

Report on the Zomi-Myanmar Refugees in Malaysia and India

Prepared by the Mission of Hope Team



*A young Zomi-Myanmar woman demonstrating working resilience.
Manipur, India*



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Table of Contents

MISSION OF HOPE	1
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	3
INTRODUCTION	4
SUMMARY	4
METHODS.....	4
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	4
A BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE ZOMI-MYANMAR REFUGEES	5
1. IDENTITY / ETHNIC PERSECUTION.....	5
2. RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION	9
3. POLITICAL PERSECUTION	10
THE STATE OF ZOMI-MYANMAR REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA	11
UNHCR REGISTRATION	11
PROTECTION.....	11
EDUCATION	12
HEALTH	12
EMPLOYMENT, FOOD AND SHELTER	13
THE STATE OF ZOMI- MYANMAR REFUGEES IN NORTH-EAST INDIA (MANIPUR AND MIZORAM)	13
UNCHR REGISTRATION	14
PROTECTION.....	14
EDUCATION	15
HEALTH	15
EMPLOYMENT, FOODS, AND SHELTER.....	15
RECOMMENDATIONS	16
TO THE UNCHR – MALAYSIA	16
TO THE UNHCR – INDIA	16
TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.....	16
TO THE MALAYSIA GOVERNMENT	17
TO THE INDIA GOVERNMENT	17
APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF MEETINGS:	18

MISSION OF HOPE

Zomi Community USA, REFUGEE PROGRAM

Biographies of Delegates

Rusty Albertson is the Director of Myanmar Outreach for St Mark Evangelist Catholic Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. With over 33 years as an educator, for the last 14 years Rusty has been the Principal of St. Mark Catholic School. St Mark Catholic School has been one of the fastest growing and most diverse Catholic schools in the Midwest. St Mark Catholic school has grown to a current enrollment of over 300 Burmese students (65% of the total enrollment), many are first generation refugees. In his current role as Director of Myanmar Outreach, he coordinates and facilitates many of the activities of the Myanmar community at St. Mark. Along with his wife Julie, and daughter Grace, Rusty has traveled to Myanmar in 2019 at the invitation of Bishop Felix of the Kalay Diocese. They visited Yangon, Kalaymyo, Tonzang, and Tedim to learn more about, and to assist with the Catholic education system in Myanmar. Rusty's focus for this trip to Malaysia and India will be from an educational perspective, to see what educational offerings and opportunities are being utilized and needed for the children and the adults in the refugee communities.

Tun C. Kap is the President of Zomi Baptist Churches of America and the Senior Pastor of Zomi American Community Church located in Pensacola, Florida. He is one of the founding members of Zomi Baptist Churches of America, which is a member of Baptist World Alliance and Christian Churches Together USA. He was a former advisor of ZIUSA and President of Zomi Innkuan Northwest Florida. Tun C. Kap received his Doctor of Biblical Studies and was awarded Doctor of Divinity on outstanding leadership in 2022. He is a small business owner and reside with his family in Pensacola, Florida, USA.

Francis Kham has a passion for working in his community and advocating for those who do not have a voice, a passion he has developed throughout his life. He has worked with the most vulnerable populations as a CHW in a refugee camp in Malaysia, as a jobs coach after his resettlement in Portland, OR in 2015, and now as health services coordinator 3 at Immigrant and refugee community organization-IRCO. Apart from his fulltime job at IRCO, Francis also volunteers as Community Issues & Planning committee advisory board member for Catholic Charities of Oregon since 2017 and the executive director of the Zomi Catholic Community Portland since 2015. Francis Kham is a volunteer advocacy and communication manager at Zomi Innkuan Refugee Committee since 2021.

Lun Kham Pieper is a licensed attorney from Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A. She practiced immigration law, criminal defense and civil litigation, and later became the first Burmese-American Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and Director of Burmese Outreach at the Marion County Prosecutor's Office in Indianapolis. After that, Lun joined the Indiana Supreme Court as a Staff Attorney for the Race & Gender Fairness Commission and Language Access for the Indiana Judiciary. Currently, she works in international criminal law and accountability and justice mechanism of an international body. Lun was born in Tedim, finished her high school 2 in the Philippines, and later came to the United States. Lun received her Bachelor of Science from Kelley

School of Business and her Doctor of Jurisprudence from IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law. She and her family currently reside in Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A.

