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Futures on Hold:

Profiles of Chin Refugees in Malaysia Affected by the USA PATRIOT Act

Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO)*

August 2006

The Chins in Malaysia

These are the life stories of Chin refugees who are at risk of being denied protection by the United States under the USA PATRIOT Act. They are just some of the many refugees who survived brutal persecution in their home country of Burma and now struggle for daily survival in Malaysia in the hopes of someday finding a life of peace and security.

Currently there are over 16,000 Chin asylum seekers and refugees from Burma living in Malaysia. The number increases daily. The Chin people are forced to flee from their homes in Burma to escape constant threats persecution and torture under military rule. Reports of summary and extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, torture, rape, forced relocation, and forced labor are tragically widespread.¹ They come to Malaysia with the hope of finding a safe haven.

Life in Malaysia for the Chin people, however, is precarious. The Malaysian government refuses to recognize Chin asylum seekers and refugees as anything but illegal immigrants. Without legal recognition, they are unable to work, receive an education, access healthcare services, or find acceptable

living accommodations. In addition, they are subject to harassment, detention, penalties, and potential deportation by the Malaysian authorities.

For many, resettlement to a third country is their only hope for a future. The USA PATRIOT Act, however, has put that future on hold for some. Under the Act, UNHCR-recognized refugees are at risk of being rendered inadmissible to the United States under the overly broad definition of terrorism. Due to some connection with the Chin National Front (CNF), a pro-democracy, armed opposition group operating against the military regime, Chin refugees are subject to the inadmissibility bar.³ Their cases have been put on hold. Some have been waiting for over a year to be resettled to the United States. Cases on hold include those with only marginal connections to the CNF as well as those who have suffered unspeakable forms of torture and brutality by the military due to suspected contact with the CNF. In effect, victims of terror have been waiting in deplorable and dangerous conditions uncertain whether they will be granted protection in the United States. These are their stories.

Van Tha Tuai



Age: 30

Marital Status: Married

Children: 2

From: Kalay Town, Kalay Township, Chin State, Burma

Resettlement to the United States pending since March 2005

On 20 March 2005, around 7 pm, five soldiers came to my house looking for my husband. Without any explanation, they handcuffed him while other soldiers searched the house. I shouted to my husband but a soldier told me not to make any noise. He pushed me down and hit me with the butt of his gun. Then he handcuffed me and put me in the car. I was taken to a military camp in Kalay Town. I did not see my husband alive again.

When I arrived at the military camp, I was taken to a small, dark room. Around 11 pm, some soldiers began to interrogating me about my husband's involvement with the CNF. I did not know anything

¹ The people of Burma have been living under military rule since 1962. Hundreds of thousands have fled Burma over the past several decades due to the oppressive policies imposed by successive military regimes. For more information on abuses in Chin State, please visit www.chro.org.

² For information on the situation of the Chins in Malaysia, please see "Seeking a Safe Haven: Update on the Situation of the Chin in Malaysia," CHRO, Spring 2006.

³ The CNF is a pro-democracy group formed to oppose military rule and protect the Chin people from annihilation by the military regime. They pose no threat to the U.S. government or the American people. They are not designated by any democratic nation as a terrorist organization.



about my husband or the CNF. When I could not give them information, they beat, slapped, punched, and kicked me. Eventually I lost consciousness. When I regained consciousness, the questioning and beating continued. They hit me with their gun butts and kicked me. I was bleeding from my nose and my entire body felt swollen and bruised. After a half hour, they left me locked in the room. The next day, I was questioned again but only for a few minutes. On the fourth day, I was told that they would release me if I agreed not to leave Kalay without permission, not to help the CNF, and not to accept guests into my home. I signed the agreement but I was not released for another two weeks.

After I was released, I returned to my house. On 30 October 2002, two soldiers came and informed me that my husband was in the hospital. When I got to the hospital, however, he was already dead. The soldiers told me he had died from sickness but his face was completely black. I believe that he was beaten to death. After my husband died, three to five soldiers came every night to my house to terrorize my family. They threatened me with imprisonment if they found any visitors in my home. I could not continue to live in fear so I fled to Tachilek Village where some relatives of mine live. I was afraid the military would eventually find me and kill me for having left Kalay. My relatives advised me to go to Malaysia and they helped pay for a broker to guide me out of Burma.

