



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL, 2006

Karen Refugee Committee
Monthly Report
April, 2006 – Newsletter

The month of April coincides with the New Year in the Buddhist Calendar. Among the Buddhists around the world, especially in Thailand and Burma, the New Year is celebrated with “Song Kran” in Thailand and “Thin Gyan” in Burma. At this time, People throw water on each other to show friendship and Good will. Men entered the Monk hood and families have their sons novitiated. Elderly People are showed veneration by being washed, cleaned and bathed. People give alms, made offertories, make merit and meditate, in the hope of cleansing themselves of past misdeeds.

For the Refugee Camps Buddhist Community, “Thin Gyan” in a Temporary Shelter event with limitations, restrictions and deprivations that can never be an occasion for happiness. Sad to see is that, children, innocents that they are, make do with whatever at hand, to make merry.

Around the world, with what we see and hear, there is not much to be encouraged, to be optimistic. Explosions and deaths are an everyday happening. We see States and Governments attempting, to “get the better of the other” in terms of the economy as well as the Military. We see testing of new, powerful, destructive weapons. We see attempts at Nuclear Capability. We hear leaders giving out challenging speeches with intent at doing away with the “Enemy”. We see Corruptions, exploitations. We see droughts and Diseases. Dwindling resources are beginning to hit. The big rise in Oil Prices is leading to the rise in prices of all living supports. Destructive Natural Forces, like storms, Hurricanes, floods, Quakes, Volcanic Eruptions and Tsunamis are not helping any.

This month of April, in Burma, we are seeing disturbing features related to the Shift to Pyinmana of Burma’s Capital (or) “Nay Pyi Daw” which would mean the “Imperial City”. The shift may be for less Exposure, More Security and More Central Control.

To the North East of Pyinmana are the Shan Mountains; to the East are the Karennis and the PaOs, to the South-East, the Karen Mountains. These regions are where the Ethnic Minorities have been living for centuries and are now considered Security Risk by the Military. To be truthful the Ethnic have no reason to love the Junta. At the same time, the Military is all the time doing things, which makes them disliked by the Ethnic. No wonder, the dislike is quite deep down, as the negative features have been going on for decades. Now, we are seeing thousands of Ethnic Villagers, restricted, in movement & works, ordered to relocate, forced into displacement, all for security concerns for the Nay Pyi Daw. Now we are seeing great movements of people seeking refuge, where ever that may be. No one need doubt the effectiveness of the order to shoot to kill. This has been the feature in Burma. In a sense, it’s just doing away with people. It is doubtful if anyone will help intervene other than wait and see. The same thing is happening in Darfur Sudan,

where hundreds perished every day while people just look on and talk. In our world of today, the strong gets all the benefit, the Credit. The weak always suffer. People want to be friends with the strong. Even in the High Body of the UN, we see the same thing. Friendship, partnership with the strong always benefits. People wouldn't speak out for fear of losing the benefit.

Still, in this month, it would be prudent to take lesson from what had transpired. It would be good to learn from history.

We need to remember Adolf Hitler, born in April 1889, died April 1945. The only way out for him was to kill himself. It needs to be remembered how and why he was able to do what he did. People assumed that he can be contained, he can be persuaded. The world will be quite different today had Hitler were able to acquire the Ultimate weapon.

In April of 1975, the Khmer Rouge took over Control of Phnom Penh, and for that matter, the whole of Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge staged the Revolution in order to "Liberate" the "Peasants" of Cambodia. And while the world looked on a quarter of the total population, including thousands of "Peasants" are slaughtered.

Also, to remember this month was the Nuclear Disaster at Chernobyl. The Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor in the Ukraine (Then Part of the USSR) was for the production of Nuclear Energy for peaceful use. What happened was the release of the "Genie in the Bottle". History recorded it as the greatest peacetime Nuclear Disaster although its only purpose was to serve the population in peaceful needs. Now many countries and people are hoping for Nuclear Capability.

But then, there are still little bits of news that can make people take comfort. There was the mention that Synthetic Biology may be able to come up with "renewable Fuel" and create new drugs to fight diseases. No one can tell how long it will take to benefit mankind. But then, an inch of comfort can be worth a mile of trouble.

K.R.C - Camps- Activities – Report.
April – 2006

- ★ 04/04/06 to 15/04/06 – There was a meeting between KRC, KED and ZOA. The purpose being to discuss, inclusion of teaching of Public Health in Camps Schools. It was planned to incorporate the Public Health in the “Social Studies” Programme.

