



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE, 2006

Karen Refugee Committee

Monthly Report

June 2006 - Newsletter

With this month of June, 2006, we are seeing the emergence of a New Nation, to join other free Nations of the World. The peoples of Montenegro voted for separation from the bondage of the former Yugoslavia and become an Independent State. Freedom and self-determination are the Aspirations of all Peoples and can only be welcome.

The end of World War II was to usher in a New Era of Human Relations encompassing Peoples and States, with many New Nations becoming "Independent". But then we see many Nations and their Governments becoming "Failures". Many decisions are made by somewhat Wine-ing and Dine-ing Dignitaries, who are quite ignorant, quite ill-advised to take into consideration, the feelings of the muted, repressed grass-roots peoples. Hence, we are seeing a lot of dissents, bad-feelings and disturbances in many countries around the world, today. The Independent Union of Burma can be a very good example.

This June, we remember the birth of the UNITED NATIONS. On June 26th 1945, (50) Nations met and signed the UNITED NATIONS CHARTER in San Francisco, with the purpose of addressing International Problems by Nations, through participation and cooperation. The UN is now (61) years old, and can be seen only as limping along in its efforts, hindered by the lack of agreement between Member Nations, and also by the "RED CARDS" in the possession of the "Mighty Five", who can be very partial in protecting "Friends".

This June, we remember one big factor that led to the end of World War II. It was "D-Day, the 6th of June 1944". On that day, was launched operation "Overlord", where, Allied Forces under General Dwight D.Eisenhower landed in France to rid Europe of the Evil that was Nazi Chauvinism and Adolf Hitler. The battle was joined. It was the beginning of the end for NAZI-ISM and Hitler, who was to commit suicide less than a year later.

World War II was dubbed, "the war to end all wars". But it was not to be. We see many wars continuing unto this day. Especially of note are the Korean and Vietnam Wars, where we even heard of the advocacy for use of Nuclear Weapons. Today, the Iraq war and the Palestinian conflicts are a day to day affair.

With the end of World War II, the emergence of many Independent States can never be seen as a success story. There were moves by the strong to contain and control. We saw

one Evil replaced by another Evil. We saw Blocs, Organizations and Groups. We saw the Soviet Union made up of (15) Republics. We saw the Iron Curtain established.

In June of 1956, we see Riots at Poznan in Poland which was then behind the Iron Curtain. That was followed by the broad-based “Revolution” in Hungary, which severe suppression by the Soviet Might resulted in some (7000) dead.

Many are executed, including the Prime Minister, Imre Nagy. Some (200,000) left the country. These then are followed by movements in Czechoslovakia, which are the first cracks in the Iron Curtain. These finally led to the final disappearance of the Iron Curtain. Today, the Soviet Union is no more, being dismembered into (15) separate Republics. This June, we are hearing a lot of Muscle Flexing by Nations. Most alarming would be the flexing of the Nuclear Arm together with up-graded super-missiles. What is sure is that it will make people pay more visits to the National Shrine and talk and activate for “Protection Needs”.

This month, the President of China was telling his “Party Members” of the great threat of “Corruption” that has become a danger to the country and that needs to be addressed severely. The warning can be of wider implications as we are hearing of this corruption practice everywhere. Getting what you want never stopped at getting what you need. Greed is there always. Corruption is destroying, will destroy, and then continue destroying. Even the rich wanted to be super-rich, and many are clever enough to make illegal processes look legal.

On the Good side however, this month, we are hearing of the Good-Rich Samaritans joining forces to help with the needs of the World, and we are sure this will bring Happiness and smiles to many faces.

But then something to reflect on. Looking back many years, the first time we were here, in June and when it was the beginning of the Monsoons. Rain started to fall and with the Rains, there was heard all through the nights, croaks and screeches of thousands of Frogs, big and small. They were considered by many as nuisances although some considered them delicacies. With the passage of time, fewer croaks and screeches were heard, only to be replaced by the frightening thunders and lightings. This June, there was heard no more of croaks and screeches. The Frogs simply have gone away. With many changes, with what’s going on all around, some other species will surely be following in the footsteps of the Frogs.

