - General Secretary |
| 3. Nai Dung Htaw | - Member |
| 4. Phra Htaw Son | - Member |
| 5. Nai Glae | - Member |
| 6. Nai Chit Nyunt | - Member |
| 7. Nai Tay Jae | - Member |
| 8. Nai Jon Dae | - Member |
| 9. Nai Chan Done | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee (February 2005)

Forced labour: a root cause of population displacement

Recently before the end of February, there was a High-Level Team of International Labour Organisation's (ILO) visit to Burma (Myanmar) in order to persuade the Burma's military government, SPDC, to actively involve in eradication of forced labour. If not, accordingly to the source, many trade unions in many countries will impose a boycott of ceasing loading down Burma's goods in harbors and other stations. Members of High Level Team did not have a chance for a meeting with SPDC Chairman, Sr. Gen. Than Shwe and could meet with the so-called Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Soe Win instead.

Although we did not receive any news or information from the discussion between Lt. Gen. Soe Win and ILO, but we have founded that there is still serious problem of 'requisition of forced labour' in the rural areas of lower Burma including Mon areas among various human rights violations committed by the military government or it's armed force, Burmese Army.

This requisition of forced labour is also a root cause of population displacement in eastern part of Burma's border with Thailand. When asked or interviewed the new displaced persons or the migrant workers to Thailand, they always expressed about the continuous use of forced labour in their home villages. In some places, although the use of forced labour ceased however the people also still have to pay for fee instead of labour.

Another type of serious forced labour is the use of civilian porters by the troops of Burmese Army in front-line during their military offensives and patrol. For several decades, the Burmese Army did not develop their logistic system and have used the human's manual labour in carrying things and supplies for the army.

Both the conscription of labour in infrastructure projects and deployment of new army camps, several villagers especially household headed men suffer from the conscription that created various problems to the remaining family members. When the head of a family always has to work in the road or other construction, the whole family face the problems of having regular income and food supplies. If the conscription of forced labour continues, at the end, that family has to flee after they do not available food or money.

Just recently after a serious military offensives launched by the Burmese Army against a Mon splinter group in southern part of Ye Township and Yebyu Township, and then Burmese Army could control the whole area of Ye Township. In order to install its administration, the Burmese Army also created a big Mon village with 1000 households called 'Khaw-za' to be a Sub-Town. After the creation of Sub-Town, the South-East Command in the capital of Mon State, Moulmein; Ye Township PDC authorities; and the local military commanders have installed all government's administrative departments and a battalion base in the Sub-Town.

In order to provide good communication from Ye town to Khaw-za Sub-Town then to the other villages in the south of Sub-Town, the SPDC construct over 20 miles road. In the construction of this motor road, the Burmese Army in the area have constantly recruited the local villagers not only from Khaw-za village but from over 10 villages nearby to construct the road. The army commander instructed the order via the village headmen to provide the required labourers and the headmen have to recruit the villagers on a rotation basis. The army commanders or village headmen do not provide foods or payment to the villager labourers.

In the creation of Sub-Town, the villagers are forced to construct the hospital, school, police station, houses or shelters of government servants and etc.

Additionally, the Burmese Army have forced the villagers to construct army bases in Khaw-za village and other villages in southern part of Ye Township. In most construction of army base, the commanders conscripted the local villagers to complete the construction of military barracks, trenches and canals and fencing the compounds.

As the villagers have to work for the army continuously for many days, the villagers do not have time to work at their farms or fruit and rubber plantations. On the other hand, the farmers are also restricted to work at their farms or plantations by the army commanders in order to cut their contacts with rebels.

Among the displaced persons who fled from southern part of Ye Township, many of described how serious of conscription of forced labour in the native villages and why they have to flee for that reason. Every family expressed how they suffer from forced labour or porter service for the Burmese Army.

Although ILO and the international community have tried to halt the use of forced labour in Burma since 1998 after ILO's Inquiry report on forced labour in Burma, and assisted legal and technical assistance for this case, the conscription of forced labour by the members of Burmese Army (or State army) still continued. This violation has also forced thousands of ethnic civilians to flee from their homes.

THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITES
(February, 2005)

No.	Camp	Number of Family	Over 12 years		5-12 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	719	1317	1424	446	448	174	202	4011
2	Tavoy	558	987	998	320	339	150	157	2951
3	Halockhani	949	1635	1594	802	664	275	341	5311
	TOTAL	2226	3939	4016	1568	1451	599	700	12273

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED
BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(February, 2005)

No	Organization	Rice (Sack/100 kg.)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (Kg.)	Remark
	TBBC	4316	-	-		
	TOTAL	4316	-	-		

Thailand

Logend

- Village < 50 houses
- Village 50 - 200 houses
- Village > 200 houses
- ⊙ Resettlement sites
- Main foot path
- △ Mountain
- Car road for dry season
- == Car road whole year
- ||-||- Railway
- S School
- H Hospital
- (K) For 50% Karen
- .-.- Border

