



# **KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

**DECEMBER, 2005**

**Karen Refugee Committee**  
**Monthly Report**  
**December, 2005 – Newsletter**

With December of 2005, we have come around again to Sweet December, the Month dedicated to Peace and Goodwill. The Month will also mean the end of the year. There will be joyful occasions. There will be getting together of families, of friends. There will be gifts. There will be merry – making and entertainments. But that will be for those who are fortunate, those who have the Rule of Peace, Equality and Justice. Fortunate Peoples are quite few and far between.

For the Karen Refugees, the unfortunate People, December would simply mean the passing of another year, another year of Refugee living in a Refugee Camp in another country, another year added to their Refugee Life. The life of deprivation, of the uncertainty, of fear, of stress, of frustration, and which has been going on for another year too long. It is only fitting that the Karen Refugees are called “Restless Souls”.

This December, for Peoples of Burma, there is caused to remember one connection; the connection between the much – disliked General Ne Win, who died on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2002 and the holding of the SPDC national convention on the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month. General Ne Win usurped power, through force of arms, from the Elected Civilian Government on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1962. He formed the Government to rule with his ill – conceived policy of “The Burmese Way to Socialism” but which failed dismally, taking the country downwards into the fold of the “The least Developed Countries”.

Today, the SLORC / SPDC Junta, who simply are the Disciples of the despised and dead General Ne Win, and who are in Power only through Force of Arms are now attempting to push through their Road Map, in the hope of holding on to Despotism.

The National Convention held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2005, was a part of the Road Map, which aim can only be that of Consolidation and Perpetuation of Military Rule in Burma. The National Convention is being held at a secluded and tightly guarded place, attended by a thousand selected Delegates including many Ethnic groups in their multicolored dresses, who would only say “Aye” and nod in agreement, to whatever the SPDC wants. The outcome will not be difficult to tell. Many will take it only as Negative, never to be taken to heart. This month of December, we remember of another connection.

On December 17<sup>th</sup> 1903, the Wright Brothers of North Carolina, U.S.A, were able to achieve the First Flight on a Machine at Kitty Hawk. It lasted only 12 seconds, but it was to usher in an Era of Flight and Flying Machines. It was a big step – forward for Mankind, a big development in terms of travel and commerce. But then it can be likened to a two edged sword. We see of flying machines used to destroy, to kill, to subdue. We see the breath – taking attacks on Pearl Harbor. We see Airplanes dropping Atomic Bombs to wipe off whole cities. We see the attacks on the world Trade Centre. We see human – in –

machine suicide bombers. There can be no doubt that we will be seeing such killings and destructions for many, many more days to come.

This December, we also need to remember one big Natural destructive force that unleashed its might on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2004, leaving over 230,000 dead, with many injured, many unaccounted for. What is quite apparent is that Humanity is quite helpless in the face of such destructive forces. Still there are other Destructive Natural Forces that Man has to contend with. And there is need to be aware that there's the HIV/ AIDS – the Bird flu. Then, the evil in Man, Terrorism, need not be taken lightly.

However, with the end of year 2005, Humanity can take comfort from the fact that there are positive facets that came out from Human effort.

We see great advances in Science, Technology, and Medicine. We see great Efforts to help with the destructive Tsunamis, Storms, The Earthquakes and other Natural forces. We see efforts to help with the Environment, with Infections and Diseases. We see efforts to minimize or contain Terrorism.

Lastly, we can take strength from what his Majesty, the King of Thailand had said in his Good – will message, where he stressed the importance of a clear, calm mind to bring about consciousness and right judgments, to create understanding and return each other's compassion, and to strive for a healthy life filled with fortune, honor, peace and security.

The Good – will message will not only be good for the People of Thailand, but also for each and everyone who call Mother Earth their Home.

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

### **December – 2005**

◆ 1/ 12/ 2005 – Noh Poe Camp – Health Awareness Activities in Camp.

- 1<sup>st</sup> December – HIV / AIDS Day – Awareness.
- Group Health Care Activities – ARC related to Disease Prevention Activities.
- AMI – for – Hospital Care Activities.
- DARE – Activities for Drugs Abuse Prevention and Education.

◆ 30/ 12/ 2005 – All Karen Refugee Camps Celebrate Karen New Year day which falls on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2005.

There were Ceremonies with Presentation of Gifts Good-will Speeches, Don Dances, Sporting Events and other Festive Activities.

◆ 30/ 12/ 2005 – Coinciding with the Karen New Year Day, there were Ceremonies where the Refugee Elderly People were revered in all Seven Camps together with Gifts and Entertainments. Support from the KARENAID. U.K. of ENGLAND, facilitated by Mrs. Mary Bolster and Mr. John Stamp.

◆ 31/ 12/ 2005 – At the end of the Year, Refugees are informed of the Good News that Refugees in (9) Camps in the Border Provinces will be taught the Thai Language starting the New Year under the Non – Formal Education Commission's Educational Service Programme. The Programme can be very positive and is surely to be welcomed by all Refugees.

◆ December 15<sup>th</sup> 2005.

Election of Camp Administrative Committee, held on 15-12-2005 in Tham Hin Refugee Camp. Ratchaburi District.

**Elected Camp Committee – Tham Hin Refugee Camp.**

1. Chairperson – Naw Beh Beh Zoo
2. Vice Chairperson – Naw Minchel
3. General Secretary – Saw Ler Wah
4. Assistant Secretary 1 – Naw Paw Lily
5. Assistant Secretary 2 – Saw Kho Part Hso
6. Quarter Master – Saw Ler
7. Camp Affairs Co-ordinator 1 – Saw Maung Bya
8. Camp Affairs Co-ordinator 2 – Saw Daniel Thein
9. Social Affairs - Naw Dee Dee Moo
10. Committee Member – Saw Hla Shwe
11. Education Coordinator – Saw Bready
12. Member – Saw Lah Say
13. Member – Saw Hla Shwe
14. Security – Saw Aung Ba
15. Auditor – Saw Hsa Lu Pe

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS DECEMBER, 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	8613	16579	15265	4699	4278	3354	3191	47366
	Um Pheim Mai	3569	6412	6114	1924	1738	1516	1380	19084
<b>Total</b>		<b>12182</b>	<b>22991</b>	<b>21379</b>	<b>6623</b>	<b>6016</b>	<b>4870</b>	<b>4571</b>	<b>66450</b>
<b>NORTH</b>	Mae Ra Moe	2179	4271	3996	1278	1181	934	933	12593
	Mae La Oo	2739	5105	4646	1763	1578	1125	1114	15331
<b>Total</b>		<b>4918</b>	<b>9376</b>	<b>8642</b>	<b>3041</b>	<b>2759</b>	<b>2059</b>	<b>2047</b>	<b>27924</b>
<b>SOUTH</b>	Noh Poe	3250	4240	4117	1143	1191	839	821	12351
	Ban Dong Yang	949	1537	1650	492	447	264	230	4620
	Htam Him	1719	2492	2697	1071	1065	665	703	8693
<b>Total</b>		<b>5918</b>	<b>8269</b>	<b>8464</b>	<b>2706</b>	<b>2703</b>	<b>1768</b>	<b>1754</b>	<b>25664</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>23018</b>	<b>40636</b>	<b>38485</b>	<b>12370</b>	<b>11478</b>	<b>8697</b>	<b>8372</b>	<b>120038</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- " " " " "

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.

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