

Chin Human Rights Organization 2009 Annual Report



Chin woman (©CHRO, 2009)

2009 Highlights

- *Coverage in more than 14 media sources and participated in five radio interviews*
- *Raised more than US\$150,000 to support food aid relief efforts in Chin State, and at least US\$94,000 to support Chin community-based organizations in India and Malaysia.**
- *Organized a concert series in Australia, U.S., Europe*
- *Released two full-length reports highlighting issues of concern within the Chin community*
- *Visited Chin communities and engaged in advocacy in Korea, Japan, Czech Republic, U.S., U.K, Canada, India, Malaysia, France, Australia, and Norway*
- *Provided briefings to high level government officials, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and advocacy groups.*

*CHRO is grateful for the generous donations provided by institutions, churches, and individuals in 2009.

A Letter from CHRO Executive Director Salai Bawi Lian Mang

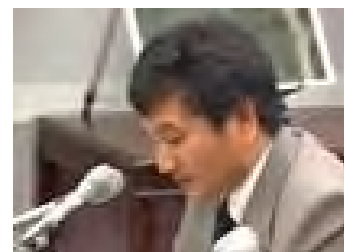
Dear Friends,

2009 was a tumultuous year for Chin communities throughout the world, as Chin in Burma struggled with pervasive human rights violations and extreme food shortages; Chin in India struggled with limited refugee protections and humanitarian concerns; Chin in Malaysia struggled with security abuses; and Chin in resettlement countries struggled with a faltering world economy. However, CHRO made significant inroads to respond to the hardships and tribulations facing our Chin brethren. As the Executive Director of CHRO, I am proud of the commitment, love, and concern CHRO's staff, board members, and supporters have demonstrated in 2009 to ensure the rights of the Chin people are protected.

This year marked CHRO's tenth year of prioritizing international advocacy as a core activity. Upon receiving status as a non-profit in Canada in 1999, CHRO began raising attention to Chin issues in world forums, such as the United Nations Commission for Human Rights (now Human Rights Council), the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, as well as with governments, international agencies, and advocacy groups throughout the world. These achievements have ensured that Chin concerns are not ignored.

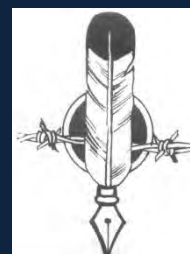
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CHRO Executive
Director Salai Bawi
Lian Mang



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www.chro.ca



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2009 has held other accomplishments for CHRO. CHRO organized a series of concerts in Australia, the U.S. and Europe to raise awareness and donations for community-based relief teams providing essential aid to families affected by food shortages in Chin State. CHRO released two full-length reports and contributed substantially to the Human Rights Watch report released in January. CHRO also participated in advocacy trips to Korea, Japan, the U.K., Czech Republic, France, Norway, and Canada. In 2009, CHRO continued to document human rights violations through the bi-monthly *Rhododendron* publication. We continued work closely with and support Chin communities living as refugees in India and Malaysia.

CHRO's work in 2009 would not have been possible without donations and financial support from several institutions, individuals, and churches. We are grateful for this support and hope that continuing support of CHRO's programs will result in increased protection, security, and well-being for the Chin people in 2010.

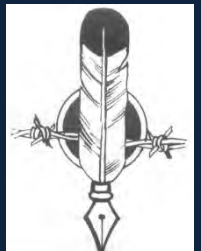
Sincerely,

Salai Bawi Lian Mang



Chin girl holding baby
(©CHRO, 2009)

Founded in 1995, the CHRO is the primary rights-based, advocacy organization for the Chin people. CHRO is a non-governmental, non-profit organization legally registered in Canada with offices in India, Thailand, and the United States.



