



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

JULY, 2005

Karen Refugee Committee
Monthly Report
July, 2005 – Newsletter

July was the name, given to the Seventh Month of the year by **Julius Caesar**, the Great Roman General and Statesman, born in Rome on July 12th, in 100 B.C. He rose to become one of the most powerful and ruthless rulers of the Roman Empire. He was to die at the hands of a group of men, including his best friend. He had become too dictatorial to be good for the People and the State.

Of Assassinations we remember one killing in Burma. On July 19th 1947. with Burma on the brink of Independence, the country's leaders, including **Bo Gyoke Aung Sann** were gunned down by dissidents during a Cabinet meeting. Bo Gyoke Aung Sann was none other than the father of Daw Aung Sann Suu Kyi, the present Opposition leader, who is still in Protective Custody. It is historical fact, that the country was in trouble even before Independence because of internecine struggles. Trouble increased, rather than decreased with Independence for the Country as more people and Groups are now involved in attempts to achieve control and power.

Speaking of Trouble, there was armed Insurgency by the then “Communists” and then the Ethnic Groups. There was also great dissent from Dissident Students and workers. To contain all these, the “Tatmadaw” under General Ne Win took over power to impose Dictatorial Rule on March 2nd 1962, and which aggravates rather than normalize the troubling situation countrywide. That Ne Win failed dismally is History.

On July 7th 1962, just a few months after the Military take-over, there were dissent demonstrations by the University Students of Rangoon. The demonstration was met by severe suppressive measures. The Military sent in troops into the University Compound and hundreds of Students died from the random firing by soldiers. Early, the next morning, the Students Union H/Q Building was blasted away by dynamite with some student activists' still hiding inside. It was one of the Brutal acts by the “Tatmadaw” on their own young students and which can never be forgotten. On looking back, the “Tatmadaw” leaders who ordered the “Blasting Away” were products of that same old building. And today's ruling Generals are of the same mold, following in the steps of the “Blasters” not wanting change which may affect their already tarnished image. Which is why the whole country has fallen into such a sorrowful and pitiful state.

This July 7th, we hear of explosions elsewhere, in **London** to be exact, when a series of bombs exploded, killing (56) and injuring many others. These assaults were not unexpected as Britain had ample warnings because of its participation in the Iraq War. The London bombings were followed by bombings at **Sharm-el Sheikh**, a resort town on the Red Sea in Egypt. (88) People were killed and over a hundred injured. Now what we are seeing is that bomb explosions are an everyday happening, which is indication that Terrorism for the sake of terrorizing people are on the increase. What is most distressing and saddening is that innocent people, even friends or sympathizers can become victims in

such attacks. They kill and they willingly die for their cause. There is very little regard for Human life by the perpetrators. For many, that can only be criminal.

For us, this month, there is need to remember, what happened in Srebrenica, a Town in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslavia. It was in July of 1995 that the Town was over-ran by Bosnia Serb Troops, and where there were acts of extreme brutality, Sex abuses, deportations and mass murder, perpetrated on the civilian population. An estimated (8000) men from the Town and the surrounding region are thought to have been massacred and buried in mass grave s. Even today, thousands of body bags have still to be analyzed and still twenty more mass graves to be exhumed. Many insist the killings were a hard fact of War and a justifiable act of revenge. Historically, the Town became part of the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 16th Century. It remained under Turkish control for almost (400) years. During the Bosnian Croatia Serbian War, Srebrenica was declared a Muslim enclave and Designated as one of the six Safe Havens by the United Nations. But the Town was over ran by Bosnian Serb Troops in July 1995, and which resulted in the Massacres. Seemed the meaning of “Safe Havens” need to be defined.

Such are events, which have historical connections and which seen to crop up from time to time. Justifiable or not, such happenings, if they were to continue, will lead only to the worst. One can only hope for wisdom to prevail.

This month, we have reason to remember one big explosion, (60) years ago on July 16th 1945. It was at Alamogordo in New Mexico, the United States, that the world's first “Nuclear Test Bomb” was exploded with a power equivalent to (20,000) tons of TNT. At the same time other similar Bombs were already on their way to a Pacific Island, where the B-29 crews were making preparations to drop them on Japanese Cities. The rest is History. Man is now in possession of the Ultimate Weapon. Now Several Nations are in Possession of the “Weapon.” Other Nations will follow suit. But the Question remains-what if “Bomb Happy” people were to come in possession of the Weapon? There can be no argument as to the intent and will of such People. Its just about Possession and when. Then, Nature is also doing its bit, with, Quakes, Tsunamis, Hurricanes, Rain-storm, Floods and Pestilence around the world.

Seems, the balancing features in Nature and of Man have become somewhat awry and outright dangerous.

