



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

&

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE, 2009

Karen Refugee Committee
Newsletter & Monthly Report
June, 2009

This month we could say that it was the month of heavy fighting in the border area. The place where the fighting took place were close to some of our camps and the camp people became anxious of the consequence of the fighting. The DKBA with the support of the Myanmar military government launched offensive against some of the remaining KNU defensive camps resulting in over 3,000 war victims crossed over to Thailand for refuge. Suffering from bad weather, lack of food and shelter, KRC combine with INGOS + NGOS rendered help as much as possible. In fact these war victims were outside of KRC's capacity to assist. But from the corner of humanitarian ground the KRC together with other organizations were able to act.

The KRC according to Thai law has no right to be registered, but through understanding could exist to administer and manage the 7 camps. But with the understanding of the host government – and with combination of international organizations and NGOS was able to form the respective camp committee and had administered over one hundred thousand people for 20 years. Though having to face many problems during the 20 years, from to day and onwards until the closure of the camps will continue to carry on the burden.

The KRC after the year 2005 had had a difficult time dealing with the problem of the influx of new arrivals until now. After the year 2005, the government laid down the policy of "NO MORE NEW ARRIVAL", but consequently on many reasons we are having new arrivals regularly. Though the Thai government does not revoke the policy of "no more new arrival", it does not forcefully repatriate the new arrivals. Moreover there is no restriction for issuing rations to new arrivals from 2005 to 2008. Therefore we need to applaud the Thai government's humanitarian behavior.

Not long ago the monks led the "Golden Revolution" demonstration against the Myanmar military government. Not to tell about common people the military government with out any reverence for their own monks ended the movement brutally. The monks and those whose life were in danger had to flee to neighboring countries. Some of them who arrived to Thailand asked for political asylum in the United States. Their request was accepted by the United States government. Those who received political asylum before leaving for the States put at the refugee camp under the management of the KRC as a transit spot. The MOI and the TBBC jointly took case of the need and shelter. On account of the September 27th "Golden Revolution" in 2007, those who fled the country and arrived in Thailand were given temporary asylum were provided with food and clothing under special arrangement in one of the camps.

But since 2005 those who arrived on account of the SPDC cruelty and war victims were still denied provision up to this day. If they hear about what is provided for those who arrived on account of "Golden Revolution" we can assume how they will feel. At the moment in the 7 camps under the managements of the KRC there are over 40,000 new arrivals not yet registered. It is surprising to see that the number of new arrivals exceeds the number of those who are resettled in third country. "Home Sweet Home". All of us admit that east or west home is best and that there is no place like home but now we need to muse why the people are anxious to leave their country and who is responsible.

K.R.C – Activities – Report.

June– 2009

- 1/6/09 – KRC secretary, Social welfare coordinator and CMSP team call on TBBC field coordinator and TBBC-CBC at TBBC office in Maesariang and checked staff placement and structure of CMSP, extra needs and the code of conducts which would be applied by CMSP.
- 2/6/09 – KRC – Mae Sot, KRC Maesariang, Mae La Oo Camp committee, Mae La Mat Luang camp committee, together with Sop Moi Township authority and some near by villages organized social relation ship in Sop Moi.
- 7/6/09 - KRC and TBBC organized Three trucks, loaded with Blankets, Mosquito nets, women sarongs, pots, and plates, for distribution among emergency shelter seekers who have left their villages in Karen State and currently are living in Mae Oo Su, Noe Bo and Mae T' Reik, as a result of fighting occurring in their native places in Karen state, Burma.
- 11/6/09 – KRC Social welfare coordinator call on Umphiem camp committee, section leaders, CBOs, for honoring of World Refugee day, food condation in 2009, and election and forming of vocational Training committee and other business.
- 17/6/09 – K.R.C together with TBBC went to inspect sub normal standard rice distributed in Mae La, Umphiem and Nu Po Camps.
- 15/6/09 – K.R.C representative attended MOI and NGOs meeting in Umphiem Camp. Camp leader, during the meeting stated that MOI world no longer take charge in road construction.
- 17/6/09 – Camp commander (P'La) and camp committee members held a cooperative meeting for information sharing. P'La, during the meeting notificies the camp committee to ensure that any guest who will visit the camp must be registered and get permission before they get into the camp from the Thai authority.
- 16-19/6/09 – KRC Social affair Coordinator visit KRC Branch office-Sankla Buri, Ratchburi; Ban Don Yan and Tah Him Camps on account of Management, Nursery School, vocational Training and Educational issues.
- 22/6/09 – KRC office superintendent meet Mae La Mat Luang and Mae La Oon camp committee and introduce new population form to be used in future.
- 22/6/09 – K.R.C chair person attended coordinating meeting for new arrivals who recently fled Burma and seek refugee in Ta Song yang area.
- 22/6/09 – TBBC Programme manager gave training on job description, maping, financial procedure, staff filing and as well as improving the structure of K.R.C.