Key Activities of January 2009

- Executive Director Salai Bawi Lian and Board Member Victor Biak Lian, in cooperation with leaders from Chin Baptist Fellowship of America, provided a briefing to the American Baptist Churches (ABC) at Valley Forge on the human rights and humanitarian situation for the Chin people.
- CHRO spoke at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand in Bangkok, Thailand on the occasion of the launch of the Human Rights Watch (HRW) report, *"We Are Like Forgotten People," The Chin People of Burma: Unsafe in Burma, Unprotected in India*, which CHRO contributed to substantially. CHRO was one of the main presenters during the event and also responded to media inquiries.
- CHRO engaged in several advocacy meetings with HRW related to the release of their report. Meetings included:
 - US Embassy officials;
 - Indian Embassy officials;
 - Australia Embassy officials;
 - World Food Program officials, including the Asia Regional Director and his deputies; and
 - UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- CHRO provided a briefing of conditions in Burma and the situation for Chin refugees in India and Malaysia to representatives of Christian Solidarity Worldwide.
- CHRO in coordination with the Canadian Chin Christian Fellowship met with an official from the Canadian International Development Agency as well as the Senior Policy Director and Advisor to the Minister to provide a briefing on the food crisis and political situation in Chin State.



Amy Alexander (CHRO Advocacy Officer) speaking at Human Rights Watch report launch in Bangkok (©CHRO, 2009)

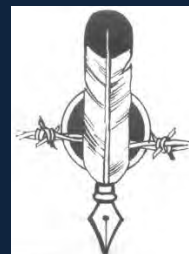
Highlights of Activities January – March 2009

- Participated in the release of the Human Rights Watch report on Chin State.
- Provided briefings to the American Baptist Churches in the U.S., Embassy officials in Thailand and Malaysia, World Food Program, UN officials, and the Canadian International Development Agency
- Assisted organizing concerts in Australia to raise awareness of the food crisis in Chin State
- CHRO released the report, *Waiting on the Margins: An Assessment of the Humanitarian Situation of Chin Refugees from Burma in Delhi, India*.

CHRO is actively engaged in:

*Human rights documentation
Humanitarian assistance
Community development projects*

*International campaigning and advocacy
Human rights trainings and capacity building*



Key Activities of Feb. 2009

- CHRO led a three-person delegation from the nongovernmental organization Children on the Edge (COTE) on a visit to the Chin communities in Malaysia.
- CHRO provided a briefing on the political situation in Chin State to the Political Officer and Vice Consul of the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia.
- CHRO participated in United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) annual consultation meeting with non-governmental organizations in Malaysia and gave a presentation about the Burmese refugee community in Malaysia.
- CHRO in cooperation with the Chin Christian Fellowship in Malaysia led a six-person delegation of the American Baptist Churches from the U.S. in a visit with the Chin community in Malaysia. Following their visit, ABC agreed to remain in communication.
- CHRO Board Member Victor Biak Lian attended the Burma Donor's Consultation meeting in Manila, Philippines.
- CHRO provided information to a researcher from Japan who is working to pressure the Japanese government to grant applications for asylum and become a refugee resettlement country.
- CHRO released the report, *Waiting on the Margins: An Assessment of the Humanitarian Situation of Chin Refugees from Burma in Delhi, India*.
- CHRO published the Rhododendron January – February 2009 issue, documenting human rights abuses committed against the Chin people.

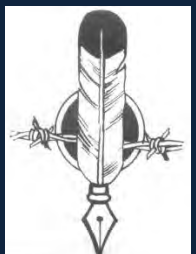


American Baptist Churches delegation from the U.S. visit with the Chin refugee community in Malaysia (©CHRO, 2009)



Children on the Edge visit with Chin refugee community living in Kepong camp, Malaysia (©CHRO, 2009)

In 2009, CHRO published six Rhododendron bulletins documenting abuse and human rights violations committed against the Chin people.