Scott L. Stearman directs the International Advocacy Baptist Collaborative that seeks to amplify and coordinate the advocacy work of the global Baptist family at the United Nations and in WDC. At the UNHQ he is the lead representative of the Baptist World Alliance and helps lead NGO committees on Human Rights and on Freedom of Religion or Belief. He is vice chair of the board of trustees for the Parliament of World Religions and writes regularly on the intersection of religion and international/cultural affairs. For over three decades he has been a Baptist pastor, with congregations in Athens, Paris, St. Louis, and New York City. His educational background includes master's degrees from Southwestern and Princeton Seminaries and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Oklahoma. Scott currently resides part-time in Tampa, FL where he serves as Senior Pastor of the Bayshore Baptist Church.

Tual K. Suan is the Chairperson the board of Zomi Community USA and serves on its board of Director. He joined the organization 10 years ago. Tual is a philanthropist who believes in turning idea into reality. Prior joining the Zomi Community USA, Tual Suan actively participated in the democratic movement of Burma where he was working with Burmese and ethnic minority groups. Tual Suan is a small business owner and a realtor. He lives in Nashville TN, USA with his family.

Acknowledgment

I am thankful to the Zomi Community USA who took the leading role in fact finding and accomplishing planning for future activities for the livelihood of Zomi Refugees in Malaysia, India and Thailand.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to “Mission of Hope Delegations” who have traveled and accomplished the research in depth assessment for the nature and the reality of Zomi Refugees.

On behalf of Zomi Community USA, I would like to thank to delegations of Mission of Hope who organized public meetings with Zomi-Myanmar (Burma) Refugees to find out the dilemma and hardships of their current condition. They set up with series of individual meetings and interviews with Zomi refugees and keep their fact-finding notes for this report.

We would like to express our thankfulness to both individual donors and Churches for your support to make this report and fact finding happen as the “Mission of Hope” team had to travel and collect data and information about Zomi Refugees.

Thus, we purposely omitted the names of the individual, community leaders and faith-based organization in this report in order to respect privacy and to protect their safety and security.

Regards,



Tual Khan Suan
Board Chairman
Zomi Community USA

Introduction

On April 10, 2023 a group of six delegates, gathered and sponsored by the Zomi Community, USA, traveled to Malaysia and India. The purpose and objectives of the delegation are outlined below. This document is a result of the meetings and events of the trip, and it is a summation of the primary recommendations. The report will show that while those fleeing Myanmar are resilient, and the work done with and for them is substantial, much more must be done to avoid a larger humanitarian crisis.

Summary

This report seeks to show ways in which the Zomi inside Burma have been persecuted. Due to this prolonged persecution, the numbers of Zomi fleeing their homeland are rapidly increasing year after year.

This report also provides an examination of the information gathered from Zomi refugees in Malaysia and India in April of 2023. The goal of the information gathered is to build a platform for effective advocacy for the Zomi and for other refugees fleeing Burma. The ultimate home is a full embodiment of the human rights of those inside and outside of Burma: to live without fear and to have the freedom to preserve their identity language, culture, and religion.

Methods

The information in the report is gathered from interviews with Zomi, and other ethnic, refugees who have fled from Myanmar to Malaysia, and India.

The writers of this report made visits to Zomi refugees in Malaysia, Delhi, Aizawl and Churachandpur (Lamka) Manipur on April 10-20, 2023, and recorded public meetings and individual interviews. See appendix A for summary schedule of the meetings.

Recommendations

Given the severe persecution and hardships of Zomi Refugees in Malaysia, India, and Thailand, the host organizations and host countries, the UNHCR, and US, AUS, EU are obligated to take immediate action. See pages 16 and 17 for specific recommendations.

A Brief Background of the Zomi-Myanmar Refugees

Zomi have possessed a distinct ethnic identity before Burma was a nation. The Zomi are one of the ethnic groups who founded modern Myanmar (Burma) today. To gain Burma's independence, the Burmese leader Aung San and other nationals, including Zomi national Pu Thawng Za Khup signed Pinlong Agreement at Pinlong, Shan State, on 12th February 1947. In signing the Pinlong Agreement, Pu Thawng Za Khup commented, "If we join the Burman now, we Zomi will gain independence more quickly, Zomi will also have our own rights and privileges among the other nationals".

Zomi signed Pinlong Agreement to fight the British together for Burma's independence. Before British rule the Zomi had been independently living including in the West-Northern Hills from at least 1896. After the British took over all Zomi territories in the hills, the "Chin Hills Regulations Act, 1896" was drafted.

The Burman political movement in 1937 separated Burma from India, and divided Zomi territories into two countries: some parts of the Zomi territory in Burma and some in India.