- 23/6/09 – K.R.C chairperson attended MOI meeting in Mae La and simultaneously had a meeting with INGOs, NGOs, Thai military official and discussed the issue on new arrivals.
- 25/6/09 – K.R.C representative together with organizations concerned visited a new location which might be suitable to set up a camp for the new arrivals.
- 30/6/09 – K.R.C representative attended a meeting at Ta Song Yang township office for the confirmation of camp location previously checked, but withdrew the decision due to security reason.
- 30/6/09 – K.R.C Joint secretary attended LAC, camp committee and judiciary cooperative meeting in Mae La camp. During the meeting, code of conduct for security committee, survivor, perpetrator and visitor were discussed.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS June, 2009.

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	7,783	11,866	12,279	3,607	3,390	2,437	2,276	35,855
	UmPhiem Mai	4,328	6,021	5,862	1,512	1,369	1,748	1,605	18,117
Total		12,111	17,887	18,141	5,119	4,759	4,185	3,881	53,972
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,992	6,124	6,036	2,007	1,762	1,228	1,237	18,394
	Mae La Oo	2,912	1,414	5,490	1,654	1,661	1,192	1,090	12,501
Total		5,904	7,538	11,526	3,661	3,423	2,420	2,327	30,895
SOUTH	Noh Poe	1,305	6,183	5,590	1,461	1,393	1,197	1,218	17,042
	Ban Dong Yang	824	1,538	1,596	384	349	345	352	4,564
	Htam Him	971	1,408	1,470	495	438	366	335	4,512
Total		3,100	9,129	8,656	2,340	2,180	1,908	1,905	26,118
Grand Total		21,115	34,554	38,323	11,120	10,362	8,513	8,113	110,985

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. TBBC is Supporting with Camps Management program to help with Administration, Management and Stability improvements in all (7) Camps.

TBBC - Has been providing **KRC** with administrative & organizational Support. It has also supported with remuneration for **KRC** members and workers.

MSF – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

AMI – 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 – Support in Educational facilities and Teachers' Training.

World Education / Consortium – Support in Educational facilities, Teachers' Training and Education for Deaf / Mute / Blinds.

TOPS – Support in Educational facilities Nurseries.

ICS – Asia – Support in Educational facilities, Teaching, Learning Aid.

COERR – Rice and Educational support. **EVI** – To be involved with Extremely Vulnerable people, care and support.

H.I – Support for Refugee Handicaps with Prosthesis and rehabilitation and also year – end sporting events for Handicaps.

UNHCR – For Registration Process, Protection and Ultimate Safe Repatriation. Now helping with Resettlement.

SMRU – Support with Malaria Control, Prevention and Treatment.

SVA – Support with Libraries in the camps.

PPAT – Parenthood Planning Association Thailand – Supporting with Family Planning and Preventive/ Education in Refugee Camps.

SOLIDARITES – Support the Burmese refugees in the camp addressing sanitation issues.

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