



# **KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

**MAY, 2006**

**Karen Refugee Committee**  
**Monthly Report**  
**May, 2006 – Newsletter**

May first was designated as an International Labor Day by the International Socialist Convention of 1889. It became a Major Holiday to recognize and honor workers around the world, as well as an occasion for Political demonstrations in many countries.

This May, People in Burma remember the Elections held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 1990. The SLORC / SPDC fielded their own Ta Sa Nya Party, being quite sure of Victory, as indicated by their own media. But what came out was quite the opposite. The NLD, the National League for Democracy Party led by Daw Aung Sann Suu Kyi won by a Landslide Majority getting more than (80%) of the votes. Surprising was the victory by the NLD in one Rangoon Township, where most of the population were Military Personnel and their families. It was the case of People, not liking the SLORC / SPDC, Junta, rather than people liking the NLD.

“The Tatmadaw”, didn’t go back to the “Barracks” as promised. They annulled the Election results. They continued with their Repressive Rule. They felt, arrogantly that they could do what they like. They have the Guns and they have good “Friends” who can be called on to support them, whatever. The friends have their own benefit to consider, which is paramount. Humanity can come later.

Then again this May, People remember the (30<sup>th</sup>) of May 2003. That was the “De Pae Yin Incident”, where the NLD Party, on their organizing Tour of Upper Burma was set upon by a group of USDA, (Union Solidarity and Development Association) members. There was no doubt that High-ranking SPDC Officers were directing the assaults. Many NLD Leaders, including Daw Aung Sann Suu Kyi, barely escaped with their lives. Many died, many still in prisons and many are lost forever.

In the middle of this May, the UN envoy Mr. Ibrahim Gambari visited Burma, in the hope of helping with the troubled country. He was able to meet with the Supreme Leader, General Than Shwe. He was also able to meet with the Opposition Leader, Daw Aung Sann Suu Kyi. No one will know what were discussed in the Meetings. Also the UN Secretary General, on his visit to Thailand, spoke out, saying that Senior General Than Shwe, needed to do something for improvement. These followed the failed Mission Visits by other UN Envoys. All able accomplished Diplomats but their missions, Unaccomplished.

The results of the UN efforts were simply negative, with only negligent response from the SPDC. This time again, Daw Aung Sann Suu Kyi had her “House Detention” extended by another year. There was little that the Exalted Body can do, other than promising to continue with the effort. Most discouraging.

The SPDC didn't stop there. They're even clearing out Ethnic Villages from the mountains East of "Pyinmana". They still look on Ethnic Peoples with suspicion and distrust. They still consider them security risks. But as always, they will be saying that incarceration of Opposition Leaders together with repressive measures on the Ethnic are just Domestic Issues being addressed. Surprising is that they got away with the excuse always, with their good Friends ever tolerant. Good Friends, they are but People would not like, if they are judged by the Company they keep.

Around the world, it's business as usual, not that it's good to hear and see-- shootings, bombings, kidnappings, destructions, devastations. There are Misdeeds, which encompass Drugs, Slave Trades, Exploitations, Manipulations, and Corruptions. There are negative developments in many countries where Human Pride, Wickedness, Arrogance and Greed are intensifying.

In the Case of Burma, much world attention is being focused on the prolonged, drawn out misery and suffering that has befallen the Country and People simply because a Group of Proud, Arrogant and Inept People are making their own decisions in their own way. To all intent and purpose, the simple, ignorant and peaceful, powerless people can do very little, other than voice their opinion, which is being muted. Intervention is not a good word, for many, it is an ugly word.

A sickly, weak, miserable orphan is crying out, suffering from mistreatment. Neighbors neglect to "Intervene" feeling that "meddling" is not acceptable. That negligence can be the death of the child. Many such children may have died already. Yes, "Intervention" is an ugly word. But then, the death of a country can be Uglier.