I arrived in Malaysia on 14 March 2003 and I eventually got a job in a restaurant in Puchung Subang. I was making 700 Ringgit (US\$219) per month however to get to the restaurant I had to take taxis. One night after I finished work, I got a taxi around 10 pm to take me home. It was raining heavily. After driving awhile, I realized the driver was not taking me home. He stopped at an area I was unfamiliar with and told me to get out. There were two other people standing under a grove of trees. They grabbed me. One held my hands behind my back while the other pulled my pants off. I tried to escape but they kicked and slapped me. They raped me then left me crying in the rain. After the assault, I was too afraid to return to the restaurant. I moved to Katang and remarried. My husband and I are working but we are frequently stopped by police. We are often threatened with arrest for being in Malaysia illegally and forced to pay bribes.

I want to resettle because life in Malaysia is not safe and survival is difficult. I want my family to be able to live in safety.

Lal Cung Nung



Age: 19

Marital Status: Single

Children: None

From: So Pum Village, Thantlang Township, Chin State, Burma

Resettlement to the United States pending since November 2005

On 17 February 2004, while I was home from my studies at Thantlang, I was helping my father in our fields when five CNF members came to our farm and asked permission to cook food in our hut. We allowed them. They brought their own food to cook and they did not ask for anything else. About three hours later, my father and I were at the edge of the farm when I heard shooting. I saw 10 to 15 military soldiers shooting toward the hut. My father and I ran into the jungle. The CNF members also fled. In their search for the CNF, the soldiers found me hiding and began beating me. They kicked me and punched me all over. They also found my father. He had been shot in the leg. We were

both arrested.

They brought me to a house in Thantlang Town and questioned me about the CNF through an interpreter. They accused me of helping the CNF. I denied everything. They slapped me, kicked me and punched me. The beatings

lasted about three hours. Afterwards, they tied my hands together and locked me in a room. The next day they took me to a detention facility where I was again interrogated and beaten. Then they put me in a small metal cage. The only time I was allowed outside the cage was to defecate or to perform forced labor once a week. I had to rely on relatives to bring food for me. I spent one month in detention. They released me after my uncle paid 300,000 Kyat and I agreed to not travel outside Thantlang Township. My father was still detained when I was released and I feared that I would be rearrested. My uncle advised me to flee Chin State.

I left Burma on 2 April 2004 and traveled to Malaysia through the help of a broker. To get to Malaysia, I had to walk through thick jungle without any shoes to avoid making noise. I was also forced to hide in a car trunk along with another person to avoid detection by the authorities. We were only given one meal a day. I remember wishing I were dead.

When I arrived in Malaysia, it took me five months to find a job in a glove factory in Kalang. I make 18 Ringgit (US\$5.60) per day and I live inside the factory along with 15 other people. The employer does not allow us to leave the property without permission. Because we are living in Malaysia illegally, the employer is afraid we will be arrested. I leave the factory premises only once a week to attend church. When I leave, I am forced to give the Malaysian authorities bribes to avoid being arrested.

In Malaysia, I live as a prisoner. I want to be resettled so that I can live in freedom without fear of being arrested. My hope is to someday continue my studies.

Age: 43

Marital Status: Widow

Children: 4

From: Salen Village, Thantlang Township, Chin State, Burma

UNHCR-recognition on 16 August 2005; Referred for resettlement to the United States

On 5 February 2005, my husband was arrested and tortured to death by the military for having suspected connections with the CNF. My husband was a Baptist preacher and he was arrested while he was preaching in the neighboring village of Vambai. After I discovered he had been arrested, I went looking for him in Thantlang and I finally found him in the hospital on 7 February. He was already dead. The doctor told me in confidence that he had been tortured to death. I do not know if he ever helped the CNF. He never spoke about the CNF. I never met anyone from the CNF but I know the CNF are opposed to the military regime and they are working to change Burma into a democracy.

The same day I found my dead husband I went to one of my relatives and asked him to help me file a complaint against the arresting officers. In the report, I said that my husband was a preacher and did not have any relation to the CNF. The next day, two military came to my house and told me to report to the military camp. At the camp, I was told that they did not kill my husband and that I have to take back the complaint. I refused and the officer slapped me across my face and grabbed me by the hair. I asked for time to think and he told me to return the next day.

