A Letter from CHRO Executive Director
Salai Bawi Lian Mang

Dear Friends,

2010 was a challenging year for the Chin. Pervasive human rights violations such as forced labor and portering continued to be perpetrated against our people, with little sign of it abating. In August, CHRO received the heartbreaking news that local people had been forced to destroy the 23-foot high cross they had erected on a special spiritual site in the Mindat Township area, on the orders of local authorities. This was yet another example of state-orchestrated ethnic and religious persecution of the Chin. In southern Chin State, particularly in Paletwa, Mindat and Kanpalet Townships, people continued to struggle with severe food shortages. Against this difficult backdrop, elections took place in Burma for the first time in 20 years in November.

In the absence of international, independent election observers - and in anticipation of widespread electoral fraud and voter intimidation - CHRO developed a project to monitor the electoral process in Chin State. This included a week-long Human Rights and Democracy training for 30 activists from all over Chin State and Sagaing Division. I was personally very inspired by the enthusiasm and spirit of cooperation among the participants, who were from very diverse backgrounds.

Information collected by our election monitors was detailed and comprehensive, and enabled us to publish a briefer on the election conditions in Chin State. This was picked up by the newswire service Agence France-Presse, and secured widespread media coverage for the situation in Chin State, including the front page of Thailand’s the Bangkok Post and the Nation. (Continued on next page)

CHRO 2010 Highlights

- Raised Rs. 4,500,000 (US$100,000) of food aid to support relief efforts in southern Chin State, and at least US$47,000 to support Chin community-based organizations in India and Malaysia.
- Organized a week-long Human Rights and Democracy training program for 30 activists from Chin State, as part of CHRO’s election monitoring project.
- Published information collected by election monitors in Chin State, securing media coverage in more than 16 different media outlets, including Al Jazeera and the front page of the Bangkok Post and the Nation.
- Made a submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Burma’s human rights record under the UN Human Rights Council, referenced 11 times by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on a par with Human Rights Watch.
- Provided briefings to high-level government officials and UN agencies, including officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and the Czech Republic, the U.S. State Department and U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee office, UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur, the World Food Program, and the UN Development Program.
- Visited Chin communities and engaged in advocacy in Japan, U.S., Canada, India, Malaysia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Norway.

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CHRO Executive Director
Salai Bawi Lian Mang

Baskets full of rice distributed to Chin affected by the food crisis in Chin State (©CHRO, 2010)
I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks to CHRO election monitors and fieldworkers, who take daily risks to document the human rights situation in Chin State. Our essential reports to the media, the Special Rapporteur on Burma, and the UN Human Rights Council simply would not be possible without their courage.

We are also very grateful for the financial support from several institutions, individuals, and churches, and sincerely hope that continuing support of CHRO’s programs will result in the full enjoyment of all human rights by the Chin people.

Sincerely,

Salai Bawi Lian Mang

**Highlights of Activities**

*January – March 2010*

- Collected information on health and human rights in Chin State, for a major new report by Nobel peace prize-winning organization Physicians for Human Rights
- Organized important meeting of Chin Christian leaders from all over the world
- Provided human rights trainings for the refugee community living in Delhi
- Appointed new Advocacy Director Rachel Fleming

*Chin school children at a community-based school in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (©CHRO, 2010)*

*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 2010

- CHRO published its Annual Report for 2009, highlighting the advocacy successes and achievements for the year.
- CHRO conducted seven home visits to Chin families living in high-risk situations in Delhi, India and intervened to request assistance from UNHCR and the Australian Embassy for expedited resettlement on behalf of one family.
- In collaboration with the Chin Refugee Committee (CRC) and the Burma Women Delhi (BWD), CHRO assisted in organizing and facilitating a training on Advocacy & Campaigns, Human Rights & Democracy, and Livelihood held by the Australia Student’s Research Team in Delhi, India.
- CHRO organized a showing of the documentary “Burma VJ” to the Tibetan community in Dharmasala, India to raise awareness of the human rights situation in Burma in advance of the 2010 elections in Burma.
- CHRO met with officials from the Foreign Registration Office (FRRO) in Delhi, India and submitted a petition on behalf of members of the Chin community requesting waiver of the exorbitant fees charged for a Residential Permit.