- ★ 05/04/06 – K.R.C Members – Mae Sariang Branch office, Field activities at Mae Ra Mo Refugee Camp. Activation, together with Camp Committee for support of New Refuge Seekers (New Arrivals),in Food, shelter and other needs.

- ★ 08/04/06 to 26/04/06 – I.C.S. contributed Building Material for Camps Schools. The I.C.S. Director together with KRC helps send these Materials to individual Camps.

- ★ 12/04/06 – Field activities by K.R.C. members (Central and Mae Sariang Branch office at Mae La Oo Refugee Camp. Discussed matters related to Resettlement of CCs and some families in a third County. Discussed filling of vacancies in Camp Committees and other Staff / workers.

- ★ 13/04/06 – K.R.C, K.O.R.D, C.I.D.K.P, CCs meet to discuss addressing of Problems related to the mass exodus of displaced villagers from the Karen State, seeking refuge in Thailand.

- ★ 20/04/06 – KRC participate in the regular monthly Educational meet. Participants were World Education, Consortium, ZOA and KED. Other Education related NGOs also send representatives. “Resettlement” was also one of the subjects discussed. What was seen was that a lot of Camps Education people are drawn away by this “Resettlement” and which vacancies need to be filled in. Some people are even calling “Resettlement” the “Brain Drain”

- ★ 26/04/06 – K.R.C, TBBC (Camps Management Programme) Responsible Coordinators meet to discuss the problem of new comers in Camps; their food, living and other needs supports. There was distribution of Food, mosquito net, blanket, Cooking vessels and health support material.

- ★ 27/04/06 – Responsible authorities from Soop Moei Township, K.R.C, Mae Sariang K.R.C members, visit Mae Ra Moo Refugee Camp to assess, evaluate needs of New Arrivals and made arrangements for their food, living supports. From April 1st to 21st the recorded number of Newly Arrived refuge seekers totals 55 families, with a total of 225 populations. An average of 80 persons is crossing over the Border to seek Refuge.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS APRIL, 2006.

MAE SOT AREA	CAMP	No. of families	Over - 12 Yrs		6 - 12 Yrs		Under 5 Yrs		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
	Mae La	9930	16508	15977	4730	4308	3747	3544	48814
	Um Pheim Mai	3564	6825	6546	1934	1638	1366	1264	19573
	Total	13494	23333	22523	6664	5946	5113	4808	68387
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2423	4669	4413	1509	1376	1025	986	13978
	Mae La Oo	2722	5198	4790	1709	1539	1080	1062	15378
	Total	5145	9867	9203	3218	2915	2105	2048	29356
SOUTH	Noh Poe	3346	4508	4274	1218	1158	947	934	13039
	Ban Dong Yang	949	1356	1475	441	379	312	270	4233
	Htam Him	1828	3110	3161	1046	1050	704	641	9712
	Total	6123	8974	8910	2705	2587	1963	1845	26984
	Grand Total	24762	42174	40636	12587	11448	9181	8701	124727

We shall always be grateful to the Thai people and Government for their sympathy and understanding in allowing us safe refuge.

We are also indebted to the NGOs for their Supports and Services.

TBBC – Support in Food and Shelter Material. **TBBC** is also supporting with warm clothing for all the camps.

MSF – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

AM I – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

ARC – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

M. I (Malteser International) formerly MHD – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

ZOA (ABW aid) – Support in Educational facilities Teachers' Training.

Consortium – Support in World Educational facilities, Teachers' Training and Education for Deaf / Mute / Blinds.

TOPS – Support in Educational facilities.

ICS – Asia – Support in Educational facilities and school buildings.

COERR – Rice and Educational support. **EVI** – To be involved with Extremely Vulnerable people.

H.I – Support for Refugee Handicaps with Prosthesis and rehabilitation and also year – end sporting events for Handicaps.

NCA – (Norway Church Aid) has been providing **KRC** with administrative & organizational Support.

It has also supported with remuneration for **KRC** members and workers.

UNHCR – For Registration Process Protection and Ultimate Safe Repatriation.

SMRU – Support with Malaria Control, Prevention and Treatment.

SVA – To support with Libraries in the camps.

PPAT – Parenthood Planning Association Thailand – Supporting with Family Planning and Preventive/ Education in Refugee Camps.

Address: P.O Box- 5, Mae Sot, Tak-63110, Thailand. ☎: (055) Intl: +66 55 532 947.

E- Mail: krc.academic@gmail.com.

Fax : (055) Intl +66 55 546 869

Mobile: +66 78 498 250

