



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER, 2005

Karen Refugee Committee
Monthly Report
November, 2005 – Newsletter

November 2005 was just a few days old when news came out that Ethnic Shan Leaders including Shan National League for democracy Leader **Khun Tun Oo**, together with Shan Cease-Fire Leaders were arrested, tried and then sentenced to long years in prison. This was reconciliation, the way of the Generals. Then came the news that the SPDC Military Head-Quarters together with the Ministries will be shifted to an area near the Town of **Pyinmana** in Central Burma, 300 kilometers north of **Rangoon**.

These can be manifestations that the Junta is on the defensive, feeling insecure, despite the fact that the Democracy Leader **Daw Aung San Su Kyi** and over a thousand opposition Leaders and activists are behind bars, thoroughly deactivated. At the same time the SPDC is busy with its plan to go on with its Road Map-of holding the National Convention some time in December 2005, knowing very well that there is wide-spread dissent prevailing in the oppositions and in the Ethnic establishments. The SPDC is lending great effort to get the best people to participate in the National Convention-that is getting people who will simply nod in agreement to their every move.

But then, many people are quite sure that the way of the Generals will not do any good for the Country and People, in their illegitimacy, their inefficiency and in their hard-headed way of neglecting change for the better, interested only in maintaining total control; which can be achieved only through application of brute Force.

Around the world, we still see events that can be only discouraging. We see use of human and material explosives as an accepted way of addressing problems. We see attempts at achieving Nuclear Capability and Economic supremacy. This on top of the suffering and sorrow brought on by destructive Natural Forces. Then, there is the threat of **HIV/AIDS** and the **Epidemic Flu**. Dwindling natural resources will also be affecting many countries. In Burma, the raising of Petrol prices nine-fold is hitting the people really hard, ushering in other commodity price rises. For the Burmese People its “Kan Hsoe Ma Thwar Yar, Moe Like Lo Ywar” which is “where ever the unfortunate woman goes, heavy rain follows”.

This month, it would be helpful to remember what happened on the 9th of November 1938. What happened was (Kristallnacht), Night of Broken Glass, the beginning of the Anti-Semitic riots and destructions of Jewish Institutions in Germany and Austria. That was the beginning of Holocaust, the term depicting the **NAZI** annihilation of (6) million Jews, together with millions of other people including Gypsies, Poles, Ukrainian, Byelorussians, Homosexuals and the disabled.

These days, we are seeing highly placed people, wanting to dominate, wanting to do away with people, wanting to wipe out countries from the map.

With such people, having the Muscle and the Means to deliver, to be able to do what they believe, the world will indeed be a very dangerous place to live in.

K.R.C - Camps- Activities – Report.

November – 2005

◆ 4-11-05 – UNHCR, TBBC and MI (Malteser International) had a meeting in Soop Moei Township office in the presence of Township officials. There was decision to put up one Reception centre for newcomers to the two northern Camps. Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon Camp. The Reception Centre will be built near Mae Ra Ma Luang Camp between the Kataw stream and Section 6 of Mae Ra Ma Luang camp. MI will take the work of designing the Centre and structure, TBBC will supply building material and UNHCR to cover building work expenditures. The Reception Centre will have the capacity to hold (1000) people.

◆ 7-11-05 – Um phiem Refugee Camp.

According to the KRC Constitution, Refugee Camps are to hold Elections every two years to elect Camp Administrative Committee Members. So, an Election for the Administrative Committee was held in Um Phiem Camp on the 7th of November 2005 for this election year. The camp is no longer divided into 2 zones, but will be administered as a single zone with (15) sections. The Um Phiem Elections was held under the Supervision of the KRC. (21) Administrative Committee Members were elected.

◆ KRC/ Camps Committee Activities.

Starting with 24-9-05, and ending on 22/11/05. The KRC and Camps Committee Members from all the (7) Refugee Camps met in each individual camp to share information and went to each individual camp to share information and to join in workshops for capacity building, for Improvements in Camps Management, Communications, Cooperation and Coordination. There were also discussions for the purpose of raising the standards of Education, Health and Social Relations in the Camps.

◆ 16-11-05 – KRC Camps Affairs Coordinator, met with the Visiting Group from “Friends without Borders”. The Group included Mrs. Pin, a Thai Lawyer, Mr. Khan from IRC and a Lawyer from South Korea. Discussion centre on the Problems faced by the Camps People and also the possibility of introducing teaching Thai Laws in schools in the Academic year 2006-2007.

◆ 22-11-05 – 23-11-05 – IRC officials in cooperation with Camp Health Workers gave Health Education in THAM HIN CAMP. Education was related to the incidence, dangers and preventive measures against Bird Flu, which has become a threat in many countries.

◆ 4-11-05 – Camps Management Project meeting.

There was a meeting at KRC office where representatives related to Camps Management Project Works from Mae La, Um Phiem and Noh Poe Camps attended. Such meetings were held every 3 months and this meeting was the 5th meeting.

The Topic of the meeting being Proper Registration of the Camps Population, getting the Proper Eating Feeding Figures and the Extra needs of the Registered Population.

◆ Noh Poe Refugee Camp

◆ 2-11-05 – Camp Education meeting. Matters related to 4th and 7th standard Exam Questions were discussed.

◆ 4-11-05 – Camp's School Director Monthly Meeting. Where Teacher's Rewards, meeting needs and school building needs were discussed.

◆ 25-11-05 – SGBV – Day celebrated with sports activities, poem writing and reciting together with Arts Competitions.

Camp Monthly meeting held on 7-11-05. Where matters related to Education, Health, Food Supply/ Distribution, Security and Miscellaneous Activities.

The Karen New Year Sports activities began on 24-11-2005.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS NOVEMBER, 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	8617	15378	15100	4528	4159	3185	3067	45417
	Um Pheim Mai	3556	6272	6005	1894	1709	1466	1320	18666
Total		12173	21650	21105	6422	5868	4651	4387	64083
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2171	4252	3973	1274	1178	927	908	12512
	Mae La Oo	2737	5106	4644	1761	1578	1103	1087	15279
Total		4908	9358	8617	3035	2756	2030	1995	27791
SOUTH	Noh Poe	3250	4240	4117	1143	1191	839	821	12351
	Ban Dong Yang	887	1505	1606	492	448	256	222	4529
	Htam Him	1723	2499	2705	1022	1067	651	695	8639
Total		5860	8244	8428	2657	2706	1746	1738	25519
Grand Total		22941	39252	38150	12114	11330	8427	8120	117393

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 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.

E- Mail krc.academic@gmail.com.

Ø (055) Intl: +66 55 532 947.

Fax :(055) Intl +66 55 546 869