K.R.C. – Camps – Activities – Report. June 2006

- ★ 01/06/2006 K.R.C members met with the Mae La Camp Commander. Discussed were matters related to Camps Committee Elections for the next two years term. It was agreed to start the Election Process – beginning the 27th of June 2006.
- ★ 02/06/2006 K.R.C Executive Committee Member, Saw San Cho visited and participated in the meeting between the Camp Commander, the Camp Committee, NGOs, UNHCR and K.R.C at Um Phiem Camp.
On the same day C.M.P Facilitator Thra Bweh Say Visited Mae La Camp and discussed CMP Program works with the Camp Committee.
- ★ 08/06/2006 K.R.C, TBBC and CMP met with Um Phiem Camp Committee. Discussed were matters related to improvement of the Camps Management program and also to the Extra Needs Supplies to the Camps by the CMP.
- ★ 08/06/2006 A donor Group visited K.R.C where there was discussions related to provision of safe drinking water for the Camp Communities by supporting with water Filters.
- ★ 09/06/2006 There was a meeting between K.E.A.B. (Karen Elders Advisory Board) and K.R.C, where matters related to the Camp Committee Elections to be held on Mae La Camp were discussed. Discussions include provision of guidelines to facilitate the Elections Process, and also to improve with more Women Participation in Camps affairs.
- ★ 12/06/2006 K.R.C represented by CMP (Naw Christian Po) and (Naw Elizabeth) attended the Workshop for discussions on “Political Change” facilitated by the K.W.O.
- ★ 15/06/2006 K.R.C – member Saw Bweh Say visited Um Phiem Camp for discussions with the Camp Committee, regarding support in Extra Needs together with providing proper Forms for New Arrival Registration.
- ★ 16/06/2006 I.R.C Representatives visited K.R.C where discussions were made on Addressing of social trespasses together with protection and settling disputes misdeeds in Refugee Camps.

- ★ 19/06/2006 K.R.C Secretary Saw Tay Tay represented the K.R.C in meeting discussing with the K.E.A.B on wide ranging matters related to Camps Administration, Support Provisions and Distribution, Problems and addressing of problems in a Proper Way, and keeping the stability together with Law and Order in the camps.
- ★ 19/06/2006 K.R.C met with the Mae La Camp's Commander and fixed the Camps election Date at 6th July 2006 – as some preparatory measures are still needed for the process.
- ★ 20/06/2006 ICS, the Main Supporter for Education in the Camps, together with Education Coordinator and other Responsible Education Personnel visited Mae La Camp, and have wide ranging discussions related to Education matters with the Camp Committee and Responsible Education workers.
- ★ 21/06/2006 K.R.C members Mae Sariang branch, together with CMP work members and TBBC – visit Mae Ra Moo Camp, met the Camp Committee and discussed, make Evaluation of the CMP. Process in the Camp. The Group continued their work visit to Mae La Oo, where there was also discussion and evaluation related to the CMP process.
- ★ 26/06/2006 Australian Migration and Multicultural Affairs Minister, Mrs. Amanda Vanstone and Group, together with I. O. M. officials visited Mae La Camp, and met and discussed “Resettlement” with the Camp Committee and Community Leaders.
- ★ 28/06/2006 KRC, member Saw Bweh Say visited Tham Him Camp for the purpose of refilling the vacant C.M.P. Facilitator post for the Camp.
- ★ 28/06/2006 KRC Chairman and Education Coordinator Naw Deborah visited Mae la Camp, to attend the Opening Ceremony of the LMTC (Leadership Management Training College) establishment in the Camp.

Mae Ra Moo Refugee Camp

- ★ Report said that there was Elections for Camp Karen Women Organization (KWO) Committee Members. It was held successfully from the 13th to the 16th of June 2006.
- ★ Mae Ra Moo – Camps Activities Report mentioned there was seen increasing incidences of stealing, of Alcohol Abuse and Sexual/ Gender abuse related issues in the camp. The Camp Committee was able to settle some problem cases.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS JUNE, 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	10,283	17,691	16,804	4,942	4,471	3,486	3,442	50,836
	Um Pheim Mai	3,614	7,152	6,872	1,892	1,723	1,349	1,290	20,278
	Total	13,897	24,843	23,676	6,834	6,194	4,835	4,732	71,114
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,573	4,899	4,777	1,598	1,502	1,153	1,105	15,034
	Mae La Oo	2,722	5,500	5,026	1,710	1,533	1,097	1,054	15,920
	Total	5,295	10,399	9,803	3,308	3,035	2,250	2,159	30,954
SOUTH	Noh Poe	3,625	4,779	4,502	1,265	1,200	983	964	13,693
	Ban Dong Yang	930	1,467	1,586	428	407	294	254	4,436
	Htam Him	1,828	3,108	3,161	1,046	1,050	716	647	9,728
	Total	6,383	9,354	9,249	2,739	2,657	1,993	1,865	27,857
	Grand Total	25,575	44,596	42,728	12,881	11,886	9,078	8,756	129,925

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. Ø: (055) Intl: +66 55 532 947.

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

Fax : (055) Intl +66 55 546 869

Mobile: +66 78 498 250