Key Activities of March 2009

- CHRO-New Delhi assisted with the visit of an official from Australia Embassy based in Kuala Lumpur to Mizoram State.
- In collaboration with Chin community from three different cities in Australia- Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra- CHRO organized a series of concerts to raise awareness and support for relief teams providing food aid to famine victims in Chin State. Top Mizo singers from India and top Chin singers from Burma participated in the concerts.
- Dawt Chin from CHRO-Delhi attended the Asia Regional Prep-Meeting on UN Mechanisms and Indigenous Peoples in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- CHRO was actively involved in “Free Burma’s Political Prisoners Now” Signature Campaign.
- CHRO participated in a Voice of America interview to discuss the report released by Internal Displacement Monitoring Center based in Geneva regarding the Internally Displacement situation in Burma.
- CHRO visited the Chin communities in Malaysia, South Korea, and Japan.
- CHRO organize a meeting in Aizawl with four border-based relief organizations providing food aid to communities affected by food shortages in Chin State. CHRO evaluated the cross-border relief activities.

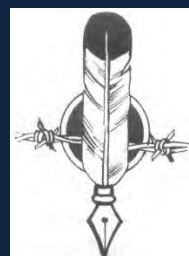


CHRO Board Member Victor Biak Lian with concert organizers in Melbourne, Australia (©CHRO, 2009)



Dawt Chin, Program Officer of CHRO-Delhi, giving presentation on situation of women in Burma, Delhi, India (©CHRO, 2009)

In 2009, CHRO traveled to and engaged in advocacy in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., France, the Czech Republic, Norway, Australia, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, and India.



Key Activities of April 2009

- CHRO met with community-based partner organizations in Malaysia and provided training on writing activities reports and financial statements to the Burma Ethnic Assistance Program (BEAP).
- CHRO met with representatives from the Burma Center Prague from the Czech Republic to discuss the situation of Burmese refugees in India.
- CHRO assisted two Indian film-makers from Free Lance media who are making a documentary about the situation of Burmese refugees in Delhi.
- With the help of the Chin Refugee Committee, CHRO updated the list of refugees having problems with the Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) in Delhi, India.
- CHRO Executive Director met with the Chin community and church leaders in the Washington, DC area to discuss responses to the humanitarian crisis in Chin State.
- US Senate Foreign Relations Committee released its report Trafficking and Extortion of Burmese Migrants in Malaysia and Southern Thailand, to which CHRO contributed material.
- CHRO assisted the Global Health Access Program with their basic health training in Mizoram, India.

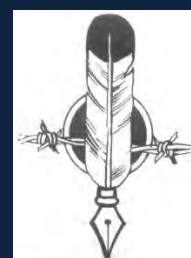


Rice distribution to families affected by food shortages in Chin State (©CHRO, 2009)

Highlights of Activities April – June 2009

- *Met with and provided briefings to:*
 - *Kevin Sorenson, the Canadian MP Chair of the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee in the Canadian Parliament*
 - *Representatives from the Burma Center Prague*
 - *The Chin community and church leaders in the Washington, DC area*
 - *The Oslo Peace Center*
 - *The US Embassy in Malaysia*
 - *Representatives from the International Organization of Migration (IOM)*

In 2009, CHRO raised more than US\$150,000 to support food aid relief efforts in Chin State.



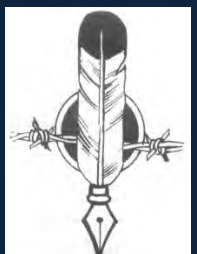
Key Activities of May 2009

- CHRO attended a conference in Bangkok organized by the Global Access to Justice Center and the Burma Lawyer's Committee on the potential of bringing war crimes and crimes against humanity to the International Criminal Court.
- CHRO met with the Oslo Peace Center in Bangkok.
- CHRO met with the Burmese communities in India to discuss a response to Aung San Suu Kyi's trial and later participated in a demonstration in the New Delhi Diplomat quarter.
- CHRO facilitated the visit of two documentary film-makers from Free Lance Media to the homes of Chin refugees living in Delhi, India.
- CHRO joined a sit-in protest in Delhi, India calling for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners in Burma.
- CHRO assisted IOM with the resettlement process of Chin refugees.
- CHRO Board Member Victor Biak Lian represented CHRO at the Burma Roundtable meeting in Toronto and made a presentation on the role of ethnic people in the struggle for democracy in Burma.
- CHRO Board Member Victor Biak Lian, along with former Canadian Secretary of State David Gilgour and former Malaysia Ambassador to Canada Dennis J. Ignatious and Peter Gillespie of InterPares visited Kevin Sorenson, the MP Chair of the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee in the Canadian Parliament to discuss the refugee situation in Malaysia.
- CHRO Executive Director gave an interview to the Voice of America regarding Sr. Gen. Than Shwe's statement on Burma's economic development after SPDC took over State power.



