



# **KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

**MAY, 2005**

## **Karen Refugee Committee**

### **Monthly Report**

### **May, 2005**

In Medieval times, the Month of May was designated as the time to celebrate & welcome the advent of spring, when flowers Bloom and Birds Sing. There was the wide spread belief that washing the face in the May morning Dew would beautify the skin.

Then, May First was designated as an international Labour 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 important Political Demonstrations in many countries. But sadly it was not to be so in Burma. The Military Rulers would never allow People to Demonstrate to air their Grievances. The **SLORC/SPDC** interpreted Voluntary Labour as Service to the State and which can be imposed on anyone. Workers in Burma with a mere pittance of a salary are among the most exploited of workers in our world of today.

This month in Burma we remember the General Elections, held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 1990, when the Military Junta promised that they will “go back to the Barracks” after the Elections. They were quite sure that the Party they fielded, the **Ta Sa Nya** (or) **Union Solidarity Party**, will definitely win. But, what came out was that the Party led by **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**, the National league for Democracy won a Landslide Victory. The Military never recognized that Victory. They reneged on their promise to go back to the barracks, and continuing with their Repressive Rule unto this day. Which makes us remember the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2003, and the Incident at De Pae Yin in upper Burma, where there was attempt by the **SLORC/SPDC** to do away with the **NLD** Leadership. Many **NLD** leaders including **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi** barely escaped with their lives, only to be arrested and incarcerated later. The feature of Distrust and Dissent is an on going process, as ever.

This month, there was the Declaration of a **Free Shan State** by one **Shan Group**. Then the **Shan State Army (North)**, which had made the Cease-fire Agreement with the Military Junta, announced their intention to withdraw from the Agreement and join the **Shan State Army (South)** to struggle for Freedom. These announcements resulted in condemnation from many quarters.

The Shans play a very heavy role in Burma achieving Independence. For that, a Shan Chief was made President of the Union of Burma, but only to be arrested, incarcerated and die in prison later. His one son was to die in the Process with the whole family dispersed to far corners. And that was not an isolated Case. Many Ethnic “**who’s who**” are simply made to vanish. One explanation was that there was “**Let Lun Thwar**” which meant “**Over Action**” during enquiry. Today we see no more of the Karenni Saw Bwas, The Shan Sao Phas, The Wa Sao Phas, The Kachin Duwas, The Chin Chiefs. In their places we see only Generals sent out by Rangoon. In fact, The Saw Bwas, The Sao Phas, The Duwas, The Chiefs were heavily involved in signing **The Pang Long Agreement**, which was the move that brought Independence to Burma. Today, the country has clearly become the domain of “**The Big Brother**”, and the “Union Spirit” can only be pretense where words and deeds don’t agree. “The Big Brother” Syndrome is very much in evidence when the **SPDC**, the Burma Communist Party, The **NLD** together with other groups and individuals, condemn the Free Shan State Declaration as “**Separatism**”. Many are simply pushed to condemn the

Declaration. The Free State Declaration may not achieve much but it reflects all Ethnic's Aspirations towards Equality and which can never be taken lightly. But then many consider the move reasonable when **“Jaw Jaw”** is of no avail and the only way to resort to is **“War War”**.

This month, this year, many people are gathered to remember the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **HOLOCAUST**, and with it **“Auschwitz”**, the infamous complex of Concentration and Death Camps run by the **NAZIS** during WW-II, and which name has become forever associated with the Evil in MAN.

Auschwitz II began in 1941 and included a Women's Section. It has four gas Chambers, designed to resemble showers, and four crematoria for incineration. Approximately 40 more satellite camps were established around Auschwitz and which were forced Labour Camps known collectively as Auschwitz III.

Prisoners were transported from all over Nazi Occupied Territory arriving at Auschwitz in daily convoys. Arrivals were separated into there Groups. One Group went to the Gas Chambers within a few hours, where more than 20,000 people could be gassed and cremated each day. A second group of prisoners were used as slave labour at factories. At the Auschwitz Complex 405,000 prisoners were recorded as labourers between 1940 and 1945. Of these about 340,000 perished through executions, Torture, starvation and sickness. A third Group, mostly twins and dwarfs, underwent medical experiments at the hands of doctors such as the “Angel of Death” Josef Mengele.

Estimates of deaths at the Camp Complex range from 1.5 million to as many as 4 million. Camp Commandant Rudolf Hoss admitted to a minimum of 2.5 million deaths at Auschwitz. Jews comprised the largest number of victims; at least one third of the estimated six million Jews killed by the Nazis during World War II died there. Also, large numbers of Poles, Soviet Prisoners of War, Gypsies and homosexuals died at Auschwitz.

Lest, the world forget. For, in this new Century there are many People who would like to “Go the NAZI way”.

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS MAY, 2005.

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	5179	11297	10992	3523	3330	1957	1811	32910
	Um Pheim Mai	3335	6138	5863	2102	2020	1257	1137	18517
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8514</b>	<b>17435</b>	<b>16855</b>	<b>5625</b>	<b>5350</b>	<b>3214</b>	<b>2948</b>	<b>51427</b>
<b>NORTH</b>	Mae Ra Moe	2147	4604	4170	1406	1247	1000	981	13408
	Mae La Oo	2636	5326	4675	1722	1621	972	823	15139
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4783</b>	<b>9930</b>	<b>8845</b>	<b>3128</b>	<b>2868</b>	<b>1972</b>	<b>1804</b>	<b>28547</b>
<b>SOUTH</b>	Noh Poe	2446	4110	4129	1298	1195	901	926	12559
	Ban Dong Yang	849	1327	1466	480	438	220	196	4127
	Htam Him	1583	2435	2657	1009	1011	605	657	8374
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4878</b>	<b>7872</b>	<b>8252</b>	<b>2787</b>	<b>2644</b>	<b>1726</b>	<b>1779</b>	<b>25060</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>18175</b>	<b>35237</b>	<b>33952</b>	<b>11540</b>	<b>10862</b>	<b>6912</b>	<b>6531</b>	<b>105034</b>

## RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH.

FROM	CAMP	Rice 50 kg Sack	Salt Kilos	F-paste 15 -Kg Tins	Yellow Bean 60 Kilo/sack	Chilies Kilos	Cooking Oil 200 ltr	Charcoal 20 Kg Sacks	ASIA MIX 25kg Sack	Fire- wood m3
B.B.C	Umphiem Mai	5549	6100	924	290	2310	87	7308	1035	
	Mae La	13346	14574	2218	694	5537	208	17472	2474	
	Noe Poe	3895	4290	650	203	1625	61	5135	729	

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.

BBC- Support in Food and Shelter Material. BBC is also supporting with warm clothing for all the camps.

MSF- Support in Medical and Health facilities.

AMI- " " " " "

ARC- " " " " "

MHD- " " " " "

ZOA (ABWaid) - Support in Educational facilities Teachers' Training.

Consortium - Support in 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.

E- mail [win3@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:win3@loxinfo.co.th)

Ø (055)Intl: +66 55 532 947.

Fax:(055)Intl +66 55 546 869.