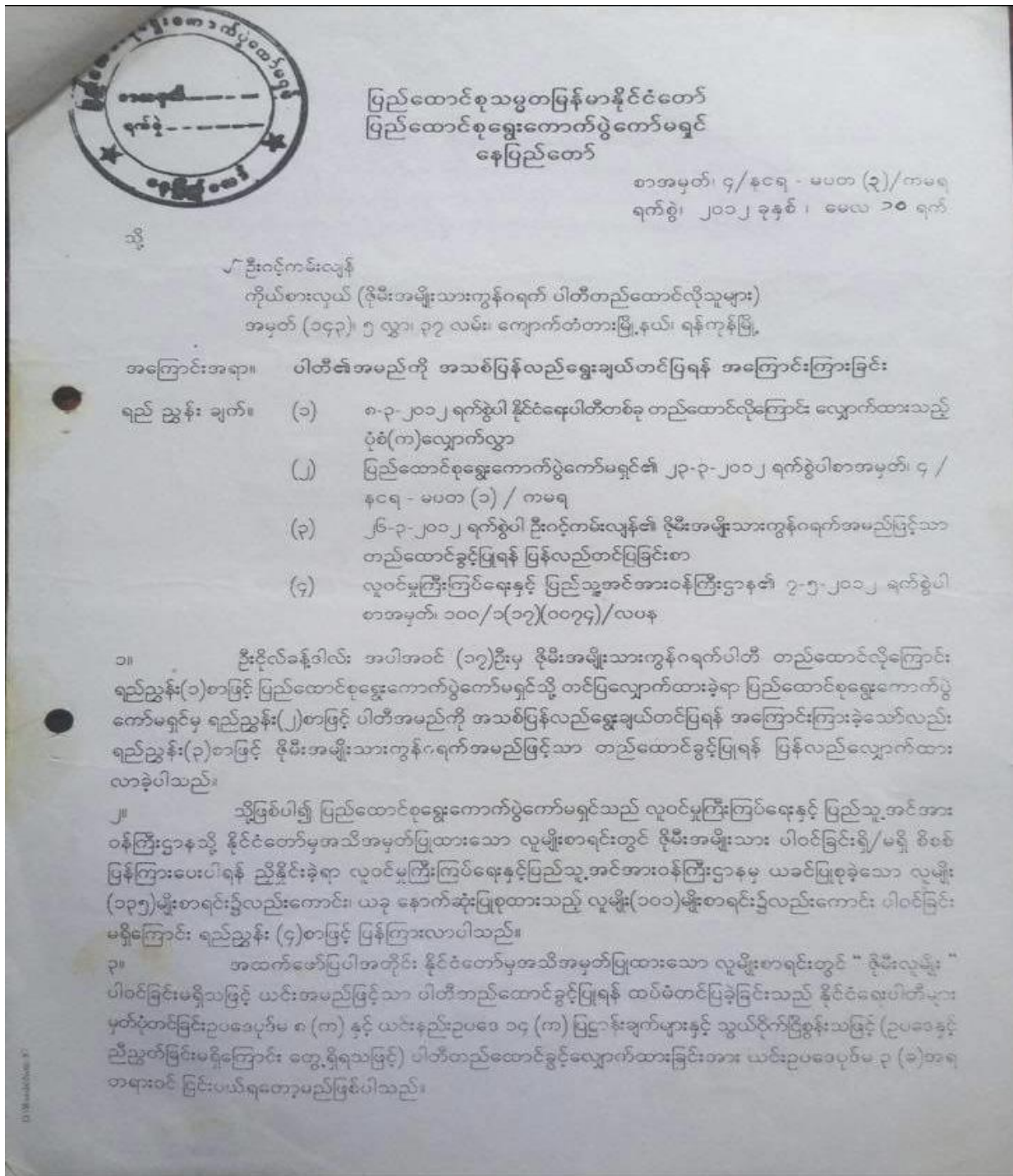
The British government failed to reunite the two parts of Zomi territories when they declared independence for both India and Burma. They established an international boundary between the territories. Ever since Zomi territories have remained separated, and some Zomi live in India and some live in Burma; as a consequence, since January 4th, 1948 (Burmese Independence Day) the Zomi have lived as a persecuted minority in Burma.

1. Identity / Ethnic persecution


The previous British colonist and the current Burma government forcefully imposed the word "Chin" for their national name to those who live under the British Colonist's Chin Hills Regulation Act, 1896 without proper fact-finding.