*Protest held in
Delhi, India
(©CHRO, 2009)*

*In 2009, CHRO raised at least US\$94,000 to support
Chin community-based partner organizations
in India and Malaysia*



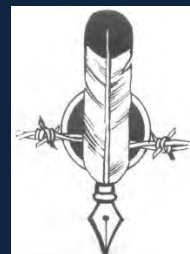
Key Activities of June 2009

- CHRO attended Donor's Forum Conference on Migration in Malaysia, a two-day workshop with non-governmental organizations and donor organizations working with migrant workers.
- CHRO visited the Chin partner community-based organizations in Malaysia and discussed conditions in Malaysia.
- CHRO met with the US Embassy in Malaysia and provided a political briefing on the situation in Burma and discussed the situation of refugees in Malaysia.
- CHRO met with a representative of the International Country Orientation Department in Malaysia of the Organization of Migration to discuss problems with the resettlement process to the US
- CHRO joined a "Tibet Youth Camp" in Dharamsala, India.
- CHRO joined a demonstration in front of the Burmese Embassy in Delhi, India in recognition of the 64th birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi.
- CHRO facilitated the visit of a journalist from the Philippines to the homes of refugees in Delhi, India.
- Mai Dawt Chin of CHRO-Delhi gave an interview to the Democratic Voice of Burma about the role of Chin students in the democracy and human rights movement in Burma.
- CHRO met with the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma trainer team to evaluate participants of the Human Rights, Women Rights, Gender, and Child Rights workshops and trainings from 2006-2008.
- CHRO held its annual board meeting in Canada.
- CHRO published Rhododendron Human rights newsletter May-June 2009 issue.



CHRO facilitating a human rights training in Delhi, India (©CHRO, 2009)

In 2009, CHRO organized concerts in Australia, Europe, and the U.S. to raise awareness and money to support food aid relief efforts in Chin State



Key Activities of July 2009

- CHRO arranged a trip for the non-governmental organization, Voice of Witness, to visit the Chin community in Malaysia to conduct interviews for a book project.
- CHRO assisted with the editing of the Voice of Chin Refugees Newsletter, an English-language community bulletin published in Malaysia.
- CHRO met with the non-governmental organization, Children on the Edge, to discuss support for partner organizations in Malaysia and India.
- CHRO provided services to the refugee community in New Delhi, including:
 - counseling services to 10 new refugee families;
 - translation of cases for seven asylum seekers with UNHCR;
 - intervention of landlord-tenant (refugees) problems;
 - house visits with refugee families to document their living situations;
 - meeting with the Social & Legal Information Center (SLIC), a UNHCR partner, on how to develop better relations and communications with regards to the problems of refugees
- CHRO met with officials of the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs to discuss problems facing Burmese refugees in receiving residential permits through the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO).
- CHRO organized a demonstration in Delhi, India, marking the anniversary of the student massacre in Burma in 1962.

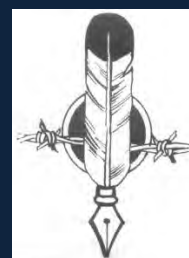


Matthew Smith (EarthRights International), Tony Baldry (Conservative Party Human Rights Commission Chairman), Salai Bawi Lian Mang (CHRO Executive Director), Benedict Rogers (Christian Solidarity Worldwide) (©CHRO, 2009)

Highlights of Activities July – September 2009

- Released the report, *On the Edge of Survival: the Continuing Rat Infestation and Food Crisis in Chin State*.
- Presented a paper on the Chin at a conference in Oxford University.
- Provided briefings to the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, Refugees International, Norwegian Mission to the East, the French Ambassador on Human Rights, the Norwegian Baptist Union, Norwegian Church Aid, Chairman of the UK Conservative Party Human Rights Commission Tony Baldry MP, UK Shadow Foreign Minister Keith Simpson MP, the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, DFID, and Baroness Caroline Cox.

