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MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

April

2008

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 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

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Nai Wongsa Pala | - Chairman |
| 2. Nai Kasauh Mon | - Vice Chairman |
| 3. Nai Kem Kom Kao | - General Secretary |
| 4. Mi Seik Jyanda | - Administrator |
| 5. Mi Wing Ah Bloa | - Member |
| 6. Nai Bayar Nwe | - Member |
| 7. Nai Ong Htaw Mon | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee

(April 2008)

Human Rights Violations Continues In Southern Ye Township

Since 2004-2005 after the Burmese Army troops tried to control in southern part of Ye Township, human rights violations against the local Mon civilians in the area have continued. There are two main purposes of SPDC and Burmese Army get involved implementing in the area, to fully control the whole part of the area and to initiate a lot of top-down development programs.

From 2004 until now, the SPDC troops have not fully controlled the whole area of Ye Township. About 20-30 troops of a Mon splinter group still operates a small military operation in the area and sometimes the fighting break out in the area. Whenever fighting happens the local civilians especially Mon villagers are badly tortured or mis-treated.

Burmese Army troops are totally implementing 1970s strategy of 'four cuts campaign' against the rebel groups to cut off food supplies, information, recruitment and sheltering. Currently, the movement restriction against the local civilians has intensified. Local villagers are not allowed to go out and work in their farms or plantations. In some area, the local Burmese Army troops totally blocked the movement of villagers, but in some area, they allowed them to work at day-time and order to return into villages in evening time. This movement restriction has created a lot of negative impact toward the livelihood of the villagers.

Since 2005, the houses or villages that received the rebel soldiers are totally vacated and many families are forcibly relocated by the Burmese Army. However, since the rebel troops always tried to get supports from the villagers, they always came into the villages. The villagers have no choice to receive them and unable to drive them out. Therefore, some villages are forcibly relocated totally.

Since the beginning of 2008, the military battalion, IB No. 31 troops ordered the villagers to not contact any of Mon splinter group outside of their villages, and if the fighting happens the villagers have sole responsibility and they can be accused of rebel-supporters. Although the villagers who displaced last year, Baround villagers tried to go back to their former villages, they were forced by the Burmese soldiers again to leave.

About 500 IDPs from Baround village and over 300 IDPs from other villages displaced and many of them moved to villages close to Ye Town, where they believed that it is safer for them. But these hidden displaced villagers have much difficulties of getting employment and raise daily income. Their friends and relatives have helped them for a long time for many months.

Besides military induced population displacement, the local villagers are also suffered from gross human rights violations committed by Burmese Army. In 2005, the Burmese Army created a local Mon village with 1500 households called 'Khaw-zar' village as 'Sub-Town' and they have intensified their administration activities in order to have control the whole southern part of Ye Township. In the Burmese Army's activities to install new administration, the Mon civilians not only from Khaw-zar were forced to

work but also the villagers from the surrounding villages were also forced to work in various construction of administrative offices, school, hospital, army barracks and housing for government servants. Then, the authorities and commanders of Burmese Army also forced the local people to construct about 15 miles long motor road from Ye Town to Khaw-zar Sub Town. Hundreds of villagers suffer from this conscription of forced labour and many villagers who could not performance for forced labour have to flee from their home.

Land and properties confiscation also happened near the Khaw-zar Sub-town on the way from Sub-town to a local military battalion IB No. 31. This battalion confiscated a lot of land alongside of motor road to battalion headquarters. The lands are belonged to local farmers from Khaw-zar. After confiscation, the Burmese Army also measured these lands into small plots and then gave to soldier families and planned to sell the remaining many plots of lands for battalion fund.

During 2004 and 2005 until middle of 2006, ICRC has opportunity to travel into that Khaw-zar area and had opportunity to talk with local villagers who suffer from various type of human rights violations. Although ICRC secretly report and consult with Southeast Command to halt all abuses against civilians, there has been no fruition. Later in 2007 and 2008, there is no international organizations' access to this area and the people have faced more suffering.

This situation has forced thousands of villagers to flee from their homes and villages in southern part of Ye Township. Some of them moved into NMSP areas in northern part of Ye Township while many of moved into other stable Mon villages.

**THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE
RESETTLEMENT SITE**

(April,2008)

No	Camp	Numpr of Family	Over 5 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	
1	Halockhai	724	1729	1727	133	163	3752
2	Che-daik	134	235	246	41	38	560
3	Bee Ree	658	1533	1503	220	196	3452
4	Tavoy	451	1055	997	148	122	2272
TOTAL		1967	4552	4473	542	518	10085

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED

BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(April,2008)

No	Organization	Rice	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (kg.)	Remark
1	TBBC	-	-	-	-	
2	TBBC (for Halockhani)	4752				
TOTAL		- 4752	-	-	-	

Map of Three Pagoda Pass and Halockhani Resettlement Site (Feb,2008)





- * Resettlement site,shp.shp
- ▲ Idps villages.shp
- ~ Rivers.shp
- ⊙ Villages.shp
- ~ Roads_bbc.shp
- Cities_bbc.shp
- Railroads.shp
- ☆ Spdc06.shp
- Ceasefire06.shp
- Ks area.shp
- Country.shp

0

5

10 Miles

Map of Tavoy District and Tavoy Resettlement Site (Feb, 2008)



- * Resettlement site,shp.shp
- ▲ Idps villages.shp
- ~ Rivers.shp
- Villages.shp
- ~ Roads_bbc.shp
- Cities_bbc.shp
- ~ Railroads.shp
- ☆ Spdc06.shp
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- Country.shp

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