By ignoring UN Indigenous peoples' right article 33 (a) "Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions...." the military government never recognized the existence of the Zomi people as Zomi, but purposely and willfully ignore the dignity and the heritage of Zomi indigenous identity. They even banned Zomi from using their identity name, Zomi.

The following letter dated 10th May, 2012 of Union of Election Commission is a strong evidence for Burma government's denial for the use of Zomi as a national in Burma while collecting names of political parties for historic nationwide election day.



၄။ သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ပါတီတည်ထောင်လိုသူများအနေဖြင့် မိမိတို့တည်ထောင်လိုသောပါတီ၏အမည်သစ်ကို မြန်လည်ရွေးချယ်၍ ၃၀-၅-၂၀၁၂ ရက်နေ့ (ကြာသပတေးနေ့) အရောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုရွေးကောက်ပွဲကော်မရှင်သို့ ပုံစံ(က)ဖြင့် တရားဝင်ပြန်လည်တင်ပြလျှောက်ထားပါရန်နှင့် သတ်မှတ်ရက်ထက်ကျော်လွန်ပါက တည်ထောင်ခွင့် လျှောက်ထားခြင်းအား ပုဒ်မ ၃ (ခ)အရ ငြင်းပယ်မည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း အသိပေးအကြောင်းကြားပါသည်။


ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ(ရုံး-အ)
ပြည်ထောင်စုရွေးကောက်ပွဲကော်မရှင်

မိတ္တူကို

- ပြည်ထဲရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
- လူဝင်မှုကြီးကြပ်ရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့အင်အားဝန်ကြီးဌာန
- ပြည်ထောင်စုရွေးကောက်ပွဲကော်မရှင်ရုံး
- ဥက္ကဋ္ဌရုံး
- လက်ခံစာတွဲ
- မျှောစာတွဲ

Unofficial English Translation

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw

Dated: May 10, 2012

To
U Gin Kam Lian

Representative (those who want to establish Zomi National Congress Party)
No. (345), 5th Floor, 37th Street, Kyaukchada Township, Yangon City.
Letter No. 4/Nagara-Mapata (3)/Kamara

Content. Notification of re-election of the name of the party

References.

1. Form (a) Application for establishing a political party dated 8-3-2012.
2. No. 4/Nangara-Mapata (1)/Kamara dated 23-3-2012 of the Union Election Minister
3. Resubmission letter dated 26-2-2012 of U Gin Kam Lian to allow establishment only under the name of Zomi National Congress.
4. Letter No. 100/1(17) (0074) dated 7-5-2012 of the Minister of Immigration and Manpower.

Seventeen people including U Ngul Khan Dal, submitted an application to the Union Election Commission in reference letter No (1) for the establishment of the Zomi National Congress Party. The Union Election Commission informed them to submit a new party name in reference letter No (2) letter, but in reference letter No (3) they re-applied to allow the establishment of the Zomi National Congress Party only.

2. Therefore, the Union Election Commission agreed to verify and report to the Ministry of Immigration and People's Power whether or not Zomi national are included in the ethnic list recognized by the state. In the list of 135 nationalities previously compiled by the Minister of Immigration and People's Power, and Now I have received a reply with a reference letter No (4) stating that it is not included in the list of 101 ethnic groups that was compiled.

As stated above, since the Zomi people are not included in the ethnic group recognized by the state, the further submission to allow the establishment of a party under that name is in direct conflict with the provisions of the Political Parties Registration Law (a) and the provisions of the Law (a) (as it is found to be inconsistent with the law), the right to establish a party will be officially rejected according to Article 3(b) of the law.

Therefore, those who wish to establish a party should re-select the new name of the party they wish to establish and submit an official application form (a) to the Union Election Commission by 31-5- 2012 (Thursday).

Please formally resubmit the application to the Union Election Commission in form (a) and inform that if the deadline is exceeded, the establishment permit application will be rejected according to Section 3 (b).

Chairman
Union Election Commission

Copies to

- Minister of Interior
- Minister of Immigration and Police Manpower
- Union Election Commission Office
- Chairman's Office
- Accepted Thread
- Flooting Stringg

2. Religious Persecution

The contribution of American Baptist Missionaries (ABM) in early 1900s greatly impacted Zomi that today they embrace Christianity. In reference to the record of the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Burma, close to 90% of Zomi have faith in Christianity¹. The cross became national icon among the Zomi and they are displayed in public such as churches, villages, higher grounds, and occasionally used for places where sanctuary materials are kept. But crosses are often destroyed by the Military government. Buddhism has been hijacked by the military rulers to excuse the subjugation of other faiths – including the Christian faith of the Zomi. Pastors and priests have been ill-treated, disgracing the dignity of their ordination. The military forces civilians to carry their weapons and demanding harsh their labor.