In 2009, CHRO released the full-length report Waiting on the Margins: An Assessment of the Humanitarian Situation of Chin Refugees from Burma in Delhi, India.



Key Activities of Aug. 2009

- CHRO met with Refugees International to discuss the refugee situation in India and Malaysia.
- CHRO met with a representative of the Norwegian Mission to the East to discuss the famine relief efforts in Chin State.
- CHRO held several meetings with UNHCR and its implementing partners in Delhi, India regarding the case of Burmese refugee who was held for the last two years in a mental facility run by one of UNCHR's local partner without the knowledge of the victim's family or community. CHRO eventually gained this man's release.
- CHRO visited three nursery schools run by UNHCR implementing partners to document conditions of Burmese refugee children in Delhi, India.
- CHRO published Rhododendron Human rights newsletter July-August 2009 issue.

CHRO
Advocacy
Officer Amy
Alexander
speaking at
Oxford
University
(@CHRO,
2009)

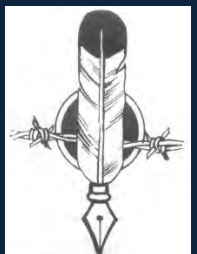


Key Activities of Sept. 2009

- CHRO released an update on the food crisis in a report entitled, *On the Edge of Survival: the Continuing Rat Infestation and Food Crisis in Chin State*.
- CHRO prepared an unpublished preliminary assessment on CHRO investigations into the Mwetaung mining project in Kalaymyo.
- CHRO conducted a basic human rights training with the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma (HRIEB).
- CHRO facilitated a workshop on "Women under Militarization," sponsored by Burmese, Indian, and Tibetan women living in Delhi, India.
- CHRO initiated a community discussion on the situations of women from Burma.
- CHRO presented a paper entitled, "A Community-Based Approach to Protection: Case Study of the Chin Community in India and Malaysia," at a conference in Oxford University.
- CHRO gave a briefing on the refugee situation in Malaysia to the French Ambassador on Human Rights in Paris.
- CHRO gave a presentation at the Unijazz Center in the Czech Republic during the inauguration of a photo exhibition on the Chin food crisis.

(Activities continued on next page)

In 2009, CHRO released the full-length report, On the Edge of Survival: the Continuing Rat Infestation and Food Crisis in Chin State.



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- CHRO gave an hour-long interview with the Czech Republic national radio station “Radio Wave” discussing the famine in Chin State. CHRO also gave radio interviews to the London-based Christian Premiere Radio and BBC.
- CHRO participated in the conference “Promoting Partnership for Transition in Burma” sponsored by Foreign Affairs Department of Czech republic and Euro-Burma office.
- CHRO provided briefings on the situation in Chin State and in exile to the following government officials and agencies in Europe:
 - The Baptist Union of Norway, Norwegian Mission to the East and Norwegian Church Aid.
 - The Chairman of the Conservative Party Human Rights Commission of the United Kingdom, Tony Baldry MP.
 - The Shadow Foreign Minister Mr. Keith Simpson MP of the United Kingdom.
 - Officials at the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development.
 - Baroness Cox of Queensbury, former Deputy Speaker of the British House of Lords and Chair of the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust.

