

Migrant Rights Promotion Working Group (MRPWG)

Situation update #1

Forced removal of migrant workers from Kok Kwai community

Humanitarian assistance

Based on the rapid assessment conducted by the ad-hoc working group, 270 migrants are forced to dismantle their houses and have no place to stay. Most of them who remain in the community have to sleep on plastic sheets. Many who went to hide in jungle and rice fields are in the unknown situation. MRPWG's Ad-hoc Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance to Forced Removal of Migrants from Kok Kwai Community has provided basic needs i.e. food, drinking water and plastic sheets to 270 migrants in Kok Kwai Community. However, there is no sanitation facility in place. The total of cash contribution to this emergency assistance as of 11th June is 60,000 Baht. In-kind contribution i.e. 13 rice sacks and some raw food are also provided.

Considering the poor living conditions and the possibility of widespread of communicable diseases, in particular to infant and young children, a temporary shelter is seen very important and should be set up as soon as possible. Unfortunately, most of the organizations feel reluctant to provide temporary shelter because they are afraid of being prosecuted due to providing accommodation for undocumented migrants. The situation is getting worse because migrants have started borrowing money from loan sharks in order to rent a house but no one dares giving them a house to rent. Currently, the working group keeps monitoring the situation and providing humanitarian assistance on a daily basis.

Round-up incident

On 12th June 2014, at 4.30 am, the joint-security forces led by the military and immigration officers went to Kok Kwai community and arrested 89 Myanmar Muslim migrants (40 adults and 49 children). This group had been brought to the immigration office for deportation process. Tak Provincial Social Development and Human Security Office, together with Tak Primary Education Service Area Office 2 and a NGO went to interview and identify unaccompanied and separated children but none of them belong to these groups. In addition, all of the arrested migrants are undocumented. After the screening process, children had been divided into 2 groups which are school children and out of school children including small children.

34 school children and 12 adults who are their family members were allowed to go back to the community while 43 migrants including young children had been deported to Myanmar within the same day. The working group has been monitoring the soft deportation situation and coordinating with a few relevant organizations to seek more support, in particular identifying a temporary shelter. Unfortunately, it is not successful resulting in some migrants staying in the community and some hiding in jungles and rice fields. The latest update from a community worker is migrants affected by soft deportation have walked back to the community but only 4 male migrants are still unknown of their whereabouts.

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For more information please contact:

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