## **K.R.C - Camps- Activities – Report.**

### **May – 2006**

- 3-5-06 TBBC - Mae Sot made arrangements for renovation of the store house in the K.R.C Compound, Mae Pa, where K.R.C members helped.
- 4-5-06 K.R.C and TBBC together with CMP workers hold quarterly meeting at K.R.C where past works processes were evaluated and improvements for future works processes discussed.
- 5-5-06 K.R.C Joint Secretary, work visit to Um Phiem Refugee Camp. For assessment and improvement of the Camp's population especially the figures related to the Feeding and Eating Figures. Also, K.R.C attends the meeting at UNHCR office where issues related to New Arrivals in Camps were discussed.
- 8-5-06 Mrs. Margrethe Volden and Group, representing N.C.A visited K.R.C, have discussions with the K.R.C Executive Committee, relating to N.C.A financial support and the K.R.C works processes activities, where finance expenditures are concerned.
- 10-5-06 K.R.C Chairman meets with local authorities in Soop Moei to discuss New Arrivals in Mae Ra Ma Luang Camp.
- 11-5-06 N.C.A Representing Group, together with K.R.C members visited Mae La Camp. Where there was an interview with recently arrived refuge seekers. There was also the meeting with Camp leaders regarding issues that are being handled from day to day.
- 15-5-06 There was the weekly Camp Committee, Zone Committee and Section Committee meeting, in Mae La where there was invitation for K.R.C to attend. K.R.C joint secretary and affairs Coordinator attended taking part in discussion and giving Counsel, guidelines.
- 15-5-06 K.R.C Representatives Naw Htoo wah, Naw Deborah, and Saw Bweh Say attended the CBO workshop in Mae La Camp.
- 16-5-06 TBBC, KNRC and CMP workers meet at K.R.C office to discuss related works processes issues in Refugee Camps.
- 17-5-06 K.R.C chairperson meet with Soop Moei District officials to discuss shelter needs of Newly arrived refuge seekers in Camps.
- 21-5-06 Mr. Oneua and Mr. Audit, representing K.R.C funder N.C.A (Norwegian Church Aid) met with K.R.C members and staff and have discussions, the made

assessments and evaluation of Financial Expenditure processes. They provide counsel together with correctional processes with the finances.

- 26-5-06 K.R.C Main office two Monthly meeting, between K.R.C and the NGOs, where there was Discussions, information sharing and Collaboration processes related to refugee Camp were made. Such meetings were quite positive helping with understanding, propriety and progress / improvement in services.
- 26-5-06 K.R.C executive, coordinator, and members meet with work staff where discussions and needed changes made in personnel / work processes for the purpose of propriety and improvement in works / services.
- 27-5-06 Ms. Andrea from TBBC (Nutritional support) and Group visited K.R.C for discussion / information related to TBBC Nutrition support provision for Refugees in camps. The Program is now quite helpful and acceptable in the refugee Community.
- 31-5-06 K.S.N.G represented by Saw Po Eh (Karen Student Network Group) visit K.R.C where discussions were made on holding of World Refugee Day in Mae La Camp.
- 31-5-06 K.R.C and Mae La Camp leaders discuss holding of Camp Committee elections in Mae La Camp, which is already due. There was tacit agreement for holding of the elections in the last week of June 2006.
- 31-5-06 There was Report by the Um Phiem Camp Committee that residents of section 15, the southernmost section informed then of hearing of Earth - sounds and sensing slight tremors before, such sounds were few and far between. But now that the Earth - sounds and slight tremors are becoming quite frequent, from 9-5-06 continuing into 1-6-06, The Camp Committee put up the report to the K.R.C, which in turn, sent the Report to UNHCR.

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS MAY, 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	10048	16377	15946	4912	4439	3361	3298	48333
	Um Pheim Mai	3558	6890	6698	1832	1681	1303	1253	19657
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13606</b>	<b>23267</b>	<b>22644</b>	<b>6744</b>	<b>6120</b>	<b>4664</b>	<b>4551</b>	<b>67990</b>
<b>NORTH</b>	Mae Ra Moe	2533	4762	4658	1558	1470	1120	1074	14642
	Mae La Oo	2722	5323	4871	1739	1552	1086	1079	15650
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5255</b>	<b>10085</b>	<b>9529</b>	<b>3297</b>	<b>3022</b>	<b>2206</b>	<b>2153</b>	<b>30292</b>
<b>SOUTH</b>	Noh Poe	3346	4508	4274	1218	1158	947	934	13039
	Ban Dong Yang	949	1441	1523	437	377	314	273	4365
	Htam Him	1828	3108	3161	1046	1050	716	647	9728
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6123</b>	<b>9057</b>	<b>8958</b>	<b>2701</b>	<b>2585</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>1854</b>	<b>27132</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24984</b>	<b>42409</b>	<b>41131</b>	<b>12742</b>	<b>11727</b>	<b>8847</b>	<b>8558</b>	<b>125414</b>

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.

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