



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST, 2005

Karen Refugee Committee
Monthly Report
August, 2005 – Newsletter

AUGUST was the name given to the Eighth Month of the year, by Augustus Caesar, the nephew and heir of Julius Caesar. He can be called the First Emperor of the Roman Empire, as Julius never attained that status. Julius Caesar was assassinated before he achieved his life ambition.

Augustus was a Man of War, and the month that was named after him came to be associated with destructions and deaths, Natural or otherwise.

On August 24th, A.D – 79, there was the Massive Eruption of Mount Vesuvius, in Italy which buried the Cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae under fiery rock, ash and Lava, killing thousands. There was the huge Volcanic Eruption of Mount Krakatau in the East Indies (Indonesia), on August 26, 1883 which killed an estimated (36000) and which was supposed to be the biggest explosion on record. The Eruption generated a Tsunami that even reached the shores of Africa and Europe.

The fascination with Explosive Power by Man has been continuing unto this Day with more and more people involved in attempting to achieve more Power to destroy and Kill.

The Power to destroy and kill was manifested on August 6th 1945, when the “Enola Gay” dropped an “Atomic Bomb” on the City of Hiroshima, in Japan. The “Bomb” literally wiped out the whole city. Another “Bomb” was to follow on the City of Nagasaki, with the same results and which led to the surrender of Japan, ending World War Two. What’s good was that it ended the World War. What’s bad was that it killed too many innocent people. At the same time, it made many people and Nations feel they need to possess that Destructive Power.

Today, many Nations are in Possession of that Explosive Power with many attempting for possession of the Power, citing the need, if only for deterring Aggression.

In Burma, it’s the Explosion of Sentiments that the People remember most. On the 8th of August 1988, there was the so called “Four Eights Movement” in which Burma’s Workers, Teachers and Students merge together to openly show their dissent of the Repressive Military Rulers. Taking to the streets all over Burma to protest, many were ruthlessly gunned down by the mercenaries following the comment by General Ne Win that “when soldiers shoot, they shoot straight”, The dead together with the injured are loaded onto trucks and dumped into the river. Many people have family members missing, unaccounted for unto this day.

These days, with the Unqualified, Illegal Military still running the country, there can be seen only the deep undercurrent of mismanagement and chaos, which is affecting the Country and the People as a whole. The whole country seem to be in a State of Isolation, Self imposed or otherwise which will only lead to Internal Fester and ruin.

Only recently, Burma had to renounce the “Chair” of ASEAN. The World Food Programme came out with the statement that up to Two-thirds of Burma’s Children are under-nourished, a far cry from the position of Burma being once considered the “Rice Bowl”. The Global Fund to help fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria amounting to million of Dollars was being withdrawn due to intolerable official interference and restrictions.

Then, there was the Official SPDC announcement that the Country has been totally rid of the scourge of Small-Pox and leprosy which was met by skepticism from many knowledgeable People. If driving lepers away from the Cities meant Eradication, there will be only cause for concern in the whole country.

Now in Burma, there is yet another rumour going the rounds-that there is the on-going Game of “Musical Chairs” among the ruling Generals, and which the man on the street will see it only as another Play by the Junta. Then it can mean deep trouble or simply “A Loke Ma Sheet, tharn Shar” “Nothing to do, looking for fleas”.

Around the World, its business as usual, only that its not improving any. Even Nature is losing “Balance”. Destructive Natural Forces are wreaking havoc in many parts of the world. There are Storms, Hurricanes, Rain-Floods, Fires, Haze, Volcanic Eruptions, Quakes, and Tsunamis. Even now, we are seeing Hurricane Katrina, with winds of over (150 mph), said to be the strongest on record, hitting the U.S South. At the time that we see Rain-Storms-Floods, in one part, we see droughts and Fires Raging in other parts of Europe and the U.S. and Asia. We are hearing of disease outbreaks, some we haven’t even heard of before. Nature is finding it difficult to maintain the Balance. Humanity is also facing this problem of keeping the Balance, with explosions, destructions and deaths every where. For that matter, states are attempting to have the Power to maintain the Balance, to have Power to Protect, to Deter. There is no question that many will be attempting for Nuclear Capability to maintain Balance, which will only be adding fuel to fire.

Mean time The Five Airline Crashes of recent weeks, in Canada, Greece, Venezuela, Peru and Sicily, with the total deaths of more than (300) are features that can be most troubling and scary. And, Crude is hitting the (\$-70) per barrel mark! All prices will surely go up. The world has become too much dependent on Oil.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS AUGUST, 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	11314	11008	3526	3331	2073	1931	33183
	Um Pheim Mai	3555	6389	6093	1923	1737	1431	1287	18860
Total		8755	17703	17101	5449	5068	3504	3218	52043
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2170	4687	4285	1401	1259	1027	1010	13669
	Mae La Oo	2664	5113	4608	1585	1458	1128	1085	14977
Total		4834	9800	8893	2986	2717	2155	2095	28646
SOUTH	Noh Poe	2315	4282	4166	1126	1176	842	815	12407
	Ban Dong Yang	848	1325	1527	479	438	228	204	4201
	Htam Him	1769	2545	2755	1091	1072	608	648	8719
Total		4932	8152	8448	2696	2686	1678	1667	25327
Grand Total		18521	35655	34442	11131	10471	7337	6980	106016

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- " " " " "

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 krc.academic@gmail.com.

Ø (055) Intl: +66 55 532 947.

Fax :(055) Intl +66 55 546 869