By oppressing and persecuting the religion of Zomi people, the Burman military regime builds Buddhist temples and establishes monastery schools at the expense of the national budget. While the residents of Tedim, Tonzang and Cikha Township are banned to celebrate religious activities, the military regime opens their schools.

Zomi children are forced to learn and worship Buddhism. The below picture shows Zomi children who were forcefully brought to Buddhist temples and are being trained to become monks.

¹ 2014 (Myanmar) Population and Housing Census.



3. Political Persecution

Since the military coup in March 2, 1962, the minority Zomi in Burma could not identify themselves as Zomi and they could not preserve their traditional identities: - language, literature, and cultural heritage. Formation of any Zomi national organization that preserve traditional identity and values are abolished without reason. Teaching and learning Zomi language and literature are banned from public schools. As a result, many Zomi new generation cannot speak, read, or write. The children and youth of Zomi new generation are only taught in Burmese in order to implement Burmanization among the Zomi. Political news and media are halted by cutting internet and media, and by spreading propaganda. Zomi are often arrested for any political activity.

After the Burman military coup led by Min Aung Hlaing in February 1st, 2021, many Zomi fled to Malaysia, India, and Thailand as they no longer felt safe nor secure in their homeland. There are approximately 30,000 refugees in Malaysia according to the reported data from Zomi Association of Malaysia (ZAM) and Zomi Refugee Committee (ZRC) of Malaysia. Zomi Community Delhi also reported the number of Refugees in Delhi has now reached about 3,000. And Zomi Community in Aizawl reported the number of refugees in at nearly 10,000. Zogam Relief Committee Lamka, Manipur, India confirmed the number of refugees and IDP are between 4000- 5000 in Manipur, India. (Note: Zomi Refugees in Thailand are not included in this report.)

The State of Zomi-Myanmar Refugees in Malaysia

Malaysia is one of the primary destinations for Burma refugees. Due to enormous increase of politics unrest in Burma right after the Military led by Min Aung Hlaing took the country in February 2021, the number of refugees in Malaysia is increasing daily. People in Chin State stand against any military mobilization of the regime which escalated conflicts and greatly impacted to the security and safety of the people. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, there were around 183,790 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with the agency in Malaysia as of the end of January, more than 158,000 of which were from Myanmar. ²

UNHCR Registration

According to the report given by leaders of the Burmese Refugee Community, the wait to receive refugee registration at UNHCR in Malaysia is painfully long. Only a relatively small number of the Burmese refugee community have received UNHCR registration. The Refugee Community Groups (CSO) chart compares and contrast the total population and registered number of Refugee Community Groups (CSO). The chart indicates less than 27% of the Myanmar refugees currently registration with the UNHCR. More than 73% of the Myanmar refugees are waiting (or) pending to register with the UNHCR.

Community Groups	Population (estimated)	Registered with UNHCR	UNHCR Registration %
Shan Community	1200	600	50%
Malaysia Karen Organization	2200	919	42%
Dai-Chin Community	1000	100	10%
Falam Refugee Organization (FRO)	2900	400	20%
Alliance for Chin Refugee (ACR)	8,000	4,000	50%
Zomi Community by ZAM + ZRC	30,000	7,500	25%
Chin Refugee Committee -CRC	20,000	4,000	20%

The following organizations were invited but not able to attend to the meeting:

- Rohingya Society of Malaysia
- Organization of Karenni Development
- Kachin Refugee Committee
- Arakanese Refugee Relief Committee

Protection

Even the people who received a protection letter from UNHCR are not released if they are apprehended by the authorities in Malaysia. In addition, visits to the detention center are very restricted. Access Organization reported that no one can access and provide social needs to the refugees apprehended in Malaysia. They are not treated as refugees, and they are deported to the

² Malaysia's Anwar Voices Concern About Myanmar Refugee Crisis: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/03/malaysias-anwar-voices-concern-about-myanmar-refugee-crisis/>

border of Malaysia and Thailand. The border is the most vulnerable place for human trafficking. Those who cannot access ransom money are not released but often sold to fishing boats when caught by human traffickers. A Shan community leader testified that Malaysia authorities apprehended not only the individual but also raided Malaysia-Karen community office and took away all office equipment in February 2023.