I was afraid if I returned to the camp I would be arrested and tortured, even if I took back the report. My only option was to flee. I went to Rangoon. When I contacted my relatives they told me that the military was looking for me and

Sui Di





advised me to leave Burma while I still could. With the assistance of a broker I left Burma and went to Malaysia. The journey was very difficult. For two days we traveled without water or food. Sometimes we had to travel for long distances by foot. I arrived in Malaysia around the end of February. Eventually I found part-time work painting rooms. Sometimes, however, I am not paid for my work. After I got to Malaysia, I sent for my children to join me.

I came to Malaysia because I could not stay in my own country but I also cannot stay in Malaysia. I fear for my children. They are stopped by the police and harassed. My only hope is to be free someday.

Bil Zam



Age: 53

Marital Status: married

Children: 2

From: Chuncung Village, Hakha Township, Chin State, Burma

Resettlement to the United States pending since 9 June 2005

On 29 July 2000, two days after I gave rice and vegetables to three visitors, four uniformed soldiers came to my house and accused me of helping the CNF. I did not know the visitors. I had never met a CNF member before. I gave them food only because they were hungry and they were Chin. The military brought me to a military camp where I was interrogated and severely beaten. They covered my head, hung me upside down, beat me with their guns, kicked, punched, and bit me. After three hours, I fell unconscious.

When I regained consciousness, I was in the hospital. I was bleeding from the mouth and tongue. I had lost six teeth. I was vomiting blood and had bruises all over my body. My right hand and left upper thigh were broken. I was hospitalized for ten months. After being discharged from the hospital, the military continued to terrorize me and my family. Every night soldiers came to my house warning me that if I helped the CNF, they would imprison me for life. Sometimes they hit me with their guns. In February 2003, I fled Burma.

With the assistance of a broker, I came to Malaysia in June 2003. In Malaysia I have had trouble finding stable employment. Currently I work part-time painting buildings. The work is demanding on my body, particularly since I still suffer from injuries received in Burma. I am paid 200 to 300 ringgit (US\$63 to \$94) per month but occasionally the employer refuses to pay even that. I am also stopped by the authorities on a daily basis and threatened with arrest for being in Malaysia illegally. I am forced to pay bribes to avoid arrest and detention. My family has since joined me in Malaysia. However, I cannot afford to support them on my wages. We live in a three room flat shared with 40 others. Sickness spreads quickly and there is not adequate access to proper medical care. I fear for the health and well-being of my children.

I hope to be resettled so my children can live without being afraid. In Malaysia, we are not safe and we have no opportunities.



Uk Ling

Age: 57

Marital status: married

Children: 5

From: Salen Village, Thantlang Township, Chin State, Burma

Picture Withheld

Resettlement to the United States pending since October 2005

On 17 March 2005, while I was serving as the village secretary, five CNF members came to the village. I gave them some vegetables and rice as well as tobacco. I help them because they are our people. They are fighting for our freedom, for our democracy, and for our human rights. The next day, eight soldiers came to the village around 7 pm and called the members of the village council and the village telephone operator to the chairman's house. The captain told us he knew the CNF had come to the village. He wanted to know why we did not report it. We were then forced to lie down. He gave one of my friends a large rod and forced him to beat me with it. One of the soldiers said he was not hitting me hard enough. He took the rod and hit me several times. All of us were beaten badly. They punched and kicked us. They grabbed our ears and forced us to stand up and sit down several times. One of my friends was bleeding from the ear. The telephone operator was beaten to death.

After an hour of beating, the soldiers became hungry. They chose me to bring them rice and five chickens. When I left my friends were still being beaten. I knew if I returned, I would be further tortured. I ran to my house, grabbed a bag of clothes and a light, and said goodbye to my wife. I walked for two days by foot to Thantlang Town. Eventually, I arrived in Rangoon. I knew the military authorities were looking for me. My only option was to leave Burma. With the assistance of a broker, I traveled to Malaysia. The trip was very difficult. I was one of three people put into the trunk of a car to avoid detection. One of the passengers riding in the trunk was a monk who had been a lecturer at Rangoon University. He died shortly after reaching Kuala Lumpur. A month and a half after I fled, my wife and children also fled Burma. After I left, the military came to my house and interrogated my wife. She was threatened with arrest and torture if I did not return to Salen Village.

In Malaysia it is difficult to find a job because I do not have documents and I am older so I cannot perform strenuous physical labor. After my family arrived, my two sons found work and are supporting the family. However, it is very difficult to live off their earnings. We are also frequently threatened with arrest for being in Malaysia without documents. To avoid arrest, we must pay bribes. However, I am afraid of the police.

