

Annotated Bibliography of Resources on the Karen from Burma

- 1) "3 Sides to Every Story: A Profile of Muslim Communities in the Refugee Camps on the Thailand Burma border." (2010). Report by the Thai Burma Border Consortium. Available at: <http://www.tbtc.org/resources/2010-09-muslim-profile-english.rar> OR http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/78FCDBC2606BC2EF492577A6001DE22B-Full_Report.pdf

In 2009 TBTC undertook research to gain a fuller understanding of the experiences, practices, and preferences of the Muslim communities in the refugee camps in Thailand.

- 2) Allden, K., Poole, C., Chantavanich, S., & Ohmar, K. (1996). Burmese political dissidents in Thailand: Trauma and survival among young adults in exile. *American Journal of Public Health*, 86(11), 1561-9.

This study assessed the self-reported mental health, physical health, and social functioning of young adult political exiles and relates their psychiatric symptoms to their trauma and survival strategies. It is based on a 1992/93 survey of Burmese (note: Burmese/Burman, not Karen) who fled to Bangkok, Thailand, after participating in a 1988 uprising against Burma's government elicited information on employment, education, disability, trauma, survival strategies, and depressive and posttraumatic stress symptoms.

- 3) Amnesty International. (1991, July). Myanmar (Burma): Continuing killings and ill-treatment of minority peoples. Available at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA16/005/1991/en>.

This paper focuses on violations reported since 23 February 1990, the date campaigning for the 1990 general election began. Deliberate killings and torture of people seized and forced to work as porters for the tatmadaw, or to clear mines, are described in this paper, as are similar violations of people suspected of involvement in armed opposition groups.

- 4) Amnesty International. (2008). Myanmar: Crimes against Humanity in Eastern Myanmar. Available at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA16/011/2008/en>

This report focuses on violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed in the Karen State and Bago Division between 2005 through 2007. It includes information on violations committed in military operations by the Burmese army (known as the tatmadaw) and on tatmadaw policy and practices that have targeted civilians.

- 5) Amnesty International. (1990, November). Myanmar: "In the national interest": Prisoners of conscience, torture, summary trials under martial law. Available at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA16/010/1990/en>.

This report profiles the human rights abuses of several prisoners of conscience and gives account of widespread torture, both of those detained for participation in the pro-democracy movement and of people held in connection with the activities of armed opposition groups representing Burma's ethnic minorities. imprisoned for the peaceful expression of their views. It contains graphic accounts of Profiles of the Testimonies from former and current prisoners, relatives, friends or associates are also included.

6) Amnesty International. (2000, December). Myanmar: The institution of torture. Available at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA16/024/2000/en>.

This report examines how torture and ill-treatment have become institutionalized in Myanmar : practised by Military Intelligence personnel when they interrogate political detainees; by prison guards; and by the police.

7) Baron, Sandy, et al. (2007). "Refugees from Burma: Their Backgrounds and Refugee Experiences." Published by the Center for Applied Linguistics. Available at: <http://www.cal.org/co/pdf/FILES/refugeesfromburma.pdf>

This profile provides information about the diverse histories, cultures, and refugee experiences of the refugees from Burma, with a focus on the Burmans, the Karen and their various subgroups, and the Chin. Designed as a resource for refugee service providers but likely to be of use to teachers, local government agency staff, and others who interact with the Burmese, the profile also addresses the early experiences of the Burmese already resettled in the U.S. 2007.

8) BBC News. (30 March 2011) "Burma Timeline." Available at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1300082.stm.

Timeline of key events in the history of Burma.

9) BBC News. (27 September 2010). "Should it be Burma or Myanmar?" Available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7013943.stm>

This article highlights the political and cultural reasons for use of either the term Burma or Myanmar.

10) Buadaeng, K. (2007). Ethnic Identities of the Karen Peoples in Burma and Thailand. In J. Peacock, P. Thornton & P. Inman (Eds.). Identity Matters: Ethnic and Sectarian Conflict, (pp. 73-97). New York, NY: Berghahn Books.

This book chapter highlights power relations and the systems of ethnic relations in Burma and Thailand that have shaped different Karen ethnic identities.

11) Cook, Tonya. (2008). "U.S. Cultural Exchange Program 2008—Umpiem and Mae La Camps, Thailand." Presentation available at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/refugee/globalbbburma.pdf>

This presentation gives information about Karen history, the refugee camp experience, and focuses on the overseas refugee case processing procedure and cultural orientation classes offered to refugees before they depart for the US.

