

Report on Zomi Refugees in Abroad



Prepared by
Zomi Refugee Program,
an organ of Zomi Innkuan USA, Inc



March 15, 2022



ZOMI BAPTIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA

331 Haywood lane, Nashville, TN 37211

www.zbcausa.org; email: zbcausa@gmail.com; Facebook: ZBCA

On behalf of the Zomi Baptist Churches Of America (ZBCA), the largest religious association of the Zomi in the USA, I am pleased to write a statement of support for this report, which was meticulously prepared by the Zomi Innkuan USA (ZIUSA). The ZIUSA mission includes improving the lives of Zomi around the world, and this very report is about that. It is important and significant for the many Zomi refugees from Myanmar (Burma) of their resettlement to a third country because they are now held up in Malaysia, India, and Thailand. Their safety and their future progress is at stake, the worst situation, right now. To highlight their plight, this report is exceptionally documented, with evidence and support, about why the Zomi and other refugees from Myanmar need protection and humanitarian assistance. As part of our commitment to the religious freedom and being the largest religious organization of the Zomi in the United States, I appeal strongly to the US Administration to increase the resettlement of Zomi and other refugees from Myanmar.

Sincerely,

Rev. Pau Khan Lian

General Secretary

Zomi Baptist Churches of America



Heating & Cooling Products

October 21, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like you to accept this letter as a recommendation for the Zomi community.

AAON employs around seven hundred Burmese/Zomi team members. They are hardworking and honest people. Refugees and immigrants like our Zomi community contributes to the U.S. economy in many ways. In fact, they contribute to our communities in ways that go far beyond any expectations.

The quality service and job well done our team members provide us with, is one of many other qualities the Zomi community brings to our company. We are blessed to have them working with us.

If you would like further information about my experience with our Zomi team members, please do not hesitate to contact me at 918-382-6160.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Eneida Walkup". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eneida Walkup

HR Manager



Zomi Seventh-Day Adventists

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Address : 1710 N East St, Guymon, OK 73942

Contact: President: Sia Gin Sian Mung 951-403-8319
Secretary: Pr. Mang Sawm Lian 405-758-0840
Treasurer: Sia Pau Suan Khai 281-738-0902

To Whom It May Concern

We, the Zomi Seventh-day Adventists of the North American Division (Zomi SDA NAD), fully support the mission of the Zomi Innkuan USA, Inc. (ZIUSA) in relation to the humanitarian services especially to the Zomi communities in Burma, the United States of America and around the world.

Having seen the incredible services ZIUSA has provided for the Zomi communities in promoting knowledge and education, preserving cultural heritage, and supporting either the financial or emotional needs of the Zomi communities around the world especially due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic and political instability in Burma, we trust and commend that ZIUSA will continue to be one of the main sources and forces for the welfare and betterment of the Zomi communities.

Sincerely,

Gin Sian Mung, President

Zomi Seventh-day Adventist, NAD

This report prepared by the Zomi Innkuan USA (ZIUSA) is one of the most complete and faithful information guides to the current refugee situation back in Myanmar since the Military coup political power in February in 2021. The Zomi Innkuan USA (ZIUSA) has written a masterful summary of the present to past suffering of the refugees who were suffering torture that integrate the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar.

The report outlined the meaning of the refugee and their needs of resettlement that offers some clear and concrete both explanation and answers. The report contained useful information to help refugees from Myanma (Burma) including the Zomi refugees who are awaiting their resettlement process from Malaysia, India and Thailand and give priority to the resettlement program in the United States of America.