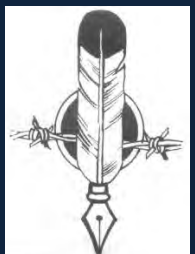


CHRO Executive Director Salai Bawi Lian Mang talking about the food crisis in Chin State on a Czech radio show (©CHRO, 2009)



CHRO briefing to the UK Department for International Development (DFID), accompanied by Baroness Caroline Cox and Benedict Rogers (CSW) (©CHRO, 2009)

In 2009, CHRO received coverage in more than 14 media sources



Key Activities of Oct. 2009

- CHRO team participated at Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Networks, where CHRO's advocacy officer Amy Alexander was elected as Vice Chair Person of the Southeast Asia Working Group
- CHRO represented the issues of refugees in India and Malaysia at the NGO-UNHCR consultation in Bangkok.
- CHRO attended the Detention and International Advocacy Workshop sponsored by the International Detention Coalition in Bangkok.
- CHRO visited our partner community-based organizations in Malaysia and met with the Community Development Unit of UNHCR to discuss its new initiative to provide small grants to refugee community organizations.
- CHRO provided an overview of CHRO and the situation of refugees in Mizoram and Malaysia to representatives of the Baptist Union of Norway.
- CHRO met with the Burma Relief Center in Thailand to discuss CHRO's involvement in the food relief programs in Mizoram.
- CHRO published *Rhododendron* human rights newsletter September – October 2009 issue.

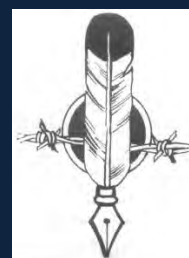


CHRO Executive Director Salai Bawi Lian Mang in the Czech Republic at the inauguration of a photo exhibit on the food crisis of Chin State.

Highlights of Activities October – December 2009

- *Facilitated the visit of Christian Solidarity Worldwide and the Humanitarian Assistance Relief Trust to Delhi and Mizoram, India. Baroness Caroline Cox of the UK House of Lords was among the delegation.*
- *Facilitated the production of a four-part photo exhibition on the Chin people.*
- *Became a member of ND-Burma*
- *Provided briefings to the Norwegian Baptist Mission and the United Nations Humanitarian Aid Reporter of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*

In 2009, CHRO gave interviews to the Voice of America, British Broadcasting Corp., Czech Republic Radio, and U.K.-Based Christian Premiere radio station.



Key Activities of Nov. 2009

- CHRO attended the Chin National Council meeting in Mizoram, India.
- CHRO assisted Refugee International's visit to Mizoram and Delhi.
- CHRO helped arrange the visit of Christian Solidarity Worldwide and the Humanitarian Assistance Relief Trust to Delhi and Mizoram, India. Baroness Caroline Cox of the UK House of Lords was among the delegation.
- CHRO prepared expert support testimony for Chin asylum cases being tried in Florida.
- CHRO helped facilitate the production of a four-part photo exhibition on the Chin people.



Above: Title photo of CHRO photo exhibition (©CHRO, 2009)

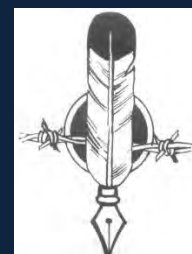
Side: CHRO leading a community meeting in Delhi, India (©CHRO, 2009)

Key Activities of Dec. 2009

- CHRO participated in the Euro-Burma Office consultation meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- CHRO met with the Burma Relief Center in Thailand to review the cross border food aid activities.
- CHRO participated as observer of the Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma (ND-Burma) meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand. CHRO was later invited to join as a member of ND-Burma.
- CHRO Executive Director discussed the food crisis and relief efforts in Chin State with the United Nations Humanitarian Aid Reporter at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
- CHRO conducted a human rights training in Bangalore, India.
- CHRO visited community-based partner organizations in Malaysia and met with representatives from Malaysian non-governmental organizations, SUARAM and Tenaganita. CHRO also raised issues of concern with the head of UNHCR's protection unit.
- CHRO published *Rhododendron* human rights newsletter November – December 2009 issue.



In 2009, CHRO provided briefings to high level government officials, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and advocacy groups.





Bangkok Post

ASIA TIMES Online
www.atimes.com



ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Radio Australia



THE CHRISTIAN POST

CHRO in the Media

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