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**MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**AUGUST**

**2006**

# **Aim and Objectives of Mon Relief and Development Committee**

## **Aim:**

Provide temporary shelters, basic needs and development assistance to refugees and the displaced persons who become homeless and helpless situation due to the oppression of Rangoon military regimes in Mon territory along Thailand-Burma border.

## **Objectives:**

1. To help the welfares of the refugees in border areas and IDPs who are displaced inside the country, with foods, shelter and possible protection.
2. To coordinate with local Mon people in developing the grassroots community in the fields of health, education, literacy, agriculture and other rural development projects.
3. To empower the local community for the participation of decision making processes for their own lives and communities.
4. To struggle for the human rights.

## **The Organization of Mon Relief and Development Committee**

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1. Nai Wongsala Pala</b> | <b>- Chairman</b>          |
| <b>2. Nai Kasau Mon</b>     | <b>- Vice Chairman</b>     |
| <b>3. Nai Win Tint</b>      | <b>- General Secretary</b> |
| <b>4. Nai Nyansatowl</b>    | <b>- Joint Secretary</b>   |
| <b>5. Mi Seikyanda</b>      | <b>- Administrator</b>     |
| <b>6. Mi Wing Ah Bloa</b>   | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>6. Nai Chit Nyunt</b>    | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>7. Nai Tay Jae</b>       | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>8. Nai Glae</b>          | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>9. Nai Lawi Ong</b>      | <b>- Member</b>            |

## **Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee (August 2006)**

### **Situation in Mon State related to Population Displacement**

Although there is no armed fighting in northern part and middle part of Mon State, because of the ceasefire agreement between the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Rangoon regime, SPDC, but the Mon civilians have suffered from abuses related to the regime's development programs. But the situation in southern part of Mon State, especially in Ye Township has unchanged and the troops of Burmese Army still operates 'offensives' against a Mon splinter.

In Mon State, there are both development induced and conflict induced displacements from which hundreds of Mon villagers have to flee from their communities. The demarcated 12 ceasefire zones under the administration of NMSP are safest areas for the IDPs. But sometimes, when the troops of Burmese Army closely passed near the area, IDPs are still suffering from the abuses such as forced conscription of porters and food extortion.

Like in many areas of entire Burma, the Mon State PDC authorities have forced the people in most Townships and villages to grow physic nuts (castor oil plants) with an objective to produce bio-diesel in the future energy sector. They had to grow at least some plants in front of their houses and while many of them were forced to grow in their plantations or gardens. Some farmers have to provide some plot of lands in their farms or plantations to grow physic nuts or oil plants. This development project also affects the livelihood of the local Mon civilians.

On February 1, a gas pipeline in Mon State, Kanbauk-Myaingkalay gas pipeline, exploded in a village called Kwan-hlar, in Mudon Township. The authorities accused that the gas pipeline explosion was plotted by an armed group, but no ethnic armed oppositions admitted for the explosion. But the authorities believed some village leaders and villagers in the area will cooperate with rebels those sabotaged the pipeline. As a result, some village headmen and villagers who were under suspicion were arbitrarily arrested and detained without trials for three months in Southeast Command.

Therefore, many villagers afraid of being arrested fled from their villages. Additionally, there was also conscription of forced labour. In order to safeguard the gas pipeline, the authorities ordered the local villagers to create strong fences along the pipeline. Then, they also forced the villagers to guard along gas pipeline. About 96 villagers from 4 villages in the area of gas pipeline explosion were forced to guard the pipeline for 24 hours. The authorities also claimed that the villagers in the area also needed to compensate for the damage of gas pipeline and collected tax from each family in three villages nearby in Mudon Township. Since the gas pipeline explosion, the civilians along this gas pipeline have been similarly suffered from forced labour and tax payment. Troops of Burmese Army also restricted the movement of farmers who were working near and along gas pipeline.

Troops from 10 battalions from Burmese Army based in Ye Township have operated small scales military offensives against a Mon splinter group, which has the military activities in southern part of Ye Township. Members of this splinter are mostly village native in Ye Township, they could seek assistance from the villagers. In order to cut off all supports from civilians to the splinter group, the Burmese Army used a similar 'four-cuts' campaign against the civilians. Gross human rights violations related to 'suspicion of rebel-supporters' such as summary killing, arbitrary arrest and detention, inhumane treatment or torture have been widespread. Although forced relation of entire villages was not conducted by troops of Burmese

Army, but some houses in various villages in southern part of Ye Township, which were suspected by the Burmese soldiers were destroyed and burnt down into ashes.

Movement restriction against the local villagers to not get out from the village communities and barred them to not stay and work at their farms or plantations. In some villages, to which the troops of Burmese Army have serious suspicion, they totally did not allow the villagers to get into villages. But the villagers tried to get out from the villages and work at their farms or leave to the sea for fishing. If they founded these farmers or fishermen outside of the villages, they were also caught killed or inhumanely treated.

In order to have firm control in southern part of Ye Township, the Burmese Army has installed its administration in a Mon village called Khaw-zar, as a Sub-Town. By naming as a Sub-Town, the SPDC authorities forced the villagers in the area to build some administrative offices and construct a 15 miles motor road connecting to Ye town, without payment. The authorities and army commanders also pressured to Mon education workers (Mon teachers) in the area to cease teaching of Mon language in Mon national schools. They also forced Mon teachers and students to contribute labour in Sub-Town administration departments' construction works. Accompanying with this construction works,

Abuses related to suspicion of rebel-supporters, movement restriction against the civilians in free-fire zones, conscription of forced labour have forced the villagers from Ye Township to flee from their homes. Some families fled into NMSP's controlled area and why many of them fled to Thailand in order to escape from abuses and seek works in Thailand.

