



**ကမ္ဘာတဝှမ်း မောင်မြတ်အဖွဲ့
ကို
ပရဟိတအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ**

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

August

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 Wing Ah Bloa | - Joint Secretary |
| 5. Nai Hong Janu | - Administrator |
| 6. Mi Seik Jyanda | - Member |
| 7. Nai Bayar Nwe | - Member |
| 8. Nai Ong Htaw Mon | - Member |
| 9. Nai Kon Tala Bloa | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee (August 2008)

Situation Update in Mon Areas

After the New Mon State Party (NMSP) agrees for ceasefire, although there has been no fighting in various parts of Mon State (northern and middle part of the area), but the Mon people still suffered from human rights abuses. However, a Mon splinter group under the name of Monland Restoration Party (MRP) has fought against the Burmese Army in southern part of Ye Township (in Mon State) and in northern part of Yebyu Township (in Tenasserim Division).

In Mon State, the 2nd May Cyclone Nargis hit to Thaton, Chaung-zone (Balu Island), Mudon, Thanbyuzayat and Ye Townships. Among these townships, Ye Township's fishing communities had been hardly hit by Cyclone and the people suffered more if compared with other Townships. About 150 households and 2 Mon national schools were totally destroyed and these communities have requested assistance.

The military regime's development projects especially for the plantation of castor oil (or physic nut) plants; the authorities have forced almost the local Mon villagers to grow castor oil plants in the front of their homes, in their gardens, and in the designated gardens outside of villages. In most cases, the authorities and army officers have forced the local villagers to purchase the plants from them and grew in their own lands, but they will not belong these plants when they produced crops.

Additionally, as the Kanbauk-Myaingkalay gas pipeline is passing through in Mon State and the local authorities and Burmese Army worried about the security of the pipeline from sabotage by the rebel groups. Therefore, they have forced the local people in Mudon, Thanbyuzayat and Kyaikmayaw Township to guard for the security on a rotation basis. Since many men in families are busy with farming works women and children are forced to take security of the pipeline for 24 hours each family in a security outpost (a hut right on the pipeline route). The authorities ordered to build a security outpost in every 500 meters.

SPDC's militarization policy and accompanied land confiscation has affected a lot to the local Mon farmers in Mudon and Thanbyuzayat Townships. The Burmese Army's Artillery Battalion No. 318 also confiscated a lot of rubber plantations from the local Mon farmers in 2007 near Win-pha-none dam. Later in early 2008, they re-allowed the local rubber plantation farmers to collect the rubber sap but they set amount of taxes to farmers to pay. The commanders from BA claimed to the farmers they are no longer belong any lands and rubber trees in there, therefore, if they need to harvest, they have to pay taxes.

The Mon splinter group, MRP, has launched their military activities in southern part of Ye Township and has demanded the assistance from the local Mon people. Therefore, the local BA troops also launched a strategy of cutting the supports from the local Mon people to Mon splinter group. In this case, the people from various villages in southern part of Mon State suffered from movement restriction, arbitrary arrests, torture and detention.

Movement restriction against the local villagers has been taken place for a long time. It is one strategy of BA to stop the supports from the local civilians to the Mon splinter group. Whenever the villagers want to go to their farms or plantations, they have to ask permissions from the local military

outposts. When they asked permission letter, they have to pay 500 Kyat for 3 days permission, but they have to go their workplaces in early morning and return in the evening. In one week, they are allowed to work in farms only 3 days continuously.

In the recent fighting in the 1st week of June, IB No. 31 lost two soldiers and the Southeast Command was quite angry to the commanders of IB No. 31 and ordered to launch 3 months offensives against the Mon splinter group without getting back to the military barracks. Then, Southeast Command sent Col. Saw Myint to lead a Tactical Command to Khaw-zar Sub Township area to help IB No. 31. Col. Saw Myint also put the IB No. 31 under his command.

Because of this clash, the BA commanders arrested the Chairman, General Secretary and 3 Committee members from Yin-dein village with suspicion of supporting the Mon splinter groups. They were seriously tortured during interrogation and later they were released after the family gave bribes to the commander. But they are not allowed to involve in village administration and BA commanders appointed the new village committee.

Col. Saw Myint also ordered to deploy small outposts in all villages along the car road from Ye to Khaw-zar, to stop the Mon splinter group's activities. In each outpost, he deployed 10-20 troops and takes the security of that village and surrounding area. They forced the local villagers to build military barrack for the outpost and the villagers also had to feed his soldiers. When the BA soldiers launched patrol or offensive, they also took the villagers as porters.

The people in the whole area have continuously suffered from conscription of forced labour including forced porter. Normally the villagers were forced to construct roads and bridges from Hangan village to Magyi village passed through Khaw-zar Sub-town. They were also forced to build military barracks in Khaw-zar and outposts in other villages.

In northern part of Yebyu Township, the local BA commanders also forced the local Mon villages to form up militia force with villagers and they have to serve in village militia force on a rotation basis, as many people do not want to join permanently. The villagers are also forced to provide wages and foods for these villagers. Those village militia forces also have to take responsibility to patrol near their villages for the security. This is the tactics of Burmese Army to let have the violent clash between the rebel groups and local villagers.