Education

The children of Burmese refugee in Malaysia cannot access formal education. Thus, refugee organizations and faith-based organizations form their own learning centers where the children can learn basic education. The learning centers do not have sufficient resource for teaching and learning materials for both facilitators and learners.

These centers do not have sufficient teachers and effective classroom material and lessons. Not all children can enroll learning center due to insufficient resources. Some children must work manual labor jobs for tuition fees and family needs. There are cases of children being apprehended on their way to learning centers. Consequently, students feel insecure about basic transport to educational facilities.



Health

Healthcare for Refugees in Malaysia is a desperate need. Those who have received UNHCR card may have a discount rate in healthcare service, but those who have not received UNHCR registration are quite often paying double. Besides, they would bear the hardship on their shoulder without visiting any clinic due to lack of healthcare support. The man pictured needs dialysis and must visit a medical center daily. Pregnant women cannot afford to visit clinics for medical checkups unless they have received UNHCR card. They do not have access to health insurance. Pregnant women only safely give birth with the donations contributed by their relatives or community.



Employment, Food and Shelter

Those who do not have jobs cannot afford to buy for food, drinks, and shelter. Refugee agencies assist in raising funds for their wellbeing. Refugees do not have work permits and must therefore work illegally. The employers demand every worker legal work permits from Malaysia government; thus, the refugees can hardly get suitable jobs. For the worst case, if a person does not have legal work permit, it is disadvantaged to get paid normal wages. As one person's salary cannot afford to pay for the bills, three to four families must live together – often in very difficult circumstances.

The State of Zomi- Myanmar Refugees in North-East India (Manipur and Mizoram)

After 2 years of a coup d'état in Myanmar, the Tatmadaw continues to attack its own people through aerial strikes, bombings, burning of houses, shootings, and arbitrary arrest. This situation continues to prompt many innocent Myanmar citizens to flee for their lives and seek refuge in neighboring countries.

Through the 1,643 km stretch of Indo-Myanmar border, in the Chin State and the Sagaing Region- the two regions are one of the strongholds of the resistance against the military coup. And many Myanmar nationals whose lives are threatened have taken shelter in the bordering villages of Manipur and Manipur of Northeast India.

The Zomi and Chin in North-East India find themselves in unsafe environment with security threats looming as India presently does not have a basic statute or framework to govern refugees as it is not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention 1951 or 1967 protocols. With these at the backdrop, many of the Zomi and Chins refugees live in fear of being caught, detained, and forced to leave the country if found to seek shelter without any valid or official documents particularly in Manipur. Manipur state government issued an order on March 26, 2021, stating “people trying to enter/seek refuge should be politely turned away” which was retracted³ but continue to be in practice. In this regard, more than 80 individuals have been caught in Churachandpur, Manipur⁴ on 28 June 2022, and more recently on 28 January 2023⁵, 80 individuals including 9 minors were arrested near Moreh, 4 in Moreh on 31 January 2023⁶ and 10 in Churachandpur town on 6 February 2023⁷ which is highly concerning and disturbing.

In juxtaposition, Mizoram state government welcomed Zomi and Chin refugees as fellow brethren invoking a common identity with deep ethnic bonds despite the Centre's order to close its border. Mizoram government is facilitating Myanmar refugees by giving shelter and arranging temporary

³ [After backlash, Manipur retracts letter on Myanmar refugees - The Hindu](#)

⁴ [Government Cracks Down on Myanmar Refugees in Indian Border State – The Diplomat](#)

⁵ [80 Myanmar Nationals Arrested Near Manipur's Moreh Town | Imphal News - Times of India \(indiatimes.com\)](#)

⁶ [Manipur: 4 Myanmar nationals arrested in Moreh \(nenow.in\)](#)

⁷ [10 Myanmar nationals arrested in Manipur | North East India News, The Indian Express](#)

settlements through a systematic process of identification and handout of ID cards which help asylum seekers in many ways.

The recent bombing incident at Camp Victoria⁸ towards the Indian border of Mizoram prompted the innocent to seek asylum in large hordes and thus the arrival trends of refugees are largely dependent on the situation of conflict in Myanmar. On such situations, Zomi and Chin refugee arrivals can reach from 300-1500 individuals in a single day in Mizoram and this calls for special protection measures and aid to asylum seekers because of the extraordinary circumstances they faced to protect their lives.

