



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER, 2006

Karen Refugee Committee

Monthly Report

December, 2006 – Newsletter

With December of 2006, we have come around again to the month dedicated to Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Man.

This being the end of the year, many People will be rightly saying that the passing year has been just another Turbulent year, one with very little of Peace and Good will.

Almost continuously, through the year, some place, some where in this world, we hear and see of People being killed, maimed or made to suffer badly. We see the Political and Religious Strifes. We see sectarian Violence. We see Misrule. We see Greed, Exploitations, Corruptions.

Then we see destructions, sufferings brought on by Natural Forces, Storms, Rain Floods, Quakes and Fires. We see destruction of the environment and then dwindling Resources, rising of living costs, which give rise to quarrels and contentions. The scourge of Diseases wreaking havoc is also one turbulence that will still be with us.

In Burma, in this turbulent year, the Feature is one that surely is not encouraging.

In the Karen Mountains, Church Bells that used to Toll ushering in Sweet December has fallen completely silent. This was, in no small part due to the establishment of the “Royal Capital” or “Nay Pyi Daw” at Pyinmana. The mountains and the valleys, east of Pyinmana are home to the Ethnic, Shan, PaO, Karenni and Karen, which Peoples are looked on with Suspicion and distrust by the Ruling Junta. Now, these people and villages have become “Security Risks” for the Nay Pyi Daw and whole villages with their population are being made to shift forcefully, which results in a vast Humanitarian Crisis. Thousands of those displaced people are seeking, safety, refuge, some place, somewhere. These suppressive moves can be taken as the decisive “Cut” by the Military Junta on these Local People, who are barely surviving from the Long Years of the “4-Cuts” imposition. There was the saying “Kyu Bin Koke – Kyu Ngoke Ma Chan” which meant, “Cut the Reed-Leave not the Stump.

With the end of the year, it is most likely that there will be a new feature with the Karen Refugees.

In the beginning Karen Refugees are simply people running away from the immediate danger, seeking temporary refuge / safety, with hopes of returning home, when things change for the better. For there's no better place than “Home Sweet Home”. But with the passing of years and with conditions deteriorating, going back has become just a dream, further, dimmer. Surviving on the Goodwill of others-drawn out can never be the good

living. There is the need to keep up with the Pride of self-serving, self-sufficiency. There is the worry for the future, for the young who will certainly have to face LIFE with limitations in skill, knowledge and capacity.

Now that there are openings by sympathetic Peoples and Countries, to help with “Resettlement”, many will be taking the opportunity to look for the future – somewhere, some place. Considering the situation, the conditions, the Refugees would feel, that there will be nothing to lose to resettle. They are certain they will get the good life in places where there is Rule “of the People, by the People and For the People”.

Still, many will not be going.

So, whether People are going away or whether they are not going, it will be Good to remember that “Goodness stay with the Good People and those with the failure syndrome will surely fail. That is the inescapable fact of life.

And, with the passing of the year, it will be Good to reflect on the passing away of Great Men.

We can reflect on the Death of President Milosevic, accused of Genocide and spent his last Days in Prison. We can reflect on the death of President Pinochet, who died while still facing charges for his Harsh.-Repressive Rule. Then, we can reflect on the Death of President Gerald Ford, who died peacefully and was honored by the whole Nation. Lastly, we can reflect on the last moment of President Saddam Hussein, who died on the Gallows.

One, to his own.

K.R.C – Camps – Activities – Report.

December – 2006

✧ 4/12/06 – KRC Executive Committee – facilitated a Meeting with the Mae La Camp Committee, where there was information sharing, discussion of matters related to improvement in Regulatory measures for the purpose of Camp Stability, and keeping of the law and order. There was information sharing on setting up of a Judiciary establishment in Camps to help with law and order.

✧ 6/12/06 – There occurred the Murder and suicide case in Mae La Camp – Zone A-section 5. Saw Pah Lee of No- 123- (U.N- Reg. No. 020216). Stabbed and killed his wife Naw Mu Seh and then committed suicide. Tha Song Yang police made investigations.

✧ 6/12/06 – Mae La Oo Camp – Camp Committee, Section Leaders meet with U.N.H.C.R Coordinators- Discussed were matters related to Resettlement of Refugees to Third Countries. There are many who have applied for Resettlement and among them are those want to cancel their application for Resettlement. U.N.H.C.R. would like to have prior notification of their decisions. UNHCR will be conducting Resettlement Interviews during the first week of January 2007.

✧ 14/12/06 – There was the work – visit to K.R.C by UNHCR- chief Coordinator Ms. Elizabeth Kirton and Ms. Kay Bellor (OPE) U.S overseas processing Entity. There was exchange of views on matters related to Resettlement of Refugees to third countries.

✧ 17/12/06 – World Peace Day. Celebrated in Mae La Oo Camp, Participated by Camp Committee members, Section Groups, CBOs and Religions organization. There were messages on “Peace” by Group Leaders, together with lighting of Candles, to wish for Peace and Goodwill.

✧ 19/12/06 – Karen New Year Day Celebration in Mae La Oo Camp. K.R.C Executive Committee attended. There was the group meeting with the camp leaders where “Resettlement” for Refugees in Third Countries was discussed.

✧ 19/12/06 – Karen New Year Day- Celebrated in Mae La Oo Camp, where Camp Residents, the NGOs together with the Malteser International NGO workers participated. There were Messages by the Karen Leadership to remember the Efforts and achievements of those who worked for the Welfare and survival of the People as a whole. There was also video shows for the purpose of effort and Unity for the progress of the Karen People as a whole, wherever they are. There was the picture show where recorded Meetings of leadership from Mae La Oo, Mae Ra Moe, Mae La,Umphiem, Noh Poe, Ban Don Yah and Tham Him camps were screened.

✧ 27/12/06 – K.R.C – Executive visit Noh Poe Camp.

Discussion held with Camp's Committee for Elections. The Tenure of the Present Camp Committee end in April of 2007- and new Election will have to be held by the end of that Tenure.

✧ 27/11/06 to 2/12/06 – K.R.C, Camp Leaders- Joint Activities K.R.C, members together with Camp's Representatives from Mae La Oo, Mae Ra Moe, Mae La, Umhiem, and Noh Poe – altogether (14) members make visits to Tham Him and Don Yang Refugee Camps. It was the follow up to the "Chiang Mai" workshop with the purpose of promoting Relationships, in Communications, and Cooperation between Refugee Camps. The meeting also dealt with measures for Camps improvement in Capacity, Qualifications and shared Responsibilities. The Activity was helped/supported by the Mae La Camp Commander and ZOA.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS DECEMBER, 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	9,686	16,958	16,315	5,330	4,872	3,366	3,280	50,121
	Um Pheim Mai	3,725	7,017	6,739	1,917	1,757	1,605	1,400	20,435
	Total	13,411	23,975	23,054	7,247	6,629	4,971	4,680	70,556
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,626	5,204	4,963	1,615	1,465	1,108	1,140	15,495
	Mae La Oo	2,748	5,586	5,092	1,712	1,565	1,026	928	15,909
	Total	5,374	10,790	10,055	3,327	3,030	2,134	2,068	31,404
SOUTH	Noh Poe	4,510	5,669	5,150	1,539	1,494	1,023	991	15,866
	Ban Dong Yang	996	1,511	1,586	376	360	383	360	4,576
	Htam Him	1,642	2,671	2,755	909	917	705	621	8,578
	Total	7,148	9,851	9,491	2,824	2,771	2,111	1,972	29,020
	Grand Total	25,933	44,616	42,600	13,398	12,430	9,216	8,720	130,980

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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