



# **KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

**AUGUST, 2006**

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

On August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945, the World witnessed the awesome, destructive Power, that Man had come to possess, when (2) Atomic Bombs were dropped on the Japanese Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan was shocked into defeat and WW-II ended on August 15<sup>th</sup> 1945. The war brought 20<sup>th</sup> century cruelty to its Peak. The Nazi Regime systematically killed an estimated (6) million Jews including some (3) million who died in Death Camps. Gypsies Slavs, Political opponents, sick, retarded people, undesirables were also murdered by the Nazis.

Overall, some (45) million People lost their lives in the War. The end of the War was supposed to usher in Global Peace. But on the contrary, we can see the World more in a dangerous situation, what with the possession and Proliferation of more powerful weapons of Mass Destruction. Then, more countries are attempting to possess more destructive weaponry, and means of delivery claiming “Self Protection” for their attempts.

One sure result would be that National Leaders will be forced to make “Respect Visits” to National Shrines, if only to show that they are willing and ready to take the responsibility to protect their own People. There can be no argument that “For every action, there can only be an equal and opposite reaction”.

In Burma, this month of August, events will surely make People Remember, the (4) Eights Movement of August 1988 (8.8.88).

In 1962 on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, the Incoming Military Regime of General Ne Win committed the unforgivable deed of gunning down dissenting Students and then completely demolishing their “Students Union H / Q Building” in Rangoon. This earned for him only the enmity of the students as a whole.

By August of 1988, the same subdued dissent flared up, with the same set-up. But this time, the shooting was not only at students. Teachers, Service workers and Monks as well died. Unto this day, no one can say how many have perished in the aftermath of the remarks by General Ne Win, that when “soldiers shoot, they shoot straight”. The air of dissent, animosity and enmity persist unto this day.

Looking around the world, this August, we see North Korea putting off the Celebration to mark their Liberation from Japanese Rule through 1910 to 1945 August. Surprisingly it was put off because of the “Severe Storm Floods” that hit the country in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August, and which resulted in over (10,000) people dead or missing.

Then with this August, we remember the Abortive “Coups” against Mikhail Gorbachev, in August of 1991 and which led to moves in the Soviet Unions’ Baltic Republics, of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania for Independence, and which finally led to the break-up of the Soviet Union into (15) separate Republics.

Then in this August, we hear of Quakes and Volcanic Eruptions in many places, including, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Pacific Islands and which reminded us of the biggest blow of them all, the August 26-28 Krakatau Volcano Blow-up which left the (2640 ft) peak collapsing to (1000 ft) below sea-level and left (31,000) people dead. The Tsunami generated by the explosion supposedly reached the shores of England, and ash from the Eruption colored sunsets around the world for (2) years. In the United States, this August is the “KATRINA” Anniversary. Its awareness that people can be hit hard by Natural Forces, any Place any Time.

On the part of Human folly, this month, we again see the flare-up of the simmering dissent, coming to surface in the Israeli-Palestine-Hezbollah fighting. Most alarming is that it may encompass wider implications, and which can only be catastrophic. Luckily, Cooler Heads prevail and there is now some sort of respite, which however has every potential to flare up again.

This month, we are hearing of warnings, from People in the position to know, that the worlds Peoples will be faced with calamities as a result of scarcity of Water and the depletion of forests. This can only be due to the erring, irresponsible way of Earth’s Inhabitants.

One very good example would be that of what had happened at Pagan, the Imperial City “Naypyidaw” established by the Burmese King Anawrahta. The Region of Pagan was a vast splendid Rain Forest of Legend where Big Animals, Birds, Cats and elephants thrive. With the Glory of Pagan Expanding far and wide, every one who’s who in Pagan, from the King downwards, felt like erecting “Pagodas” for “Self Glorification”. Now, Pagodas need bricks, which are clay baked by wood fire. A Pagoda will need millions of Bricks baked with Firewood. At one time Pagan Boasts a record of Pagodas numbering “Hleh Win Yo Than Ta Nyan Nyan” which meant “screeching noisy cart axles, Pagan Pagodas” representing (4446733) in number. Glory or not, what was lost was, magnificent Tropical Trees Vanishing by the Millions and the region around Pagoda reduced to almost a desert.

It will be good if the people at Naypyidaw Pyinmana learn from the past. However, word is going around that there is already a plan to build a Pagoda at Pyinmana, a Replica of the Rangoon “Shwedagon”. History tends to repeat itself.

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

### **August– 2006**

★03/08/2006 – CMP- Quarterly meeting at K.R.C Head office. Participation – KRC- Executive Committee, TBBC Camp Committee and CMP workers. There was review on past efforts, on successes, failures, weakness. Then, ways for improvement needs and efforts discussed.

The Camps Management Programme (C.M.P) is on going with added Commitment and effort. It is helping with improvement, in Camps Administration, works processes and still issues are coming out. There is still difficulty in the statistics, supply distribute sectors, mainly because of the instability in population. There are people going away for resettlement. There are irresponsibility, and now transparencies, which still need to be address. But overall, C.M.P can been seen now as helping greatly with improvements.