Many community organizations such as the Hill Tribal Council (HTC) and Kuki Student Organisation (KSO) of Tengnoupal, and Zogam Relief Committee (ZOREC) of Churachandpur for Manipur while Young Mizo Association (YMA) and Village Level Council (VCP) are facilitating ground needs and immediate help. While international humanitarian agency such as Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are assisting more than 15,000 Zomi and Chin refugees in both Manipur and Mizoram through their food, health, and other socio-economic interventions. Such kind of humanitarian coordinated efforts continues to be a basic need as Zomi and Chin refugees are solely dependent on aid and local community support.

Roughly ten days after the delegation left Manipur, a major conflict erupted with (to date) 60 Kuki identified people being killed, hundreds of homes and dozens of churches have been burned, reported by the Time of India.⁹ As Manipur is in chaos, the Zomi-Myanmar refugees are not safe in their present situation.

UNCHR Registration

The voice from the public meeting with Zomi-Myanmar refugee community confirms that the duration of registration with UNHCR takes too long for the refugees. Many newly arrived refugees in 2021 have not received the UNHCR's registration even after waiting for two to three years. Zomi Community Delhi and Chin Refugee Committee – Delhi reported that the number of Zomi and Chin refugees' registration to the UNHCR is less than 20% in proportion to the refugee and asylum seekers.

In reference to Myanmar Refugee Relief Committee (MRRC- Mizoram) and Zomi Community Aizawl, there are about 10,000 Zomi-Chin refugees in Mizoram, India. But they cannot access UNHCR for refugee registration. Moreover, the refugees in Manipur, India too cannot access UNHCR for the registration. Zogam Relief Committee confirmed that there have been 3000-4000 Zomi-Myanmar Refugees in Manipur.

Protection

Zomi-Myanmar refugees in India have no legal refugee status and that leads to weak protection and lack of security for the refugees. They can be apprehended for legally crossing the border

⁸ [Fears of escalation after Myanmar air raids near India border | Military News | Al Jazeera](#)

⁹ [No home to return to: Manipur violence survivors.](#)

without legal document at any moment. The Manipur State government, particularly, views the refugees but as illegal immigrants. As a consequence, they are often deported or placed in a detention center.

Mizoram state government has the jurisdiction to offer refugee identification documentation for the protection and safety of the refugees from Myanmar. This is not UNHCR registration but does provide identification and some protection from detention. The Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), under Ministry of Home Affairs of India Government, does not give Zomi and Chin refugees permission to resettle in first world countries such as USA, AUS, EU. There are multiple cases of refugees who have entry paperwork for another country, being denied exits from India. Some have received and passed the required registration and interviews including departure training and purchased tickets only to be denied exit.

Education

The children of Zomi-Myanmar refugee in India are given a privileged to access at elementary schools but cannot afford the secondary and higher education. The most challenging experience for Zomi-Myanmar refugees in India is noted as language barrier. The children found difficulties in learning both Hindi as state level and Mizo as local level. Some children do not go to schools because their parents cannot afford tuition fees and uniform.

Health

Zomi-Myanmar Refugees in Mizoram do not have health insurance that they are being limited to access medication. This is due to the difficulties of livelihood and not being Indian citizen creates a fearful of being arrested. Even though UNHCR provides healthcare through Don Bosco Ashalayam (DBA), it is not sufficient for major treatment such as surgery, childbirth, disability. The refugees must find funds from relatives and close friends around.

Employment, Foods, and Shelter

Drinks and food, a place for sleeping are basic daily needs for Zomi-Myanmar refugees. Not only that they do not have legal work permit but also there are lack of job opportunity, they live on much hardship basic. Local people and community organizations contribute their basic need as much as they can, but the refugees also have to work hard to for living.

Recommendations

To the UNCHR – Malaysia

1. Make immediate response to those who are applying for Refugee status and arrange Refugee status determination interviews as soon as possible.
2. Take immediate action on registration to more than 73% of the Myanmar refugees in Malaysia.
3. Provide protection for the refugee and asylum seekers.
4. UNHCR must be provided sufficient resource for refugee registration.
5. Review pending case sand rejected cases.
6. Refugee registration should be permitted as soon as the refugee and asylum seeker can provide their national identity.
7. Provide sufficient language translators and interpreters for Zomi-Myanmar refugees accordingly to population proportion.
8. International communities and organizations should increase funding for the UNHCR operation.

To the UNHCR – India

1. Speed the to the next process after the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interview is done.
2. Initiate remote refugee registration for Zomi-Myanmar Refugee in Mizoram and Manipur.
3. Provide legal permission to all refugees concerning their health, education, employment.
4. Extend collaboration with the Resettlement from U.S, Canada, AUS and EU countries in order to increase resettlement in those countries.
5. Increase the effort of advocacy with the government of India for making permission to the refugees whose exit permits are banned.

