

## Nargis Story - 6 - May 28, 2008

Some villages in Bogale Township were badly affected due to the storm Nargis which hit Burma on 2nd May 2008. In the southern part of Bogale Township, between Bogale and Kadone Kani, a lot of villages such as Yaygyawgyi, Kansate, Naukpyan Doe, Meelaung Gwin, Kyungtharyar, Pikeseetan, Lakechaung, Gwaychaung, Mapwetan, Tabegyi Wa, Ngapotethin Ywartan, Byone Hmwe Kyung, Padekaw, Botechaung, Tabaylay Ywar Tan (inside and outside), Kyanechaung Gyi, Lamuoak Gyi, Magu, Sat Kyune, Darpya Chaung, Kyat Taung Chaung, Thakan Wa, Kan Su, Kappanan, Auk Nat Chaung, Pyin Kone, Kyan Khin and Sar Phyu Su, were affected so badly that even native villagers could not recognize the landscape.



*Byonehmwe Kyung*



*Ayar village*

In a village called Byonehmwe Kyung where over 20,000 people used to live, approximately only 100 people survived. In some villages, nothing left after water lowered down. At least two third of population died and their bodies remained in debris on the ground or in the rivulet with stinky smell according to some photos and video records and eyewitnesses. In a recess between Thanpya and Yaykyaw villages, at least 400 or 500 bodies were gathered together without being collected and buried so that the smell in the neighborhood is stinky.



No aids and assistance could be reached to above mentioned places up to two weeks after the Cyclone. Well wishers from the town came to these villages under the tutelage of venerable Sayardaws (monks) and helped those in need. Some left over from surrounding villages stayed together in temporary shelters. They dried some rice under the sun, and boiled and ate them. They collected some plastic containers used for fishing and collected rain water when raining for drinking. Coconut is their main food both for drinking water and meal.



*Two children in the picture are orphan wandering along the rivulet*

Some people died some days after the Cyclone due to lack of proper medical treatment. According to the survivor of the storm, there are thousands of orphans and he himself had to collect two children who were wandering in the field along the rivulet without knowing where to go, and sent them to a refugee camp in the town.



*Only monks are helping those in need*

On 6th May, some victims near Kyungharyar village repaired a submerged boat and sailed to Kadone-Kani village for some food and medical treatment. When they arrived there, people from Kadone-Kani donated them with clothes, food and some medicines. When they went to a rice mill for grinding rice paddy, they were demanded one third of the product as milling charges by security forces, police, auxiliary fire brigade and members of USDA who were guarding rice mills.



*Mainma Hla Island Pagoda*

One of the owners of rice storehouse donated his rice to the Cyclone victims as the rice in his storehouse were badly damaged by sea water through authorities. But authorities distributed rice to the victims with one packet of rice (about 260 grams) for each people and the rest of rice were sold out by authorities with the price 1000 kyat for one *pyi* (about 2080 grams). U Myo Lwin, a business man in Kadone Kani bribed Lieutenant Si Thu to issue the 'curfew' order (in order for people not to go out at night) and collected some valuable things and plastic containers used in fishing, at night time.

In Chaungbye Gyi village, Kadone Kani village tract, villagers collected some plastic containers from the river and used them for saving rain water for drinking. Posting security forces threatened villagers with gun fire and looted plastic containers.

But most of the refugees in these areas did not go to town because they heard that victims in the refugee camps were relocated to other town and because they want to grow rice as they know they will be greatly in trouble if they cannot produce rice in this season. According to the witness who went out of Bogale to liberated area, no effective assistance program had reached to these areas up to May 15, 2008. He said that only monks and well wishers were active to help refugees in these remote villages.

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