Key Activities of February 2010

- CHRO assisted Physicians for Human Rights in organizing capacity-building human rights documentation trainings in Northeastern India. Following the training, CHRO fieldworkers collected information in Chin State about the human rights and health problems facing the Chin people.
- CHRO engaged in meetings with the Chin Refugee Committee (CRC), the Alliance of Chin Refugees (ACR), the Chin Student Organization (CSO), the Chin Christian Fellowship, and the Coalition of Burmese Ethnics in Malaysia (COBEM) based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- CHRO met with the UNHCR Protection Officer in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to discuss concerns about the security of refugees from Burma living in Malaysia.
- CHRO organized and facilitated a meeting in Pattaya, Thailand of 43 Christian Chin leaders and advocates from 11 different countries.
- CHRO Executive Director Salai Bawi Lian Mang traveled to Mizoram State and New Delhi, India and met with the following organizations:
  - The Chin Famine Emergency Relief Committee and Public Affairs Committee of Chinland to discuss the food crisis in Chin State and ongoing cross-border relief efforts.
  - The Chin National Front (CNF) Central Committee to discuss CHRO’s advocacy work and the impact of India-Burma relations on civilians living in the border areas.
  - Local relief aid groups who have partnered with CHRO in implementing cross-border relief efforts.
  - The Chin Refugee Committee in Delhi to discuss the situation of Chin refugees in Delhi.
  - Burma Center- Delhi.
  - Mizzima News Agency.
In coordination with Burma Women- Delhi, CHRO conducted a 3-day training on Media and Democratic Governance in Delhi, India.

CHRO advocated on behalf of members of the Chin community requiring assistance from the Don Bosco Ashalayam Center, UNHCR, and the US Embassy in Delhi.

CHRO attended and collaborated on events organized for the 63rd Burma Union Day and the 62nd Chin National Day in Delhi, India.

CHRO assisted in arranging a training for members of the refugee community on vocational issues, facilitated by The Other Media.

CHRO conducted in-depth interviews and documented the cases of 10 Chin refugee survivors of serious assault living in Delhi, India.

CHRO published the Rhododendron Human Rights newsletter January-February 2010 issue.
**Key Activities of March 2010**

- CHRO Program Director Za Uk Ling participated in the Burma Forum- Canada conference, where the Canadian government announced their continued humanitarian support on Burma.
- CHRO-Delhi participated in demonstrations in Delhi, India to commemorate International Women’s Day by demanding the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other women political prisoners jailed in Burma.
- CHRO-Delhi assisted in facilitating a meeting between a delegation of the Prospect Burma School of the UK, the Chin Refugee Committee, Chin community leaders, and students supported by the Prospect Burma School.
- In collaboration with the Human Rights Institute of Burma (HREIB), CHRO organized a workshop on Child Rights in Delhi, India.
- CHRO organized a demonstration in Delhi, India along with HREIB to raise awareness on the human rights situation in Burma.
- CHRO participated in demonstrations organized by the Kachin community in Delhi, India to raise awareness within the Indian government and among the international community about the human rights impact of a dam currently under construction in Kachin State, Burma.
- CHRO documented three cases of serious assault committed against Chin refugee women living in Delhi, India and assisted in reporting their cases to the police.
- CHRO organized a meeting with the Chin Refugee Committee and Chin community leaders to discuss issues of concern to refugees living in Delhi, India.
- CHRO participated in a meeting organized by Chin women to discuss strategies to respond to increased security concerns for refugee women living in Delhi, India. CHRO assisted in drafting a statement to raise awareness on this issue.
- New Advocacy Director Rachel Fleming appointed to replace Amy Alexander. Amy will continue her support for the Chin by becoming a Board member of CHRO.

**Highlights of Activities**

**April – June 2010**

- Raised awareness of the human rights issues and food security crisis affecting the Chin, in the Czech Republic
- Secured US$90,000 for food relief efforts in southern Chin State from the Czech Foreign Ministry
- Delivered capacity-building training to Chin community-based organizations in India and Malaysia
- Coordinated efforts to tackle security issues for the refugee community in India.

In 2010, CHRO received coverage in more than 25 media outlets
Key Activities April 2010

- CHRO Advocacy Director Rachel Fleming traveled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and met with the Coalition of Burmese Ethnics in Malaysia (COBEM), the Chin Student Organization (CSO), the Chin Women's Organization (CWO), the nongovernmental organization Tenaganita, and UNHCR.

- CHRO conducted a capacity-building training on financial and narrative report writing with COBEM and with each member organization in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

- CHRO participated in a training on the Universal Periodic Review process, for the 2011 review of Burma's human rights record at the UN Human Rights Council.

