



**KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

**NEWSLETTER**

**&**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**APRIL, 2009**

**Karen Refugee Committee**  
**Newsletter & Monthly Report**  
**April, 2009**

April is the month of new year water festival for the Buddhist people and it is highly celebrated in Thailand every year with many westerners taking part in the enjoyment of throwing water over each other. It can be said that the day for dying together for the Thai people. But this year the day of enjoyment was clouded due to the political unrest in the country. The Thailand democrat party government has tried its best to ease the tension existing between the government and the opposition group by having a meeting between themselves face to face to bring about peace.

This month, many incidents had also occurred in the camps. Some beneficial and some detrimental to the camp.

The KRC had been active this month in all camps to adjust the educational programme and vocational training programme. As known by all, ZOA which is responsible for education in the camps will hand over its work to CBO which is headed by KRC in 2010. KRC will take over this work from ZOA through KRC EE, KRC (Education Entity). This arrangement is in accordance with the (self reliance programme) and the first time that a foreign NGO is entrusting its responsibility to a community based organization. KRC EE will start carrying out the work step by step from the year 2009 up to 2010 and henceforth completely take over the work.

A few problems had occurred in the camp this month in first week of April, 2 families joined and had a meal together. After the meal they all became sick from food poisoning. five of them were hospitalized and one child succumbed to the food poisoning. AMI, the NGO team responsible for medical care in the camp is still investigating the origin of the poison. But so far the result is not yet known.

On April 16 during the water festival, at the time of enjoying themselves throwing water over each other fighting broke out between the young people in Mae La Camp resulting in two young men were injured. The two injured young men were sent to hospital in town. Likewise in another camp, a drunken person had attacked and smitten two security personnel with a knife who were on their way to take up duty. The two injured security personnel were sent to hospital in town. Being a criminal case KRC and IRC (LAB) personnel sent the drunken man to the Thai authorities.

The month of April being the hottest month of the year, the people in the camp had to face with water scarcity. At that time water and sanitation workers discovered medicinal powder packets near the water supplying well. Some of the powder are in the water. Therefore the supplying of water to almost 20,000 people was immediately ceased. The supplying of water resumed only a few days after the water pipes were thoroughly cleaned up. But for the purpose of washing and cleaning and not for drinking. For it was not yet safe to drink. A NGO group (Solidarity) had sent the powder for testing.

Reviewing the life of our Karen refugee the future seems rather cloudy. The opportunity to travel and reside in Third country according to the resettlement program is good, but not good enough for it is obvious that not all the refugees would accept the

resettlement program and likewise there will be not much host country to accept all the refugees.

2010 is the year the SPDC Myanmar military government has declared to conduct a country wide election in an attempt to gain for it self a semblance of democracy. Will the election bring about a solution to unravel the problem of the Burmese refugee is a feeling we are having at the moment.

## **K.R.C – Activities – Report.**

### **April– 2009**

- 7/4/09 – The project Director and logistic Director of AMI call on KRC to settle the Health dispute occurring in Nu Po Camp, and both side agree to keep awareness for better Cooperation in future.
- 12/4/09 – A water sanitation worker found a suspicious medication (powder) at the source of water supply in Mae La camp and doubt that some of them might be put into the well. The responsibility concern took the sample of water and the clue for Testing which are in the on going process with no report yet.
- 13-19/4/09 – KRC office was closed during water festival.
- 14/4/09 – Two Nu Po camp security member were cut and injured with machete by a drunk camp resident. They were admitted to Mae sod general Hospital, and the incident was taken action due to the Thai criminal Law.
- 16/4/09 – Two youths in Mae La camp injured in clashes during water Festival and were admitted to Mae Sod General Hospital.
- 23/4/09 – KRC and AMI responsible Peron met at Umphiem camp to settle the Health problem dispute in Nu Po camp.

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS March, 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	7,830	12,021	12,418	3,630	3,414	2,361	2,218	36,062
	UmPhiem Mai	4,337	6,100	5,936	1,532	1,393	1,696	1,560	18,217
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,167</b>	<b>18,121</b>	<b>18,354</b>	<b>5,162</b>	<b>4,807</b>	<b>4,057</b>	<b>3,778</b>	<b>54,279</b>
<b>NORTH</b>	Mae Ra Moe	2,885	5,743	5,633	1,823	1,626	1,157	1,216	17,198
	Mae La Oo	2,897	5,594	5,341	1,590	1,570	1,142	1,058	16,295
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,782</b>	<b>11,337</b>	<b>10,974</b>	<b>3,413</b>	<b>3,196</b>	<b>2,299</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>33,493</b>
<b>SOUTH</b>	Noh Poe	5,923	6,125	5,553	1,468	1,402	1,183	1,200	16,931
	Ban Dong Yang	839	1,519	1,572	375	351	336	344	4,497
	Htam Him	986	1,441	1,496	501	447	357	338	4,580
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,748</b>	<b>9,085</b>	<b>8,621</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>1,876</b>	<b>1,882</b>	<b>26,008</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>25,697</b>	<b>38,543</b>	<b>37,949</b>	<b>10,919</b>	<b>10,203</b>	<b>8,232</b>	<b>7,934</b>	<b>113780</b>

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 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 (ABW aid)** – Support in Educational facilities 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** – To 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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