

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE



MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER, 2006

Karen Refugee Committee
Monthly Report
September, 2006 – Newsletter

With September, we have come around, again, to remember the Day in 2001, September 11th, the so-called 9/11, when the world was shocked to see the Suicidal Attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States of America. The attacks, carried out by a group of fanatical, single minded young “martyrs”, showed that any target, whether military or otherwise, however well-guarded and seemingly safe, can be hit and destroyed, if only people are dedicated enough to die for the cause they believe in.

There surely is no shortage of such zealots, as shown by the 9/11 assaults together with suicidal bombers and sure-death missions that we are seeing on a daily basis around the World today. Life, which is precious, seems to be cheaper than the Beliefs, the Causes of many peoples, these Days. The question is whether these sacrifices in Human Lives, achieve any positive out-comes for humanity as we are seeing, more sacrifices and deaths following sacrifices and deaths.

Going back further to 1939, on the First of September 1939, Adolf Hitler, the German Dictator, embarked on his Conquest venture, by ordering the Invasion of Poland. The result was that Britain and France had no alternative, but to declare War on Germany. Thus, Hitler’s venture led to WW II, which led to killing and maiming, deaths and destructions, sorrow and sufferings, never witnessed before. Japan also joined in the frightening event, wreaking havoc in the East-Asia- Pacific Region. As a result, it became the only country to be hit by the Ultimate Weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. There is also need to be aware that the “Weapons” that annihilated Hiroshima and Nagasaki were just mediocre explosives, compared to today’s Megaton Giants possessed by many Nations. Also, there need not be forgotten, that WW II began, literally on the whim of a single, Power-mad individual.

Again, going back to 1988. On September 18th 1988 – A group of “Tatmadaw Generals” took over Power in a “Coupe” that can only be another step in the Coup d’etat of General Ne Win of 1962, when the Burma “Tatmadaw” or “Army” ousted the Elected Civilian Government of PM – U Nu. General Ne Win cited the need to “Save the Union” for his Power takeover. However after (26) years of Ne Win’s Rule, where there was only backwards graduation for the country, awareness on the part of the common people, for need of change was widely manifested. There was the Peaceful Movement led by the “students” and which was brutally crushed by the “Military”. So, the “Coupe” of 1988 led by General Saw Mg was just another step, the changing of the Guards by younger Generals, with the same intent of total control by the “Tatmadaw”.

The “Tatmadaw”, the SPDC Generals are now saying there will be change. The fact is that there will be change, but only with the “Tatmadaw” on Top. Only a few days ago, (3) student leaders, activists in 1988, and who were recently released from long years in prison,

are re-arrested again. Hope that the “Tatmadaw” will relent and change will still be an illusion for the suffering peoples of Burma. As for the SPDC’s National convention, one can only say that the “Representatives” would be just Tatmadaw “Select Peoples” and how they will vote can never be doubted. An Ethnic Village Headman was given the opportunity to be a representative at the National Convention. He was told to “preen” himself up to go and sit there, to provide a good “photo image” and vote “Secretly as Directed”.

In Thailand, this month, we see the Military Coup ousting the Government of PM Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra. Although a Coup, it can be seen as a somewhat milder form of transitional effort, as there was no fighting, no bloodshed, whatever. With the Name of CDR, Council for Democratic Reform, there can be room for hope to see good, acceptable changes for the country. It is most encouraging to see that there is no curfew, no censorship, with people going about their Normal Lives. This could be the Positive, Gentle stamp of the King of Thailand, prevailing over those whoever are in power. Authority and Guidance by the Monarchy is helping greatly. Personally, the King commands great Respect, Loyalty and Universal love which is room for hope and optimism.

Elsewhere, around the world, we still see and hear a lot of conflicts, bomb explosions and deaths, which seems to be a daily affair. Also, this month, we hear of a country, planning to construct a long Border – Wall to keep out alien, migrant workers from entering the country illegally. The picture we see is that many simple, hard working peoples have difficulty in finding honest, proper living support means in their own environment. The result is that there is need for them to seek life sustenance elsewhere, away from home, many working in foreign countries, in uncertain, perilous conditions. We see this in the Americas, in Africa – South Europe, in Asia – Australia. Such features are the result of many Governments that are “Failures”. We would not know how many failed Governments are representing their Poor, troubled peoples, in the exalted UN Body. Yet, they are “There”, very welcome, tolerated and accepted as “Friends”. There was the debate on Burma in the UN recently but no one will expect “Good outcomes”. The UN is losing credibility for not being able to function properly, simply because of the “Same Feathers” in the UN flock.