- CHRO participated in a four-day meeting organized by the ND-Burma to discuss the future work-plan of the coalition.

- CHRO assisted the Hakha Women’s Union (HWU) in drafting their constitution.

- CHRO documented three cases of serious assault committed against Chin refugees living in Delhi, India and assisted in reporting the cases to the Socio-Legal Information Center (SLIC), the Women’s Protection Center, and UNHCR.

- CHRO provided an interview with Mizzima News on conditions of Burmese refugees and services provided by YMCA and SLIC in Delhi, India.

- CHRO organized a meeting of community organizations, including representatives from the Chin Refugee Committee (CRC), BWD, Women's League of Chinland (WLC), and EBO to develop responses to protection issues impacting the Burmese refugee community. The following was agreed:
  - Increase outreach to local police stations to report cases of serious assault and improve protection for Burmese refugees;
  - Increase outreach to the Residential Welfare Associations (RWA) to request support to prevent attacks against Burmese refugees; and
  - Increase counseling and awareness-raising to new arrivals of asylum-seekers on living in India.

- CHRO attended an "Open House" meeting organized by UNHCR-Delhi and raised the issue of increased attacks against Burmese refugees in India, requesting assistance from UNHCR.

- In collaboration with the CRC, WLB, EBO, the Naga People’s Movement for Human Rights, and The Other Media, CHRO visited local police stations in Delhi to raise awareness of the Burmese refugee community living in Delhi, India.

- CHRO provided briefings on the situation in Chin State and in exile to the following government officials and agencies in the United States:
  - The National Endowment for Democracy
  - Senator Lugar’s Office
  - U.S. Department of State, Burma Desk
  - Bureau for Population, Refugee, and Migration

- In collaboration with CRC, CHRO met with the UNHCR Chief of Mission in Delhi, India Montserrat Feixas Vihé to raise awareness of security issues for the Chin refugee community in Delhi and problems related to delays in the Refugee Status Determination process.


In 2010, CHRO traveled to and engaged in advocacy in Japan, the U.S., Canada, India, Thailand, Malaysia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Norway.
Key Activities of May 2010

- CHRO participated in the Network for Documentation-Burma (ND-Burma) quarterly meeting.
- CHRO met with the Arakan Rivers Network, Open Society Institute (OSI), EarthRights International (ERI), and the Shwe Gas Movement (SGM) to plan strategic campaigning on the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project, a major new infrastructure project involving the construction of ports; the dredging and widening of the Kaladan river; and highway construction. The project has the potential to benefit communities living in Arakan, Chin and Mizoram States, but may also negatively impact livelihoods and result in increased human rights violations.
- CHRO met with the Women’s League of Chinland (WLC) to discuss incidents of physical attacks, sexual harassments, and other abuses against Chin women and preventative strategies.
- CHRO conducted interviews with Chin survivors of religious persecution and persons affected by the food crisis in Chin State.
- CHRO participated in a meeting with the Chin National Council committee members and the former head of the International Labor Organization’s Burma liaison office.
- CHRO Executive Director Salai Bawi Lian Mang met with the United Nations Country Representative for Burma, World Food Program Country Director for Burma, and the Save the Children Country Director for Burma in Ottawa to discuss the continuing food crisis in Chin State.

- CHRO Program Officer Sawmi traveled to the Czech Republic to participate in an internship program organized by ND-Burma, where she:
  - Studied about the transformation and transitional period of Czechoslovakia, developing campaign and advocacy strategies, human rights, and the foreign policies of the European Union;
  - Met with former Czech Minister and human rights advocate Jan Ruml;
  - Provided a briefing on the situation in Burma to Amnesty International-Czech Republic;
  - Gave a presentation to the Arabska High School in Prague on the situation of ethnic nationality groups in Burma;
  - Provided a briefing on Burmese refugees to the Czech Helsinki Committee;
  - Visited Radio Free Europe and gave a presentation on the situation in Burma; and
  - Met with the Czech Foreign Minister and presented information on the situation in Burma and the need for cross-border humanitarian assistance.

