



**ကမ္ဘာ့တံဆိပ်ပြားအဖွဲ့
ကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းကုန်သွယ်ရေးနှင့်
ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး**

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST

2003

Aim and Objectives of Mon Relief and Development Committee

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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**

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- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Nai Wongsa Pala | - Chairman |
| 2. Nai Kasauh Mon | - General Secretary |
| 3. Nai Dung Htaw | - Member |
| 4. Phra Htaw Son | - Member |
| 5. Nai Glae | - Member |
| 6. Nai Chit Nyunt | - Member |
| 7. Nai Tay Jae | - Member |
| 8. Nai Jon Dae | - Member |
| 9. Nai Chan Done | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee

(September 2003)

More displacement and food-shortage problems in southern part of Ye and in Yebyu Townships

In Mon State, even though other Townships have less military operations, but Ye Township still has a lots of armed conflict between the Burmese Army and a Mon splinter group, which does not have an official name. This splinter group used to be as a local militia force have against the troops of Burmese Army for some years and as a result there are population displacement problem and food-shortage problem.

Although the main Mon political party, New Mon State Party (NMSP) agreed for cease-fire with the current regime, there are many armed resistance groups remained in the southern part of Burma, Karen State, Mon State and Tenasserim Division, that have revolved against the Burmese Army.

This Mon splinter group is led by former Mon commanders have operated military fighting against the Burmese Army since late 1997. Although the Burmese Army has launched the constant military offensives against this group, however, their operations could not uproot all activities of the splinter group.

This group has operated the military activities in Ye Township, southernmost part of Mon State and in Yebyu Township of Tenasserim Division. These two Townships have large forestry area in the east and low-land farmlands in the west along the coastal area. The geographical situation provides good conditions to the rebels to base in the area and operate military activities against the Burmese Army.

Even in the rainy season in 2003 (from June to September), the Burmese Army operates the military offensives against this splinter groups seriously. Accompanying with the military offensives launched by the Burmese Army, the local civilians have constantly suffered by various types of human rights violations, arbitrary killing, arrest of porters, killing by land-mines, movement restriction, tax extortion and other abuses.

In most cases, the civilians also lose freedom of movements in the surrounding area of their native villages and could not travel to their farms to collect crops or to forests to collect forest products. Sometimes, the troops of Burmese Army also confiscated the crops belonged to the local farmers. And sometimes, their crops could be also destroyed. Looting the crops or rice in the villages is the common abuse.

The problems that make displacement and food-shortage are as below:

(1) Movement restriction:

The local farmers in both Ye and Yebyu Townships are ordered to not go their farms. In some villages, southern part of Ye Township, the villagers are ordered even to not get outside of their villages. If the troops of Burmese Army found them outside of their villages, they must be killed from shooting.

The villagers in these villages have totally relied on foods from the paddy-farms and fruit plantations. For the paddy-growing farmers, they have to regularly work in their farms to take care their paddy plants and grains to get a better paddy crop production. After they could not go their farms freely, they lose their crops. Similarly, the farmers who grow fruits especially betel-nut in the area have to collect their betel-nut crops and sell them to get money. Then they could buy rice to eat.

In the situation of movement restriction, even the civilians do not displace, however, they faced food-shortages even in their villages. Normally the day-labourers, like carpenters, fishermen, labourers to gardeners, who have to work in another villages, and betel-nut farmers faced serious food-shortage problems even they are in villages, because they do not store rice or paddy. For the paddy-growing farmers, who stored paddy in the villages have some available food to eat. They also share or borrow foods to another villagers who have no foods. For villages, which have less number of paddy-growing families, they also faced a serious food-shortage problem.

(2) Forced Porters and Land-mines:

Whenever the Burmese Army is operating the military offensives they request the porters from village headmen. During the military offensives against the Mon splinter group, the Burmese Army's Light Infantry Battalion No. 273 and Infantry Battalion No. 31 also requested 5 porters from each village in southern part of Ye Township, the village headmen planned ready in providing these porters.

According to an escaped porters from Kabya-wa village, southern part of Ye Township, he said that he was forced to be porters 4 times in September 2003. Every time, he was forced to carry ammunitions and food supplies to Burmese Army for 1 day to 2 days. One porter has to carry about 20 visses (or about 30 Kilograms) weight in the back all the times.

During the porter services, some porters also stepped on land-mines and died on the spot, while some of them got injury. For instances, in the first week of July, when LIB No. 273 conscripted the villagers including women from Kyonekanya village, Ye Township, to be porters, one woman porter, Mi Aye Thar, stepped and she died on spot. In second week of July, a man from the same village, Nai Hein (38 years old) stepped mines and she died on spot.

Porter service a terrible conscription of 'forced labour' and the civilian porters have to work in the dangerous situation. Many villagers who were forced for porters for several times always fled from their native villages to escape such inhumane abuses. Many of them also feared from stepping on land-mines.

Therefore, the conscription of offensive porters by the Burmese Army force hundreds of families to be displaced. This abuse creates population displacement.

The above-mentioned human rights violations against the rural civilians to be displaced and faced food-shortage problems. There are many other problems that create population displacement and food-shortages in these two townships. Extortion and looting of villagers' belonging while the troops of Burmese Army are in villages also created to face food-shortage problems. When the soldiers are in villages, the villagers also have to provide them with several types of foods, drinks and others to soldiers and the villagers have to pay for all of these costs. When the villagers have less money, they have no available money to buy foods for their families.

Even in the rain season, since July, many hundreds families fled from southern part of Ye Township and Yebyu Township arrived the Mon resettlement areas. Some of them resettled in these areas while some of them fled to Thailand to seek works.

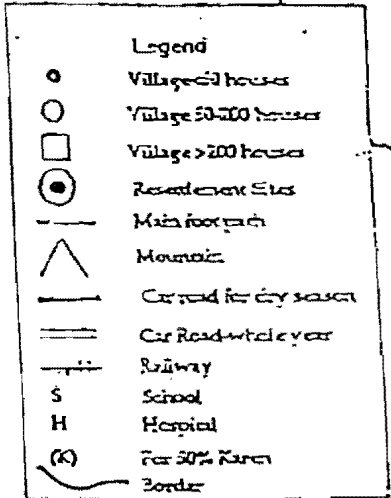
THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITES
(September, 2003)

No.	Camp	Number of Family	Over 12 years		5-12 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	668	1196	1300	409	415	168	197	3685
2	Tavoy	620	1045	1042	398	396	189	191	3261
3	Halockhani	945	1509	1457	920	781	275	341	5283
	TOTAL	2233	3750	3799	1727	1592	632	729	11821

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED
BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(September, 2003)

No	Organization	Rice (Sack/ 50 kg.)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (Kg.)	Remark
		535	-	-		
	TOTAL	535	-	-		

Map of Tavoy District
Resettlement site (Nov. 1995)



Distances

Payaw to Jao Done - 5 hrs walk
Jao Done to Hlase Seik - 1 days walk
Hlase Seik to Alaxian - 3 hrs walk
Jao Done to Yaiou - 10 hrs walk

Payaw to Jao Dome - 5 hrs walk
Jao Dome to Hlae Seik - 1 days walk
Hlae Seik to Alexicon - 2 hrs walk
Jao Dome to Yaou - 10 hrs walk