However, this month we are hearing of some good turns where Big Money and Big Hearts meet.

We hear of Mr. George Soros pledging \$ 50m to help with the Anti-poverty works in Poor African Villages. That amount was being matched by other Donors to bring in \$ 100 million for the Project.

Also, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation unveiled a joint \$ 150 million pledge to help hunger and poverty in Africa, by helping small farmers become more productive. On top of that, Many Countries and Donor Groups are helping with needy and “Homeless” peoples which could only be the Big Hearts throbbing, despite all the Evils inherent in Man. There can still be hope for the Future.

K.R.C – Camps – Activities – Report.

September – 2006

★ 8.9.2006 Mae La Oo Refugee Camp

Local Thai National Security council Authorities met with the Camp Committee and discussed matters related to New Arrivals coming into the Camp.

★ 9.9.2006 In Mae La Camp.

There was the Cultural Exchange workshop, where there was participation by the Camp's Cultural Group, the local Karen Community Representatives and CBO, work Groups.

There was Exchange of Karen Cultural Traditions and Values including historical back grounds, local Folklores, Music, Songs and Poems.

★ 12 +13.9.2006 TBBC/Camp Committees activities in Mae La Oo Camp. There was Training / workshop in the Camp, related to Management / Report with regard to Food and Material Support to the Camps/ Population.

★ 13.9.2006 K.R.C Executive Committee Members visited Mae Ra Ma Luang Camp. There was the meeting with the Camp Committee and the Distribution Sector, where Support with Non Rice Needs are discussed and agreed upon.

★ 14.9.2006 The Same K.R.C Committee Members visited Mae La Oo Camp, where there was meeting and agreement with the Camp Committee and Distribution sector for receipt and distribution of Extra Needs.

The Proper distribution process for distributing Extra Needs have now been set up in all (7) Refugee Camps.

★ 16 - 30.9.2006 UNHCR Slip holders to be accepted in Refugee Camps, Noh Poe and Umphiem after being assessed by the P.A.B (Provisional Admission Board). 1800 in Noh Poe Camp and 700 in Umphiem Camps, a total of 2500 New Arrivals will be accepted in these Camps Shelter and Support needs for them are already in Place for them in the Camps.

C.M.P Camps Management Program works in all Camps are continuing, with needs in Support and monitoring of statistical Figures; related to Population, Distribution, Reporting. Camps Management Program is also involved with Extra Needs.

Resettlement – there have been problems in Camps with replacement for work service people who are leaving for resettlement in a third country: Refugees are now resettled in Small Groups, Mae La, Htam Him, Bang Don Young, Umphiem, Mae Ra Moo, Mae La Oo. Camps people in groups are leaving for resettlement, in Australia, New Zealand, Canada Sweden, Norway and Finland.

★22.9.2006 Soop Moei District officials visit mae La Oo Refugee Camp. They gave Information; make Explanation relating to the Taking over of Power by the Council for Democratic Reform (CDR) headed by General Sonthi Boonyaratkalin.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS SEPTEMBER, 2006.

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	9,684	16,831	16,141	5,166	4,640	3,524	3,528	49,830
	Um Pheim Mai	3,734	7,057	6,772	1,921	1,762	1,535	1,345	20,392
	Total	13,418	23,888	22,913	7,087	6,402	5,059	4,873	70,222
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,564	5,100	4,799	1,633	1,496	1,103	1,090	15,221
	Mae La Oo	2,725	5,524	5,044	1,704	1,532	1,133	1,100	16,037
	Total	5,289	10,624	9,843	3,337	3,028	2,236	2,190	31,258
SOUTH	Noh Poe	3,723	4,893	4,575	1,410	1,396	889	836	13,999
	Ban Dong Yang	996	1,481	1,569	371	360	339	309	4,429
	Htam Him	1,823	3,091	3,154	1,045	1,049	759	677	9,775
	Total	6,542	9,465	9,298	2,826	2,805	1,987	1,822	28,203
	Grand Total	25,249	43,977	42,054	13,250	12,235	9,282	8,885	129,683

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.

AM I – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

ARC – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

M. I (Malteser International) formerly MHD – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

ZOA (ABW aid) – Support in Educational facilities Teachers' Training.

World Education / 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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