In 2010, CHRO gave interviews to the Voice of America, BBC Burmese Service, and Radio Free Asia
Key Activities of June 2010

- CHRO participated in a meeting with the former head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Burma and Advisor to Special Envoy to Burma Razali, along with the Chin Refugee Committee-Delhi (CRC), the Women’s League of Burma (WLDB), the Women’s League of Chinland (WLC), Human Rights Education Institute of Burma (HREIB), and various church and community leaders.
- CHRO conducted 19 interviews with survivors of human rights violations and religious persecution in Chin State and two interviews with Chin survivors of physical assaults in Delhi.
- CHRO organized a meeting with community-based organizations and The Other Media to collect concerns of the community to raise with the Czech Embassy in Delhi.
- CHRO-Delhi presented a briefing on the current food crisis and situation of refugees in India to the Charge d’Affaires of the Czech Republic and the Deputy Head of Mission of Finland, helping to secure significant funding for food relief efforts in Chin State.
- CHRO provided training on activities and financial report writing to the Chin Refugee Center-Delhi.
- CHRO met with the UNHCR-Delhi Senior Protection Officer to discuss concerns raised by community-based organizations about the security of refugees in Delhi.
- CHRO Executive Director Salai Bawi Lian Mang provided an interview to Voice of America Burmese section regarding the prospect of human rights development in light of Burma’s 2010 election and beyond.

In 2010, CHRO raised at least US$47,500 to support Chin community-based partner organizations in India and Malaysia

Highlights of Activities
July – September 2010

- Gave extensive briefing to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma on issues affecting the Chin.
- Developed and delivered a week-long democracy and human rights training for 30 activists from all over Chin State, as part of CHRO’s election monitoring project.
- Prepared individual submission to the Universal Periodic Review process on Burma’s human rights record at the UN Human Rights Council, which takes place every four years.
In 2010, CHRO provided briefings to high level government officials, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and advocacy groups.

Key Activities of July 2010

- CHRO prepared and submitted an individual submission to the Universal Periodic Review process on Burma’s human rights record at the UN Human Rights Council.
- CHRO met with SUARAM and Tenaganita in Malaysia to develop community-based programs focusing on “Access to Justice”, to benefit refugees in Malaysia.
- CHRO met with representatives of UNHCR’s Protection Unit and Community Development Unit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to discuss issues of concern to the Chin community.
- CHRO responded to a request for information from the US Embassy to support the development of the U.S. State Department Human Rights Report.
- CHRO-Delhi conducted a two-day training on “Effective Action and Decision-Making Processes” in collaboration with The Other Media, Chin Refugees Committee (CRC), and the Burma Women Delhi (BWD).

Key Activities of August 2010

- CHRO provided a short briefing on the human rights situation in Chin State and the situation of Chin refugees in India and Malaysia during the Committee for the Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT) meeting in Bangkok, attended by diplomats, UNHCR, and representatives from international non-governmental organizations.
- CHRO met with a team from the National Democratic Institute to discuss election monitoring in Chin State and attended a follow-up technical workshop on election monitoring documentation.
- CHRO provided a briefing to Human Rights Watch on the security situation for Chin activists in Mizoram and refugees in Delhi, in advance of a trip by HRW’s Burma Researcher to India.
- CHRO held an hour-long private briefing meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on Burma and representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights about the human rights situation in Chin State. The Special Rapporteur said he would “seriously consider” visiting Chin State, if granted permission to return Burma.
- CHRO met with partners in the Kaladan Movement to plan joint efforts to monitor the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Project being undertaken by Burma’s State Peace and Development Council and the Indian Government in Arakan, Chin, and Mizoram States.
- CHRO provided interviews on religious persecution in Chin State to BBC Burmese and Radio Free Asia.
- CHRO published the Rhododendron Human Rights newsletter July-August 2010 issue.

Destruction of cross in Mindat Township (©CHRO, 2010)
Key Activities September 2010

- CHRO briefed a researcher from Human Rights First on the situation of Chin refugees in Malaysia and Delhi as part of her preliminary research on xenophobic and bias-motivated violence in Malaysia and Delhi.
- CHRO provided a briefing on the humanitarian situation in Chin State to the NGO Liaison Officer of the INGO Forum in Rangoon.
- CHRO met with Health Equity Initiatives to discuss partnering on future advocacy work around refugee issues in Malaysia.
- CHRO met with representatives of UNHCR’s Protection Unit in Malaysia to discuss issues of concern to the Chin community and present a briefer with updated information on human rights violations in Chin State.
- CHRO held a week-long training on democracy and human rights in India for 30 activists from all over Chin State, as part of CHRO’s election monitoring project.
- CHRO held an annual meeting for CHRO staff and Board Members.

