



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER, 2006

Karen Refugee Committee

Monthly Report

November, 2006 – Newsletter

In the beginning, the month of November was designated the Ninth Month of the year. But it was shifted, later, (2) steps back to become the Eleventh Month. The reason was that two conceited persons wanted to commemorate themselves to Perpetuity; Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar designated their namesakes as the Seventh and Eight months (July and August) of the year. Thus the Month November being shifted to become the Eleventh Month of the year. Such was the conceit in Man.

On November 1st, 1952, the first Hydrogen Device Explosion was conducted in the Pacific, by the United States. The Explosion was hundreds of times more powerful than the destructive force of the Atomic Bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945 near the end of WW II. There can be no argument that the Hiroshima Bomb was powerful enough to completely destroy, eliminate, the whole city and its people. The destructive Force of the Hydrogen Bomb can only be formidable, terrible.

Today, the hydrogen weapons are already possessed by the world's Super Powers, and maybe a few aspiring powers. There surely would be more aspirant countries pursuing that power.

Weapons are supposed to be for Protection, Safety. But, looking at the picture, in the world that we are in today, it is questionable whether possession of such awful Destructive Power by many People will surely give Protection, Security or Good-living. In fact, there can be more of suspicion, fear.

Some are even saying that the feature of Nuclear weapons can be likened to the Sword of Damocles, hanging over the world. The world can be rid of all life within a matter of minutes.

In the later months of 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte, with his invincible Grande Armee of (453000) men, launched the massive invasion on Russia. But the out come was one, that was not expected. By November of 1812, the Grande Armee was in total disarray, defeated, not so much by the Russians, but by the "winter" fighting on the side of the Russians.

Russian "winter" also played a big part in the defeat of the NAZI German Army by the Russians during World War II.

These days, the weather will be one great factor that will affect humanity. Even now, we are hearing and seeing a lot of weather affectations. We hear of the Global warming and what's expected of the rise in Temperature, World-wide. We hear of the rise in Temperatures around the world, resulting in the melting and breaking of Ice-shelves, the

rising sea-level, the floating of Ice-Bergs, where they are not supposed to be – which reminds us that the “Unsinkable” Titanic was sunk by an Ice-berg of all things. Then we hear of the expansion of deserts, prolonged draughts, scarcity of water, destructions and misuse of Resources. We hear of the El Nino coming and affecting many parts of the world. We hear of the rising sea level and of the expected affectations on the World’s Low-lying regions.

Elsewhere around the world, we are seeing a lot of human dissent and extremist features. People in the best position to know are already speaking out about the inevitable move towards out breaks of severe fighting, even Civil wars in Areas of Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq. And there are still more places where there is expectation of conflicts.

In Burma this month, Burma’s Military Junta ordered ICRC (The International Committee of the Red Cross) to close down all the Agency’s offices outside of Rangoon – in Mandalay and in the Ethnic States Townships of Maw La Myine, Hpa An, Taung Gyi and Chiang Tung. The Junta also denied ICRC Visits to Prisons.

Meantime, the SPDC’s Road Map, for perpetuation of Tatmadaw Rule, is still on going. The SPDC Junta Chief is now obsessed with setting up a New Dynastic Imperial Capital at Pyinmana, complete with the exact Replica of the Shwe Dagon.

A splendid “Nay Pyi Daw” will surely emerge. But how much of “Sweat and Tears” confiscations, dislocations, forced labour, forced contributions, environment destructions will be involved can only be a matter of conjecture.

In the United Nations, pressure is mounting to put Burma on the UN Agenda. But for the Ruling Junta, it will be just “Kywe Bar Saung Tee” – playing “Music to the Buffalo”. For the suffering peoples though, it will be just their fate - that they are “In this Place, in this condition, at this time”.

As for the Karen Refugees, all indications are that they will have to go somewhere – some place. The country of Origin will in no way accept them back. The Host country will have trouble accepting them. Top consideration would be the Future of the Young Refugees.

Many Sympathetic Peoples and countries are opening up Resettlements for them. Many will be going for the sake of their Young. Movements of People can be problematic. But, no one, especially Refugees can be faulted for wanting a Good Future. A Good Personage, however, is needed to go along with a Good Future.

**Karen Refugee Committee
Mae Sot – Thailand.**

K.R.C – Camps – Activities – Report.

November – 2006

★3.11.2006 C.M.P Quarterly meeting at K.R.C office All Responsible for Central and Camps C.M.P works activities attended the meeting where relevant issues were discussed .

★6.11.2006 Camps Education Discussions

★7.11.2006 K.R.C Education Co-coordinator together with ICS Facilitators, work visits to Um Phiem and Mae La Camps. Distribution of Teaching / Learning Material / Stationery in Schools in the Camps.