Francis D. Kham

President

Zomi American Catholic Eucharistic Congress

Report on Zomi Refugees in Abroad

By Zomi Innkuan USA

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
Acknowledgement	5
Chapter 1: Introduction	6
1.1.The brief history of Zomi.....	6
1.2. The Identity of Zomi.....	6
1.3. Zomi in the Great War (1914-1918).....	6
1.4. Overview of Zomi Innkuan USA	7
1.4.1. The background of resettlement	7
1.4.2. Formation of Zomi Innkuan USA.....	8
1.4.3. The expansion of Zomi Innkuan USA	9
1.4.4. Religious Organization of Zomi in USA.....	11
1.4.5. Contribution of Zomi Communities to rebuilding economy.....	11
1.5. The need for recommendation on Refugees	12
1.6. The concepts and definitions for the measurement of Refugees	13
1.7. The Purpose and Scope of Report	14
Chapter 2: Legal Framework and Refugee Definition.....	14
2.1. The Right to Refugee.....	15
2.2. Protecting Refugees and other in need of international Protection	15
2.3. Procedural Framework for status determination procedures.....	16
2.3.1. Recognition of protection needs	16
2.3.2. Derivative status, extending protection to family members.....	16
Chapter 3: Refugee related populations for the purpose of statistical measurement	17
3.1. Zomi Refugees population	17
3.2. Major classifications and statistic of Refugees	17
3.2.1. The Static of the population of Zomi Refugees in Malaysia	17
3.2.2. The static of the population of refugee in Delhi.....	17
3.2.3. The static of the population of refugee in Thailand as follow	18
Chapter4: The Status of Zomi Refugees in Malaysia	18
4.1. Type of refugee	18

4.2. Population of Zomi Refugees in Malaysia.....	19
4.3. Health care system for refugees in Malaysia.....	19
4.4. Protection for Zomi Refugees during Covid-19 in Malaysia	20
4.5. Education for Zomi Refugees in Malaysia.....	20
4.6. Survival life of Zomi refugees in Malaysia.....	21
4.7. Protection for Zomi working refugees in Malaysia.....	21
4.8. Protection for Zomi Women and Children in Malaysia	21
4.9. Resettlement Procedure.....	22
Chapter 5. The status of Zomi Refugees in India	23
5.1. Population of refugees in Delhi	23
5.2. Rights and Protection for Zomi Refugees in India	23
5.3. Protection from refugee hosted country India.....	24
5.4. Protection from UNHCR.....	24
5.5. Education for Zomi Child Refugees in India	24
5.6. Health care for Zomi Refugees in India.....	25
5.7. Resettlement Procedure.....	26
Chapter6. Zomi Refugees in Thailand	26
6.1. Reason for fleeing Myanmar.....	26
6.2. The population of Zomi Refugees in Thailand	27
6.3. The process of refugee registration for Zomi Refugees in Thailand.....	27
6.4. Health Care for Zomi Refugees in Thailand	28
6.5. Education for Zomi Refugees in Thailand	28
6.6. Protection for Zomi Refugee in Thailand	28
6.7. Resettlement Procedure	28
Chapter 7: Conclusion and Recommendation	29
7.1. Report conclusions.....	29
7.2. Recommendation for improving the coordination of systems of refugee	30
Bibliography	32
Glossary.....	34
Appendices: Photo section	35
1. Zomi Life Point Shelter.....	36
2. Delivering baby at home as the couple could not afford the bill	36
3. While going to hospital for delivering a baby, the parents arrested by Malaysia Immigration.....	37
4. The sister taking care of her child-sister as no child care centers nearby	37

5. Treatment is done at home where there is no clinic nearby.....	37
6. Financially struggling family with 6 kids.....	38
7. The family could not afford treatment at hospital	38
8. Two girls were redeemed back with RM 1,500 by Zomi Association Malaysia. The two girls were sold out for cash by their own biological father who had struggled for bankruptcy	39
9. Life in the tiny rooms for big families	39
10. A destitute mother with two children	40
11. This man severely suffered from psycho when his UN card he received in 2013 was rejected in 2018	40
12. Photos collection of Zomi refugee education programs while waiting for resettlement in third world countries	41