12) Duford, Jack. "Observations of Karen Resettled in USA." Available at: <http://www.tbbsc.org/announcements/2008-07-karen-resettled-usa-observations.pdf>

Jack Dunford is the Executive Director of the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC). He visited resettled Karen in the U.S. in April 2008 to better understand the process and problems of resettlement in the US. In this report he documents his observations.

- 13) Dwe, Eh Taw. "Karen Refugees from Burma." Available at:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/refugee/metrotf/karen09.pdf>.

Presentation about Karen refugee history, culture, resettlement challenges, and cross-cultural tips for service providers.

- 14) EthnoMED. Karen Homepage. Available at: <http://ethnomed.org/culture/karen>.

Information about Karen history, culture and community with emphasis on health related issues.

- 15) Free Burma Rangers. (2010). "Update of Burma Army Attacks, Murders, Displacement and Forced Labor in Karen State, Burma." Available at:
<http://www.freeburmarangers.org/Reports/2010/20100121.html>

This is an update with photos of Burma Army attacks, murders, displacement and forced labor against villagers and IDPs in Karen State, Burma.

- 16) Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic. (2009). "Crimes in Burma." Available at:
<http://www.law.harvard.edu/programs/hrp/documents/Crimes-in-Burma.pdf>

This report is based on an analysis of scores of UN documents dating back to 1992, including UN General Assembly and Commission on Human Rights resolutions, as well as reports from several different Special Rapporteurs.

- 17) Human Rights Watch. "Abuses Linked to the Fall of Manerplaw" (2005). Available at:
<http://www.hrw.org/legacy/summaries/s.burma953.html>.

This report documents the gross violation of human rights of the civilian population during the Burmese offensive against the KNU from November 1994 to February 1995. It is based on data collected by Human Rights Watch/Asia during a research mission to the Thai-Burmese border in January and February 1995. HRW interviewed over fifty men who had been forcibly taken as porters by the Burmese military to carry heavy artillery and other supplies to mountain tops near Manerplaw, the capital of the Karen state.

- 18) Karen Buddhist Dhamma Dhutta Foundation. (2010). "The Karen people: Culture, Faith and History." Available at: http://www.karen.org.au/docs/karen_people.pdf

This publication was written by a Karen Buddhist monk after resettling to Australia to answer frequent questions about Karen people and Karen culture.

- 19) Karen Refugee Committee Monthly Reports. Available at:
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/show.php?cat=1831&lo=d&sl=0>

At this website you can find the monthly reports by the Karen Refugee Committee, including disaggregated numbers of people in the camps, details of items received, where distributed etc.

20) Karen Women's Organisation. (2007). "The State of Terror." Available at:
<http://www.karenwomen.org/Reports/state%20of%20terror%20report.pdf>

This report documents the range of human rights abuses that continue to be perpetrated across Karen State. The report focuses in particular on the abuses experienced by women and girls and draws on over 4,000 documented cases of human rights abuses perpetrated by the Burmese army.

21) Karen Women's Organization. (2010). "Walking Amongst Sharp Knives: The Unsung Courage of Karen Women Village Chiefs in Conflict Areas of Eastern Burma."

The practice of the Burmese Army to execute village heads has led to traditional Karen culture being turned upside-down, with women now being appointed village chiefs as they are seen as less likely to be killed. However, this change has put women in the frontline of human rights abuses. This report documents the crimes against humanity and war crimes faced by women village heads who are targeted for systemic abuse by the Burmese military in Eastern Burma.

22) Redd, David. "Refugees from Burma" Available at:
<http://www.davidredd.com/professional/burmese/Burmese.html>

This is a personal website. According to its author, David Redd, it began as a project while he was in graduate studies in anthropology at McGill University and has grown ever since. Currently, David Redd is working as a case manager at a refugee agency called World Relief in Atlanta, GA. Website includes photos of refugees families from Burma resettled to the Atlanta area.

23) Refugee Studies Center, Oxford University. *Burma's Displaced People*. Forced Migration Review, 30 (4).

This issue of Forced Migration Review is focused on the crisis of forced displacement of people in Burma.

24) Southeast Asian Resource Action Center. (2010). "Needs Assessment of Refugee Communities from Bhutan and Burma."

This report gives the results of a needs assessment from 15 focus group with refugees from Bhutan and Burma who have resettled in several cities in the US.

25) Shannon, P., Wieling, Ogasawara, T., S., Simmelink, J., and Becher, E. "Assessing the Mental Health of Karen and Bhutanese Refugee Families in the Child Welfare System. Available at
<http://www.cehd.umn.edu/ssw/research/posterpdfs/Shannon-Wieling-MH-Poster.pdf>.

Results of focus groups with Karen and Bhutanese refugees. Poster summarizes background information, methods used, trauma and symptoms, family responses, and recommendations.