To the U.S. Government

1. Recommend working cooperatively and diligently with UNHCR Malaysia for taking the right number 125,000 refugees' goal in FY 2023 and FY 2024.
2. Advocate for Zomi who are fleeing to Malaysia and India because of February 2021 Burma coup d'etat and its consequences.
3. UNHCR must be provided with sufficient financial resources as they require sufficient financial resource for refugee registration.
4. Support those who have been oppressed for their minority or religion.
5. Engage the government of Malaysia and India to provide safety and security for Zomi-Myanmar refugee in Malaysia and India.
6. Sanction international companies that sell jet fuel supplies to the military junta. While smaller Burmese entities can be easily replaced, major international entities would face severe repercussions and serious obstacles to their ability to supply the military.
7. Bar any entity from providing shipping insurance or shipping services to companies selling jet fuel to the military, its allies or affiliated companies. The most effective way of

disrupting the flow of jet fuel is to prevent ships from picking up cargo or accessing ports by withholding insurance and services.

8. Impose sanctions on the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), as the European Union has already done. Sanctions on MOGE itself, not just on MOGE officials, would cut off one of the junta's largest revenue streams and have the greatest impact on stopping the junta's campaign of lethal violence in the country.
9. Hold the Burmese junta accountable for their clear violations of international law and active war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and mass atrocities.
10. We join the recommendation of U.N. Special Rapporteur, Thomas Andrews, that the U.S. Administration work vigorously to gather a coalition of states to undermine the military rule of Myanmar and to support democracy.

To the Malaysia Government

1. Stop apprehension and deportation of Refugee and asylum seeker.
2. Allow refugee children attending schools in Malaysia according to Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
3. Support the human rights of refugee and asylum seekers in detention centers. UNHCR and NGOs must be allowed to access to those who are detained.
4. Provide provisions for temporary worker permits to refugee and asylum seekers.

To the India Government

1. Provide appropriate documentation to allow the refugees, who have been granted for resettlement, exit from the country.
2. View refugees and asylum seekers from humanitarian grounds and provide essential needs as per their human rights.
3. Provide the refugees with temporary work permit for their living.
4. Respect the human rights of all religious minorities, specifically those enumerated in Article 18 of the UDHR.

Appendix A – Summary of Meetings:

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

April 13, 2023

- Zomi Education Center
- Coalition of Burmese Ethnic in Malaysia, Independent Chin Communities, Zomi Association of Malaysia, Zomi Refugee Committee, Shan Refugee Organization, Falam Refugee Committee, Dai Refugee Committee, Chin Refugee Committee,
- United States Embassy
- Dignity Children Foundation
- Malaysian NGOs (Tenaganita, BAR Council, Asylum Access for Refugees)

April 14, 2023

- YB Wong Chen with tour of the Malaysian Parliament
- Senior Pastor of KL Baptist Church
- UNHCR in KL
- Zomi pastors and other faith leaders

April 15, 2023

- Zomi students, parents and teachers
- Town Hall with Zomi in Malaysia
- Baptist faith leaders in Malaysia

April 16, 2023

- Attend Sunday Services: Baptist and Zo Catholic Community and Myanmar Catholic Community (Manna Zomi Christian, Ebenezer Malaysia, Agape Church, St. John Cathedral)

New Delhi, India

April 17, 2023

- UNHCR Official, New Delhi
- Zomi Community Delhi
- Myanmar Community faith-based leaders

Aizawl, Mizoram, India

April 18, 2023

- Refugee camp – community of CDMs in Aizawl
- Dinner meeting – Myanmar Refuge Relief Committee – Mizoram

April 19, 2023

- Mizoram Catholic Bishop Most. Rev. Stephen Rotluanga (Bishop's House)
 - Jesuit Refugee Service
 - Young Mizo Association, Mizo Zilai Pawl, Zomi Community Aizawl, and Mizoram faith leaders
- Exiled- MPs from Chin and other region from Myanmar were invited for a meeting but they are not available.

Churachandpur, Manipur, India

April 20, 2023

- Zomi Refugee Relief Committee
- Refugee community New Lamka
- Evangelical Baptist Convention leaders of Manipur
- Zomi Council
- Faith Leaders and Community Leaders



Refugees pick up trash to resell for living- Zokhawthar: India-Burma Border