



Burma

Building a culture of peace and justice in communities in need of conflict resolution.

About YAP Burma

YAP Burma began in 2004 and is based in Mae Sot, Thailand, near the border with Burma. It cannot be based in Burma due to restrictions by the Military Junta. YAP Burma has one coordinator who is Karen and also an Australian citizen as well as two field coordinators

The Situation

In Burma, the conflict between ethnic groups and the Burmese regime is very complicated. Some ethnic groups, particularly the Karens, have resorted to armed struggle for autonomy and self-determination. This struggle has been ongoing for 50 years. In addition to this the Karen National Union or KNU is split into three groups. At times conflict and fighting occurs between these groups.

The Project

YAP Burma works with refugees from different ethnic groups along the Thai - Burma border and inside the Karen State. The local YAP team travels inside Burma to run peace building awareness initiatives using YAP methods.

Achievements

YAP conducted a peace workshop in April 2008 with young community leaders. From this workshop the participants worked with the different groups in their community and encouraged them to better understand each other. As a result the three different groups within KNU have recently requested a YAP workshop for all to participate in.

The Future

In the near future the local YAP office will house an income generating program of sewing Karen dresses. The income from this program will be used to help newly arrived Internally Displaced Persons from Burma while they wait to be registered as refugees by the UN.

Get Involved

We invite you to get involved with the project by supporting the work financially, praying for the success of the project and receiving regular updates.

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