Executive Summary

Zomi Innkuan USA is privileged to present not only the present condition of our people but also the plight we have been facing for six decades in Myanmar. In this report, with our heart-felt obligation to all Zomi who are displaced and underprivileged. Nevertheless, the chief of this report mainly focuses on the refugees in Malaysia, India, and Thailand. We have collected the current data of the three refugee locations in order to pinpoint the challenges Zomi refugees have faced and how they have survived in their displacement. The report begins with the brief history of Zomi and the overview of Zomi Innkuan USA. It explains the need for the recommendation, concepts and definition of the refugees, and the purpose and the scope of the report. In chapter two, it extends the legal framework and the definition of refugee in which their rights are explained in various perspectives_ who are they and why they fled out of their mother land to neighboring countries. Meanwhile, they truly need helping hands on the way to reach their final destination. The host country and the UNHCR operate a vital role to protect the refugees and to determine the procedure to address their needs. Chapter three explains Zomi refugees' population in respective camps_ Malaysia in chapter four, India in chapter five, and Thailand in chapter six. Each chapter contains the refugee rights and protection in the host country under UNHCR. In addition, it highlights activities such as education and health in each camp. Finally, the report addresses it's most vital component_ the conclusion and recommendation.

Acknowledgement

The refugee program of Zomi Innkuan USA, Inc. (ZIUSA) would like to convey sincere gratitude to all those who have helped us to create and distribute this report. I would also like to extend my special thanks to the individuals, churches, and the Board of Directors of Zomi Innkuan USA for their financial support in developing and publishing this report. I sincerely acknowledge and bring a deep sense of gratitude to the program officers for their exceptional experiences and support.

The Refugee Program of Zomi Innkuan USA, Inc. has obtained the rights to use the photographs in this report via license agreement with a third party, Zomi Association of Malaysia (ZAM). All the photos are intended to be used exclusively for this report purpose under the authorized permission, and their privacy is fully protected.

Tual Khan Suan

Board Chairman

Zomi Innkuan USA

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 A brief history of Zomi

The history of Zomi began in north-west Burma and India, where our ancestors cultivated Zomi identity within group of people who speak a distinctive language and culture from the valley to the hills in northwestern Burma, and Mizoram, Manipur in India. Zomi is an umbrella term to refer to people who called themselves Zomi across distinct tribes and communities. The research done by Zomi scholars as well as the modern sociolinguists unanimously brought our true identity uniquely benchmarked as “Zomi” or “The Indigenous Zomi.” Thus, we, Zomi found pleasure and pride in this historic name. Under this unique name “Zomi”, our people have widely spread from Kalay valley, Kabaw valley in lower farming areas to highlands where mountain ranges emerged from Mount Kennedy in the east and Sial-Kalh-Tang-dung in the west.

1.2. The Identity of Zomi

One should notice that local dialects and pronunciation may differ due to the vast diversity within the Zomi identity and community. Thus, the name Zomi should never be referred to by the geographical climate term “zo”, nor “Chin”, which means “a basket” rather than “men”. Besides, no such word is found in Zomi related socio-linguistics terms and traditional lyric poetry, or in history. In spite of different opinions regarding the origin of Zomi and their identity, based on enormous historical facts and evidence, we have undoubtedly chosen Zomi as a unique and impeccable name for our people. We believe our true identity as Zomi and thus it is authenticated by the fathers of all clans and their descendants. Zomi Innkuan USA is one of the well-founded evidence of our identity “Zomi”.

1.3. Zomi in the Great War (1914-1918)

Zomi are always proud of the labor of our ancestors with the allies at the front line in France during the Great War. The world will never forget the contribution and sacrificial labor of our ancestors in the Great War. The story of the Zomi Labor Corps to the front line of unknown land was the most critical moment for our ancestors who had never left their homeland before. The vow between Allies Forces and Zomi during the Great War is recorded in World War encyclopedia, 1033 young men of Zomi Labor Corps are identified and enlisted as Sukte and Kam Hau Labor Corps who sacrificed their labors and lives assisting Allied Forces during the World War I. It was not because they wanted to but the vow between the allied and our “ZOMI” ancestors made at Forth White compelled their journey to the west. Their Great War experience at France battlefields has been passed onto us in oral and written record. (*Local name is Thangmual. It is located on the mountain top in our land, on the road to the battle of Imphal, Manipur, India.*). On 14, August 1917, they were transported to France and arrived in Marseilles. Zomi Labor Corps were formed into No.61 and No.62 Labor Corps and transferred to the battlefield front line at the French and German border on 27 August under the commander Captain Rundall. Twenty three men from No.61 and 62 Labor Corps sacrificed their lives for the Great War. In 1918, ten men from No.61 & 62 Labor corps were chosen to visit Buckingham Palace in London to meet King George V. We take this contribution of Zomi ancestors as a special privilege to the freedom of generations to come.