Because of the militarization policy, human rights violations and armed conflicts, the Mon people are feeling not safe even to stay at their homes. Hundreds of people in southern part of Ye Township displaced and took shelters in some Mon villages and some fled into NMSP area. However, many of them migrated to Thailand illegally where they can seek jobs and appropriate income, which are better than to live and work in Burma.

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

(August 2008)

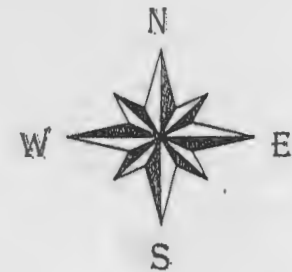
No	Camp	No. of Family	Over 5 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	
1	Halockhai	669	1589	1410	122	122	3243
2	Che-daik	134	235	246	41	38	560
3	Bee Ree	617	1457	1480	188	157	3282
4	Tavoy	451	1055	997	148	122	2322
TOTAL		1871	4336	4133	499	439	9407

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED

BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(August 2008)

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



- * 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

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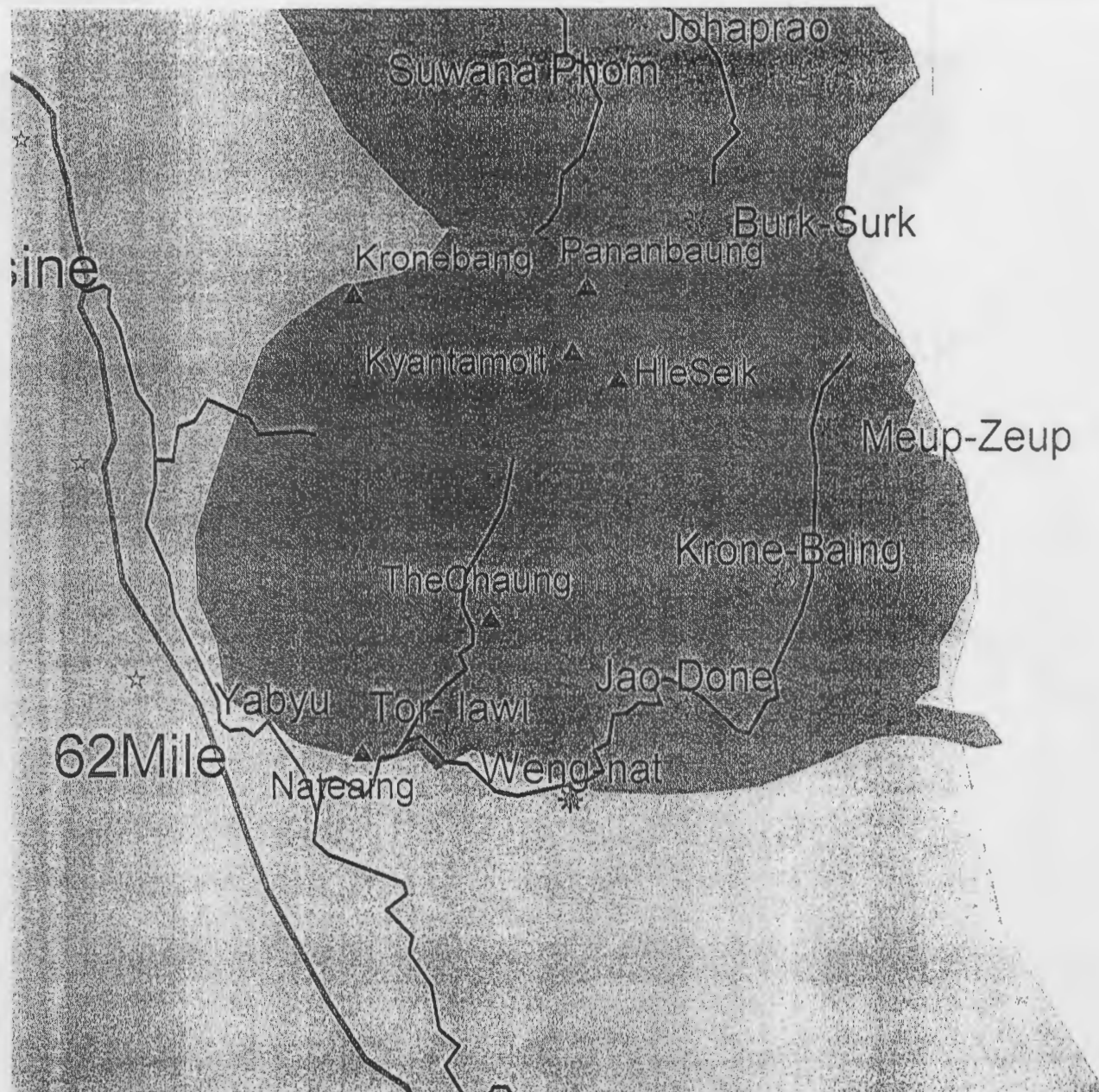
5

10 Miles

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



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
- Ceasefire06.shp
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- Country.shp