Land and properties confiscation by troops of Burmese Army and SPDC authorities for the purposes of development projects and troops deployment has continued in 2005 and 2006. The lands belonged to Mon farmers in Thanbyuzayat Township were confiscated when Burmese Army's No. 4 Training School extended their 'self-reliance' program in order to raise some income for their own battalion use. The former military battalion in Ye Township, which confiscated some lands from the civilians, also extended more land confiscations.

# THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITES

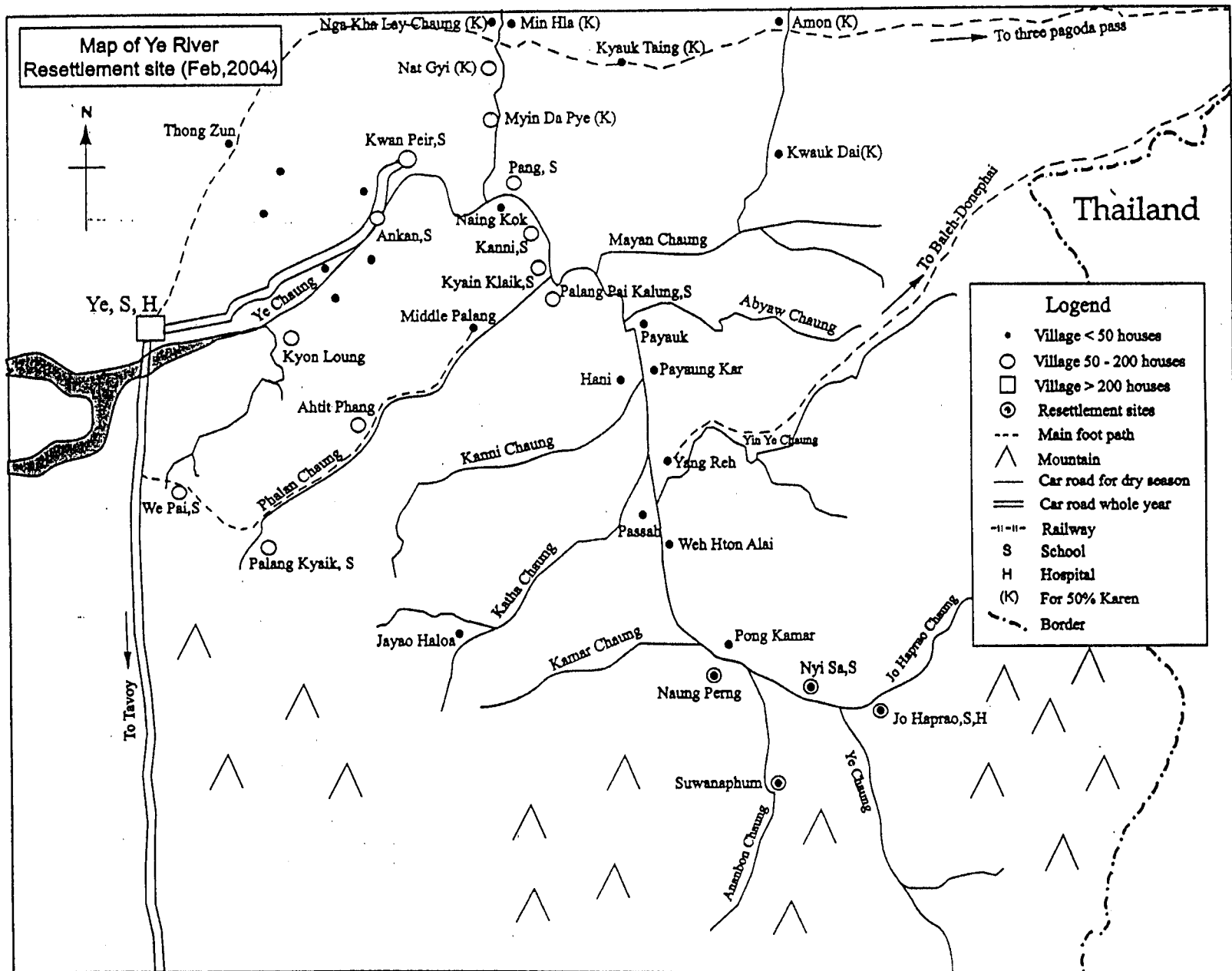
(August, 2006)

No	Camp	Number of Family	Over 5 Years		Under 5 Years		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
1	Bee Ree	719	1699	1676	209	211	3795
2	Tavoy	560	1310	1339	154	162	2965
3	Halockhani	803	2005	1802	155	147	4109
4	Che-dike	209	427	458	75	93	1053
	Total	2291	5441	5275	593	613	11922

## THE MATERIALS RECEIVED BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(August, 2006)

No	Organization	Rice (100kg sack)	Mosquito Net		Remark
1	TBBC				
	Total				



# Map of Tavoy District & Tavoy Resettlement site (Feb, 2004)

Thailand

## Legend

- Village < 50 houses
- Village 50 - 200 houses
- Village > 200 houses
- ⊙ Resettlement sites
- Main foot path
- △ Mountain
- Car road for dry season
- == Car road whole year
- ||-||- Railway
- S School
- H Hospital
- (K) For 50% Karen
- .-.- Border



Aleskan.S

Hale Seik

Hta Paw Kwar

Meip Zeip

Krung-baing

Kyaukadin.S

Jao-Done

Kyauklonekyi

Weng-neik

Tor-Lawi

Kraung-kanaing

Kyaetatin.S

Nat Ei

Pine Krone Kung

Yabu .S

Maraing

Tavoy River

Kalein-Aung S