I want to be resettled because I cannot return to Burma and I cannot live in Malaysia. In Malaysia, we have no freedom. We are suffering. I heard there is a problem with resettlement to the United States because they fear we are terrorists. The Chin people are not terrorists. The military government, they are the terrorists. They persecute the Chin people. We want to live peacefully in Chin State. We Chin are Christians converted by American missionaries. We are part of one family. I do not have big hopes for my future. I am already old.

I just want to live without fear.



Tuang Lian Bwai



Age: 33

Marital Status: Married

Children: 3

From: Falam Town, Falam Township, Chin State, Burma

Resettlement to the United States pending since October 2005

In Burma, my father and I had a business transporting goods and sometimes passengers from Falam Town to Rih Town on the Indian border. In mid-June 1998, my father and I were in Rih when 5-6 soldiers came during the middle of the night and arrested my father. I never heard from him again. Later I learned that he was accused of having connections with the CNF. My father and I often met CNF members along our transportation route and we always tried to help them. Sometimes we gave them fish or beans or other food. One time we gave a donation of 7,000 kyat. Even after my father was arrested, I gave them a donation of 2,000 kyat. I support them because the CNF are fighting for freedom in Chinland. They are working to protect our people and our culture.

In August 2001, I was driving a group of passengers from Kalay Town to the Indian border when I was stopped by the military at a checkpoint in Tiddim Town. They held my identity card and began questioning me about the CNF and my father. They brought me to the military camp for further interrogations. When I denied their accusations of being a CNF member they said, "All you Chin are CNF." For over an hour they asked me where the CNF camp is, what they are doing, where they are staying, etc. When I could not give them information, they beat me, slapped me, punched me, kicked me, and hit me with their guns. Eventually they took me to a small cell. During the middle of the night, however, some soldiers returned and beat me again. I was bleeding from my nose and my body was swollen all over.

For one week I remained detained at the military camp. The cell was so small that I had to sleep at an angle. They fed me twice a day a small portion of rice and soy beans. I was beaten everyday. At one point, they threw scalding hot water on my arm. Without treatment, the wound became infected and painful. Sometimes they threw water on me while I prayed. Other times, they forced me to sing or stand for long periods of time with my hands raised or made me pretend I was driving a motorcycle. After one week, I was moved to "55-mile" labor camp where I was forced to break rocks for road construction and farm a large tea plantation. I worked from morning to evening with my hands tied and without a proper diet. I was released after my mother bribed the captain of the facility. He listed me as dead and told me to leave Burma.

I fled to Malaysia with the assistance of brokers. In Malaysia, I spent two months without a job. When I finally did find a job, the employers were corrupt and often they did not pay me for my work. Now I work primarily in construction. I am 30 Ringgit (US\$9.40) per day. Much of my salary ends however ends up in the pockets of the authorities who demand bribes after threatening arrest for being in Malaysia illegally. I typically pay about 100 to 150 Ringgit (US\$31 to \$47) in bribes.

Resettlement is my only hope. I cannot stay in Malaysia. My children do not have an education so I do not know what future there is for them. When I think about the future for myself and my family, I know I must go to another country. Here there is no future. I have no hope here.

Tuang Lian Bawi's Daughter





Fu Mawi

Age: 39

Marital Status: widow

Children: 2

From: Falam Town, Falam Township, Chin State, Burma.

Referred for resettlement to the United States

In May 1998, my husband was killed by the military because they suspected him of supporting the CNF. I do not know if my husband helped the CNF. He never told me if he did. After my husband died, I took over his business working as a cross-border trader. During my trips to the border, I often saw members of the CNF however my only interaction was when they purchased uniforms from me. This happened in 2000 and 2001. I know that the CNF are working for our democracy and freedom. They are trying to protect us from the abuses of the military.

On 10 December 2003, two soldiers came to my house and forced me to follow them to the military camp. At the camp, they interrogated me for three hours, questioning me about the CNF saying they had reports that I had helped the CNF. When I could not give them any information, they threatened me with the same fate as my husband, slapped me, and cut my wrists. Then they forced me to take my clothes off. They molested me with their gun. I remained detained in the military camp for one month. Although I agreed not to have any contact with the CNF as a condition of my release, in May 2003, I accepted a package of leaflets from a CNF member who came to my house. I agreed to distribute them for the CNF. I wanted to help the CNF because I knew they were opposed to the military. I hate the military. I hate what they did to my husband and I hate what they did to me. While I was visiting a friend, the military came to my house and found the leaflets that I had hidden under the bed. They began to search for me but I was warned by a neighbor and fled immediately.