★7.11.2006 Meeting / Discussions / Sharing Information on Refugee Resettlement in the United States – U.S. Delegation Headed by Ms. Whitney Reitz, Camps (M.O.I), I.O.M Mr. Hans R. Beckers, U.N.H.C.R, K.R.C, Camp Committee and K.W.O members took part in meeting, Q and A Session. Discussed were matters related to Refugees Resettlement.

★7.11.2006 Mae La Camp. Evening;
Mae La Camp. Some Youths, confrontation with Thai Camp Security Personnel. Conflict result in some personnel injuries, and destruction of M.O.I office facilities and cars.

★8.11.2006 Mae La Camp - Camp Commander (M.O.I), Thai Military and Civil Authorities, K.R.C, Camp Committee, Camp Community Elders meet to resolve the conflict Problem of the Previous Evening. There was agreement to resolve the matter in harmony and understanding, with both sides admitting to their weaknesses and failures.

★13.11.2006 Mae La Camp Commander's Representatives, K.R.C, the Camp Committee, Executive Committee, Members and Zone Section leaders met and made discussions in the C.C. office. There was agreement by all to resolve the matter peacefully at the Camp level. All responsible personnel, groups to cooperate and activate towards achieving stability, maintenance of Law and order, and for understanding and harmony. Grievances are to be addressed in Trust and Goodwill.

★17.11.2006 K.R.C members Visit Um Phiem. There was the Assembled meeting where the incident at Mae La on the 7th evening was discussed and clarifications made. Efforts by all responsible, people being needed to keep the Refugee Camps Normal and stable. For that matter, responsible People need to be aware and alert to destabilizing factors that can arise from time to time, and to be able to prevent or address dissent problems.

★17.11.2006 K.R.C Education Coordinator and N.H.E.C Education Committee Meet, Discussions on Refugee Camps Education. Request made by N.H.E.C for K.R.C participation in facilitating Refugee Camps Education Processes.

★21.11.2006 ZOA – K.R.C meet.

★21.11.2006 Discussions on preparatory measures for Academic year 2007 Education in Refugee Camps.

★23.11.2006 K.R.C Education Coordinator work / visit Mae Ra Ma Luang Camp. Hold meetings with school heads and Teachers. Help with Guidelines / Advise for addressing Problem, Issues, related to Camps Schools / Education.

★28.11.2006 Social Problems

Led by K.R.C Social Affairs Coordinator Saw Bwe Say, (15) Camps Committee Members from Mae La Oo, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Mae La, Um Phiem and Noh Poe make work visits to Bang Don Yang and Tham Hin Refugee Camps in the South. This work visit is the First of its kind that Refugee Camps leaders make visits to other camps and where Camps Leaders from all (7) Karen Refugee Camps meet together. The visit / get together being helped facilitated by ZOA and the Thai Ministry of Interior Officials, to whom great Appreciation and Gratitude was due.

★30.11.2006 there was the meeting at Um Phiem Camp where K.R.C, the Camp committee and the Camps Judiciary Committee met for discussion. The meeting / discussion was for the purpose of sharing Knowledge and information on the judiciary processes in the Camps. Discussions also dealt with preparatory needs in anticipation of Judicial Matters to be addressed by Thailand's and International laws in Refugee Camps, and which could be seen as an attempt to improve the Judiciary processes in the Camps, and which will greatly benefit Refugees.

★30.11.2006 U.N.H.C.R Lawyers and Thai Lawyers' Group Visit K.R.C. There was exploratory Talks on the provision of proper and effective Judiciary Processes in all Refugee Camps, where there would be participation by U.N.H.C.R, the Thai Law Advisory Group, the Local Thai Authorities, the K.R.C The Camps Leaders and Support NGOs.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS NOVEMBER, 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	9,693	16,980	16,334	5,335	4,876	3,318	3,219	50,062
	Um Pheim Mai	3,728	7,043	6,756	1,919	1,758	1,585	1,383	20,444
	Total	13,421	24,023	23,090	7,254	6,634	4,903	4,602	70,506
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,603	5,160	4,840	1,623	1,508	1,101	1,136	15,368
	Mae La Oo	2,758	5,494	5,001	1,698	1,538	1,161	1,130	16,022
	Total	5,361	10,654	9,841	3,321	3,046	2,262	2,266	31,390
SOUTH	Noh Poe	4,373	5,546	5,061	1,525	1,497	996	968	15,593
	Ban Dong Yang	996	1,510	1,590	317	357	376	346	4,496
	Htam Him	1,642	2,671	2,755	909	917	705	621	8,578
	Total	7,011	9,727	9,406	2,751	2,771	2,077	1,935	28,667
	Grand Total	25,793	44,404	42,337	13,326	12,451	9,242	8,803	130,563

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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