★14 to 18/08/2006 – Annual Meeting between K.R.C including Branch Offices, camps Committees, Karen Work Groups (K.W.O, K.Y.O, K.S.N.G, etc). Discussed were works Activities through out the past year, the positive, Negative outcomes, the need to mend, to change, to improve. There were also talks at rooting out problematic matters, problems that need to be focused and addressed. There was also the need to help with Resettlement, for those to be Resettled, to have awareness, to be prepared and be worthy of support help.

One day of the meeting was set aside for participation by UNHCR support NGOs, where there were presentations by individual Groups and also questions and Answer sessions where Questions relating to wide ranging Camps affair were asked and answered. There was also a great deal of information sharing together with Guidance, council and needed efforts, to make Refugee Care a Success. The road ahead was still found to be not an easy one, infact, Camps affairs can be more complicated, with many leaving, many going away, many undecided and many more still ignorant and innocent.

★29/08/2006 – **One Camp Activity of Note.**

#### **Tham Hin Camp.**

There was the visit by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Antonio Guterres and Mrs. Ellen Sauerbrey, the United States Assistant Secretary for population, Migration. There was the Assembled meeting with the Refugees and Camp Elders. Information was that there was the opening, where Refugees would be resettled in the United States and where there would be support with living, Medical, health, Education, and Job Placement.

63 Refugees from Tham Hin Camp are reported to have been sent on that day, to be resettled in the United States.

★29/08/2006 – M.S.F – Representatives visit K.R.C. Discussed finding ways to help/support Displaced People along the Border especially with regard to Medical and Health matters

★31/08/2006 – K.R.C members, staff workers meeting.

Discuss Activation in all (7) Camps for promotion, betterment of Administration, works Activities, Reporting, Communication, and improvement of social relations and the keeping of Law and Order. It's a tall order, which will be quite difficult to succeed. But still, there is no room for complacency as matters are at the moment; filled with features of social disruptions, misdemeanors, abuses and exploitations.

### **Mae La Camp**

★9 to 11/08/2006 – Elections in Mae La Camp. For New Camp's Administrations Committee. For the New term – 2006 -2008 – 15 members are Elected – 5 of them women.

★12/08/2006 – Mae La Camp- All school children participating in Fellowship Activities, including reciting poems, writing Essays, Pictures Drawing and singing competitions. These activities are for honoring the Queen of Thailand on her 74<sup>th</sup> Birthday

★16 to 19/08/2006 – HIV and VCT Work Groups. Information sharing discussion in Mae La Camp, especially with regard to HIV/AIDS and Blood Donation.

★23/08/2006 – I.C.S. Director visit Mae La Camp. Meeting with school Heads, School Committees and Teachers in Zone B and C.

During this month, the Camp Authorities ordered culling of birds and chicken in the whole of Mae La, in an attempt to prevent “Bird Flu” in the Camp.

### **Umphiem Camp**

★03/08/2006 – (10) Visitors from the Netherlands together with ZOA personnel visit Umphiem Camp. Meet with the Education and Vocational training Committees for the purpose of improvement and further support for these activities.

Camp Committee Report- mention of breakage in rice sacks sent in being more than normal, resulting in decrease in total amount for distribution.

Charcoal Support sent in include much in powder form and which are being sent back to the Supplier. The Supplier provide with the short supply.

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS AUGUST, 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	10,272	17,711	16,887	4,934	4,459	3,595	3,567	51,153
	Um Pheim Mai	3,603	7,196	6,896	1,912	1,743	1,378	1,322	20,447
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,875</b>	<b>24,907</b>	<b>23,783</b>	<b>6,846</b>	<b>6,202</b>	<b>4,973</b>	<b>4,889</b>	<b>71,600</b>
<b>NORTH</b>	Mae Ra Moe	2,562	5,189	4,751	1,610	1,526	1,055	1,094	15,225
	Mae La Oo	2,720	5,526	5,045	1,705	1,532	1,116	1,089	16,013
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,282</b>	<b>10,715</b>	<b>9,796</b>	<b>3,315</b>	<b>3,058</b>	<b>2,171</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>31,238</b>
<b>SOUTH</b>	Noh Poe	3,720	4,867	4,558	1,293	1,227	1,006	1,005	13,956
	Ban Dong Yang	934	1,470	1,568	394	383	316	286	4,417
	Htam Him	1,823	3,091	3,154	1,045	1,049	759	677	9,775
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,477</b>	<b>9,428</b>	<b>9,280</b>	<b>2,732</b>	<b>2,659</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>28,148</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>25,634</b>	<b>45,050</b>	<b>42,859</b>	<b>12,893</b>	<b>11,919</b>	<b>9,225</b>	<b>9,040</b>	<b>130,986</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.

**AMI** – 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.

**World Education / 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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