K.R.C - Camps- Activities – Report.

July – 2005

◆ 4-7-05 – The K.R.C under the Camps Management Programme has implemented one Computer Training Class in Mae Sot. The Training period will be Two months, the aim being to train young people, who will have computer skills together with office-work capability.

◆ 6-7-05 – Report received from Noh Poe Camp Committee. There will now be an opportunity for Refugees to be resettled in Sweden where 200 applicants will be accepted. There will be interviews of applicants for Resettlement where preference will be given to –

- (1) Politically involved People.
- (2) Handicapped People.
- (3) Widows, People with Health Problems with no Care-takers.
- (4) People with Education.

There are thousands of applicants, which show that a large number of Refugees want Resettlement in a Third Country.

◆ 7-7-05 – I.C.S. Director met with KRC Education Co-ordinator and advised setting up an Ad-hoc Team each in Umphiem and Mae La Camps. The Team need to include the Head-Master/Mistress from all schools, and one School Committee Member. They will be responsible for –

- (1) Cost estimation of School Buildings for the next Academic Year.
- (2) To help with minimizing surplus and wastage in School Buildings.
- (3) For the Team to visit all schools, for the purpose of exchanging views, giving/getting information and counseling.

All the Head Masters /Mistresses, and school Committees agreed to setting up this Ad-hoc Team.

◆ 14-7-05 – There was meeting in Mae Sot, ZOA office with discussions concerning Vocational Training Processes. There were some misunderstanding between NGO staff and Camps Support Workers. There is need for improved communication and Co-ordination between NGO staff and Camp Workers.

◆ 18-7-05 – On July 18th 2005, there was Elections for the Camp Administrative Committee in Noh Poe Refugee Camp. An Election commission was formed with Influential Elders from the Camp. The K.R.C helps with overseeing and confirming the

Elected Committee Members. Authorities from the Thai MOI and Military helped participate in all the Processes.

♦ 19-7-05 – Um Phiem Camp – Meeting between School-Heads and Camps Educational Groups. In Um Phiem Zone (B), for this Academic year, there was a large number in the increase of School Children and there was need of more class-room space. But COERR, which have been helping with Zone (B) schools find it hard to provide sufficient support. For that matter, the KRC Education Coordinator will meet and discuss with ZOA and COERR for addressing the problem.

♦ 20-7-05 – TBBC and KRC met to discuss Questionnaire for Target Population for input to TBBC Strategic Planning.

♦ 22-7-05 – Mae La Camp – There was the signing of Agreements between AMI and Staff, witnessed signing by KRC and Camp Committee to help with works Efficiency, Commitments and Works Processes.

♦ 27-7-05 – KRC – Executive Members, Mae Sariang KRC Members, KRC Medical Co-ordinator together with MHD (Medical Team) Co-ordinators went to Mae Ra Ma Luang Refugee Camp. The Trip was related to the Dissent Incidence in MRM-Camp beginning May 16th, where there was disaffection among the Medical Workers. At one time, the dissent was so intense that even the Thai Authorities, UNHCR, ECHO and CCSDPT personnel participated in the effort to normalize the situation.

(3) Camps which is MaeLa, Umphiem and Noh Poe that situated in Tak Province, UNHCR are having the re-registration process includes taking photos of the refugees. On the 1st of June it was started in Noh Poe Camp and was accomplished in half a month. For Um Phiem, it started on June 21, 2005 and was finished on the 13th of July 2005. In Mae La Camp it was started on July 20th 2005. It will take about (2) months. Estimation that it will be accomplished by the first week of September 2005.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS JULY, 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	5200	11319	11012	3526	3331	2038	1888	33114
	Um Pheim Mai	3335	6338	5996	2188	2101	1328	1190	19141
Total		8535	17657	17008	5714	5432	3366	3078	52255
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2169	4680	4284	1401	1258	1028	999	13650
	Mae La Oo	2673	5127	4618	1590	1464	1122	1065	14986
Total		4842	9807	8902	2991	2722	2150	2064	28636
SOUTH	Noh Poe	2085	3894	3826	1326	1183	795	833	11857
	Ban Dong Yang	848	1335	1493	479	438	226	195	4166
	Htam Him	1658	2430	2653	1052	1049	584	626	8394
Total		4591	7659	7972	2857	2670	1605	1654	24417
Grand Total		17968	35123	33882	11562	10824	7121	6796	105308

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	Fire- wood m3
B.B.C	Umphiem Mai	5732	6110	954	300	2386	90	7566	1071	
	Mae La	13587	14893	2258	711	5646	212	17812	2507	
	Noe Poe	4035	4290	675	211	1688	63	5333	1134	

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.

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