Helpful Websites

Burma Campaign UK <http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk/>

Burma Campaign UK works for human rights, democracy and development in Burma and is one of the leading Burma campaign organisations in the world.

Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) www.dvb.no

The Democratic Voice of Burma is a non-profit Burmese media organization.

Drum Publication Group www.drumpublications.org

Drum Publication Group is a small, independent, Karen community based organization dedicated to promoting education and preserving the cultures of the peoples of Burma. They have downloadable Karen language resources.

Earth Rights International Burma Project <http://www.earthrights.org/campaigns/burma-project>

EarthRights International's Burma Project collects vital on-the-ground information about the human rights and environmental situation in Burma since 1995.

Free Burma Rangers (FBR) www.freeburmarangers.org

FBR is a multi-ethnic humanitarian service movement. Ethnic pro-democracy groups send teams to be trained, supplied and sent into the areas under attack to provide emergency assistance and human rights documentation. The FBR website offers videos, maps, photos, and reports about the situation of ethnic minorities from Burma.

The Irrawaddy News Magazine www.irrawaddy.org

The Irrawaddy Publishing Group (IPG) was founded in 1993 by a group of Burmese journalists living in exile in Thailand. The Irrawaddy is a leading source of reliable news, information, and analysis on Burma and the Southeast Asian region.

Karen Konnection <http://www.karenkonnection.org/>

The purpose of this website is to help the newly-resettled Karen to connect with American Baptist-USA and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship churches throughout the U.S. Site includes helpful information about the Karen from missionaries Duane and Marcia Binkley.

Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) www.khrg.org

KHRG is a local, independent group documenting the human rights situation in rural Burma by working directly with rural villagers who are suffering abuses such as forced labour, systematic destruction of villages and crops, forced relocation, extortion, looting, arbitrary detention, torture, sexual assault and summary executions. This is another resource for maps, photos, and reports about the situation of the Karen in Burma.

Karen National Union website (KNU) www.karennationalunion.net

This is the website of the KNU, the democratic governing body of the Karen state in Burma.

Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM) www.mnkaren.org

KOM is the first Karen-led nonprofit organization in the United States.

Karen Website www.karen.org

This site is a Cultural Exchange and a Communication Center representing the Karen people.

Karen Women's Organization (KWO) www.karenwomen.org

KWO is a community-based organisation of Karen women working in development and relief in the refugee camps on the Thai border and with IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) and women inside Burma. The focus of KWO includes social welfare, awareness-raising of women's rights, promotion of women's participation in the community decision making and political processes. KWO also documents human rights abuses of Karen.

Online Burma/Myanmar Library <http://www.ibiblio.org/obl/>

This website contains classified and annotated links to more than 30,000 full text documents on Burma/Myanmar.

Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) www.tbtc.org

TBBC is a consortium of 12 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from ten countries providing food, shelter and non food items to refugees and displaced people from Burma. TBBC also engages in research on the root causes of displacement and refugee outflows. Programs are implemented in the field through refugees, community based organizations and local partners. The TBBC is an excellent source for information about refugees from Burma and situations in the refugee camps (including photos and maps).

U.S. Campaign for Burma <http://uscampaignforburma.org/about-us-campaign-for-burma>

The United States Campaign for Burma (USCB) is a U.S. based organization dedicated to empowering grassroots activists around the world to rally for human rights and to bring an end to the military dictatorship in Burma. Through public education, leadership development initiatives, conferences, and advocacy campaigns, they seek to educate Americans about the situation in Burma.

Documentaries/Films on Burma and the Karen

Breaking the Silence: Inside Burma's Resistance.

<http://www.idfa.nl/industry/tags/project.aspx?id=9d6f7022-dc3e-4e1b-aef0-310e6f7ca371>

Burma VJ. <http://burmavimovie.com/>

Crossing Midnight. <http://becausefoundation.org/campaigns/?ID=2>

Don't Fence Me In: Major Mary and The Karen Refugees from Burma. <http://www.der.org/films/dont-fence-me-in.html>

Forgotten Allies. BBC documentary on the History of the Karen People. <http://www.mission-tv.org/wp/?p=403>

Moving to Mars. <http://www.movingtomarsfilm.com/>

Prayer of Peace: Relief and Resistance in Burma's War Zones. Free Burma Rangers.

http://www.freeburmarangers.org/Resources/Media/20091219_PrayerOfPeace.html

The Road. <http://roadofresistance.com/2011/03/15/the-road-film-premiere/>

Season of Fear: Internally Displaced People in Burma Call for International Action. Burma Issues.
http://www.burmaissues.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=107:season-of-fear&catid=6:video&Itemid=19