Using the money I saved from the trading business, I paid a broker to bring me to Malaysia. I arrived in Malaysia on 10 June 2004. When I first arrived, I worked in a restaurant for 20 Ringgit (US\$6.30) per day until the business was sold. Currently, I work fulltime in a restaurant in Kuala Lumpur making 700 Ringgit (US\$219) per month. My children have recently joined me through the assistance of a broker. Most of my salary goes to paying off the broker fees. I am also forced to pay bribes to the Malaysian authorities who frequently threaten me with arrest for being in the country illegally.

I hope to resettle for the sake of my children. They cannot get an education here. We live in constant fear of arrest by the Malaysian authorities. I want my children to have a future and to live in safety.



Age: 56

Marital Status: widowed in 1997 and remarried

Children: 10 (4 children with first wife, 2 children with current wife, and current wife has 4 children from a previous marriage)

From: Lei Tak Village, Thantlang Township, Chin State, Burma

Resettlement to the United States pending since 27 September 2005

Every year since 1996 until I was forced to flee Burma, I provided the CNF with donations of 10,000 kyat and sometimes food and accommodation. I support the CNF because they are fighting for our democracy and freedom. I believe in democracy and I want change in Burma. The military regime gives us nothing.

Ma Lian





They are the terrorists, not the CNF. The military killed my wife, has raped our women, subjected us to portering and forced labor, kills our livestock, arrests us arbitrarily, tries to convert us from Christians to Buddhists, tries to destroy our Chin culture, literature, and language. We are constantly threatened. I support the CNF because they are fighting for our freedom.

In January 1996 Captain Than Thet Gyi and 10 soldiers came to my house and accused me of helping the CNF. For several hours, they beat me, hit me with their gun butts, and kicked me. My shins were bleeding and my arm was broken. Then they took me to Hakha military camp where they tied me to a pole and again beat me. I remained detained in the camp for one year. During that time, I was forced to dig toilet trenches and perform other labors around the camp. They provided only one small meal a day. While I was there, I contracted malaria but they refused treat me. I was released after I paid 300,000 Kyat.

I returned to my village but soldiers continued to harass me. They would frequently come to my house and demand chicken and pork. Although such items are in short supply, we dared not refuse. On 15 March 1997, Captain Kyaw Lwin and 10 soldiers came to my house and demanded food. They also told my wife to get a woman to entertain them for the night. My wife refused, knowing that they planned to rape the woman. When she refused, the captain slapped her and hit her with his gun. He said, "I am the Army, I can do anything." I tried to protect her but five soldiers grabbed me and held me back. While I watched, she was beaten to death. She was only 45 years old. After my wife died, I eventually remarried.

On 1 October 2000, Captain Kyaw Myint and 15 soldiers came to my house and again accused me of helping the CNF. They stripped me of my clothes and made me stand on the table. Then they hit me five times with a large wooden rod. After I fell, they brought me to Thantlang detention center where they hung me upside down and tied me to a pole. They slapped, kicked, and beat me. Afterwards, they took me to a small cell where I remained detained for two months. I was released after villagers collected 200,000 kyat for my release.

On 10 January 2002, about eight to 12 military soldiers surrounded my house. My name had been reported as a CNF supporter by an arrested CNF member. I was in my fields when the military came but my wife told the soldiers that I was in at a different village. When the soldiers left to look for me in the village, my wife came and warned me to flee. I went to Rangoon. In Rangoon, I called my wife and she told me my children had all been dismissed from school and she had been threatened with imprisonment if I did not return. Fearing problems, my wife and children also fled Chin State.

When I arrived in Malaysia, I went to Cameron Highlands where I earned 600 Ringgit (US\$187) per month by working in the fields. However, the farms were frequently raided by the Malaysian authorities who took all my money and threatened me with arrest for being in Malaysia illegally. After being robbed several times, I decided to try to find employment in Charis without success. Daily survival is very difficult, particularly with 11 family members to support. I only have one son who is old enough to work. There are many days that I cannot feed my family.

I want to resettle so that my family can survive.