October – December 2010

- CHRO Board Member Victor Biak Lian awarded prestigious St. Stephen’s prize in Oslo, Norway
- Published information collected by election monitors in Chin State, securing media coverage in more than 16 different media outlets, including Al Jazeera and the front page of the Bangkok Post and the Nation.
- Delivered human rights and democracy training to 23 theology students from Burma.

In 2010, CHRO raised Rs. 4,500,000 (US$100,000) of food aid to support relief efforts in southern Chin State.
Key Activities October 2010

- In coordination with the Asian Network of Free Elections (ANFREL), CHRO organized a three-day election observation training in Bangkok.
- CHRO researched and prepared a briefer on the situation of Chin refugees to be presented at the Asia-Pacific Refugee Protection Network Conference.
- CHRO prepared and distributed a press release in response to the report released by UN Special Rapporteur on Burma.
- CHRO prepared and submitted information to the UNHCR Registration and Protection Units in Kuala Lumpur on three cases of vulnerable unregistered Chin who are at risk in Malaysia, requesting immediate protection from UNHCR, which was subsequently granted.
- CHRO participated in and raised issues of concern to the Chin people during a two-day conference on Human Rights in Southeast Asia at Mahidol University in Bangkok.
- CHRO spoke at the opening ceremony of the Chin Photography Exhibition held at Chiang Mai University.
- CHRO gave a radio interview to the BBC Burmese program on the human rights situation in Chin State.
- CHRO gave a radio interview to the Radio Free Asia for its special program on elections.
- CHRO prepared and submitted a briefer on education in Chin State to the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma.
- CHRO met with UNHCR and the US Embassy in Malaysia to discuss issues of concern to the Chin community.
- In collaboration with the Burma Forum on the Universal Periodic Review, CHRO contributed to a key lobbying document of questions and recommendations for states to raise at the Human Rights Council during Burma’s UPR review in January 2011.
- CHRO assisted in organizing briefings with relevant Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (e.g., Special Rapporteurs on Torture, Freedom of Religion, Slavery, etc.) in Geneva for January 2011.
- CHRO worked closely with staff from Physicians for Human Rights, providing feedback on their report Life Under the Junta: Evidence of Crimes Against Humanity in Burma’s Chin State, published in January 2011.
- CHRO Board Members Victor Biak Lian and Amy Alexander participated and facilitated a panel on Refugees from Burma in the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network Conference in Bangkok.
- CHRO published the Rhododendron Human Rights newsletter September – October 2010 issue.

CHRO photo exhibit “Path of Perseverance,” on display in Chiang Mai, Thailand (©CHRO, 2010)
Key Activities November 2010

- The Norwegian Mission to the East awarded CHRO Board Member and co-founder Victor Biak Lian the prestigious St. Stephen’s prize in Oslo, Norway in recognition of his commitment and contributions to democracy, human rights, and national reconciliation in Burma.
- CHRO-Delhi arranged and helped facilitate a training held by the Australia Refugee Research Centre for Burmese refugees and community leaders in Delhi.
- CHRO-Delhi facilitated the visit of Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) in meeting with members of the Burmese refugee community.
- CHRO met with staff from the Social and Legal Information Centre (SLIC) to discuss the security concerns of the Burmese refugee community in Delhi and the need for responsive services.
- CHRO accompanied a representative from the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma to visit the homes of Chin refugee families living in Delhi.
- CHRO facilitated a workshop on education organized by the Chin Student Union for Chin students and youth.
- CHRO participated in a round-table discussion between Ethnic Nationality Council leaders and members of an Indian think-tank at the Indian International Center in Delhi.
- CHRO prepared and distributed a report on the 2010 elections in Chin State that was picked up by newswire Agence France Presse and covered in the Bangkok Post, the Nation, Al Jazeera, and various regional press such as My Sinchew (Malaysia) and Hindustan Times and The Tribune (India).
- CHRO prepared and distributed a press release on post-election conditions in Burma that was picked up by Christian Solidarity Worldwide and referenced in an article in the Asian Tribune.

Key Activities December 2010

- CHRO conducted a workshop for the 22 Chin refugee community leaders living in Delhi on “Action Implementing,” focusing on finding a means and way to establish community-based schools for refugee children.
- In coordination with the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma, CHRO conducted a human rights workshop for eight Burmese students of theology visiting Delhi during their December break.
- CHRO conducted a “Human Rights and Democracy Training” for 23 theology students from Burma studying in Bangalore.
- CHRO collected population information on the Chin refugee community in Delhi, including the number of Chin resettled and the number of deaths in 2010.
CHRO in the Media