Khua Uk



Age: 34

Marital Status: Married

Children: 3

From: Za Bung Village, Thantlang Township; in 1992 moved to Hakha Town, Hakha Township, Chin State, Burma

Resettlement to the United States pending since 16 February 2006

In Burma, I worked as a farmer. Every year since 2000, members of the CNF came to my farm. The first time, we drank tea and they encouraged me to teach my children Chin literature. Before they left, they gave me a small bible. In 2001, CNF came again to my farm and asked for food. I cooked them vegetables



and gave them country eggs to take with them. My last encounter with the CNF was at the end of June in 2003 when I gave two CNF members some milk and we discussed the importance of preserving the Chin language. I support the CNF because they are working to protect our religion, our freedom, and our culture. They are fighting for democracy in Burma. The military, on the other hand, gives us nothing.

Two months after the last visit from the CNF, five military soldiers came to my farm in the middle of the night. They accused me of helping the CNF. I was blindfolded and my hands were bound together. They slapped me, kicked me, and hit me with their gun. At one point they took the blindfold off and forced me to watch my wife being raped. They dragged me from the house and brought me to a military camp where I was beaten again. I thought they were going to beat me to death. Eventually, they took me to a small, dark room where I remained locked up with my hands tied for ten days. The only time I ever saw sunlight was when they opened the door once a day to bring me a small amount of rice with fish paste.

On the tenth day, I was told I could either die in this camp or be sent to a forced labor camp. I told them I wanted to go to the forced labor camp but I asked to see my wife one last time. I was slapped and told not to ask for my wife. They returned me to the room. An hour later, however, they untied my hands and I was reunited with my wife. As we talked and cried, I realized that there was only one soldier on guard. He was talking on the telephone with his gun leaning against the wall. As he was struggling to light his cigarette, I quickly grabbed the gun and hit the soldier. Before he could get up, my wife and I ran from the camp and into the jungle.

We did not dare return to our farm or say goodbye to our children. We fled immediately. When we got to Rangoon, we called some relatives to ensure our children were safe and being cared for. From Rangoon, we fled to Thailand. In Thailand, my wife was discovered by the Thai authorities and detained for five months. Eventually she was deported to the border. At the time, she was very sick and never recovered. She died on 11 March 2003.

I continued on alone to Malaysia and arrived on 20 October 2003. I went to Putra Jaya where I got a job working on a highway construction project making only 15 Ringgit (US\$4.70) per day. The working conditions were strenuous and I was frequently harassed by the Malaysian authorities who demanded bribes. At one point, I was arrested for being in Malaysia illegally. My employer paid 1,500 Ringgit (US\$469) to gain my release. I then had to work without a salary to repay the debt. Eventually, I took another job picking up debris around a construction site. But after five days of work without pay, I quit. I decided to leave Putra Jaya after I was robbed of 1,000 Ringgit (US\$312) at knife-point. I moved to Kuala Lumpur and found part-time jobs working on construction projects. In May 2005, my children joined me in Malaysia. However, I barely earn enough to support them. I am only paid 28 Ringgit (US\$8.75) per day and sometimes I am cheated by employers. I also face problems by the authorities who demand bribes in order to avoid arrest for being in Malaysia illegally.

Conclusion

Chin refugees in Malaysia have lived lives of persecution, terror, and hardship. Their hopes for the future are simple: freedom from fear, a safe environment for their children to grow in, an ability to work and live peacefully. This future is non-existent for Chin refugees living in Malaysia. For many, their future lies in the hope of eventual resettlement. This hope, however, is fading.

Some Chin refugees have waited over a year to resettle in the United States. Their cases are on hold due to the overly broad provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act that excludes from the United States anyone who had participated in or supported an armed group. This includes pro-democracy groups, such as the CNF, organized to protect and preserve their people from the brutality of an authoritarian government. In effect, the bar excludes genuine refugees who are *victims* of terror from receiving protection in the United States. As a result, lives are on hold.

With survival becoming more difficult in Malaysia, it is imperative that the United States Congress correct the unintended consequences of the USA PATRIOT Act. Please urge the United States Congress to ensure genuine refugees are not inadvertently labeled as terrorists. Urge the United States Congress to revise the USA PATRIOT Act.

Chin Human Rights Organization

* CHRO is non-governmental, not for profit organization legally registered in Canada with branch offices in New Delhi and Aizawl, India and in the United States. CHRO is working to protect and promote the rights of the Chin people inside and outside of Burma. Since February 2001, CHRO has paid regular visits to Malaysia to assist and coordinate advocacy activities with the Chin community and other NGOs.

CHRO and the Chin people need your support. To support CHRO in this important work, please contact one of our offices:

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