1.4. Overview of Zomi Innkuan USA

1.4.1. The background of resettlement

Zomi Innkuan USA began with Zomi from different parts of Burma and India who resettled in America to create their own future in the land of justice, freedom and equality. After living under fear and enduring various forms of persecutions under authoritarian military society,

the remnants and the survivors had to flee for their lives and for the sake of future generations. Over the years, by spreading all over ASEANs and the world, many Zomi were privileged to be selected to live in America. It was a long journey for the underprivileged, persecuted, and displaced groups of Zomi people gathering at the borders of Thailand, Malaysia and India seeking asylum before they all finally resettled in the USA and other third countries. Since political oppression began with the first military coup that took place in 1962, the first generation survived many persecutions under brutal military regimes. The next generation began to realize the need for liberation out of fear and tears. Eventually they all ended up in a dilemma due to forced labor, unceasing ethnic war, religious persecution, and consequently inflation and high-rocketing unemployment in the land of Zomi. Not finding any solution for the future of Zogam (The land of Zomi) and Burma, our people could not no longer bear the persecution and some finally fled to the border of Thailand, some to Malaysia, and some to India for future endeavors. Zomi Innkuan was first established with small Zomi refugee communities caring for one another as a united community in the USA. Over the years upon the arrival of Zomi refugees increased and spread over different states in America, para-Zomi communities were formed and are now growing.

1.4.2. Formation of Zomi Innkuan USA

Zomi Innkuan USA was legally formed into being and registered as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Oklahoma in 2008. It was granted Federal Income Tax Exempt Status per Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Service of the United States in 2009, with an EIN #26-4145898. Most importantly Zomi Innkuan USA, Inc. is privileged and honored to have been a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social

Council since 2014. INNPI (Congress of ZIUSA): The Congress (aka Innpi) is formed by representatives and delegates from each domestic or local Zomi Innkuan Organization. Each Zomi Innkuan Organization can elect a representative and delegates based on their membership.

1.4.3. The expansion of Zomi Innkuan USA

Today, Zomi Innkuan USA is privileged to have 47 local based Zomi Communities in 23 states in the United States of America. The lists of all Zomi communities in the United States are as follows.

No.	Name of Zomi Communities	Abbreviation	State
1	Zomi Innkuan Arizona	AZ	Arizona
2	Zomi Innkuan San Francisco - Bay Area	CA	California
3	Zomi Innkuan Denver	CO	Colorado
4	Zomi Innkuan Washington DC Area	DC	District of Columbia
5	Zomi Innkuan Atlanta	GA	Georgia
6	Zomi Innkuan Central Florida	FL	Florida
7	Florida Zomi Innkuan (USA), Inc.	FL	Florida
8	Zomi Innkuan Jacksonville	FL	Florida
9	Zomi Innkuan North West Florida	FL	Florida
10	Chicago Zomi Innkuan	IL	Illinois
11	Zomi Innkuan Indianapolis	IN	Indianapolis
12	Iowa Zomi Innkuan	IA	Iowa
13	Zomi Innkuan Marshalltown	IA	Iowa
14	Zomi Innkuan Waterloo	IA	Iowa
15	Zomi Innkuan Kansas City	KS	Kansas City

16	Zomi Innkuan Louisville	KY	Kentucky
17	Zomi Innkuan Kentucky	KY	Kentucky
18	Zomi Innkuan Battle Creek	MI	Michigan
19	Grand Rapids Zomi Innkuan	MI	Michigan
20	Zomi Innkuan Lansing	MI	Michigan
21	Zomi Innkuan Columbia	MO	Missouri
22	Zomi Innkuan Missouri	MO	Missouri
23	Zomi Innkuan Lincoln	NE	Nebraska
24	Zomi Innkuan Charlotte	NC	North Carolina
25	Zomi Innkuan Durham - Chapel Hill	NC	North Carolina
26	Zomi Innkuan New Bern	NC	North Carolina
27	Zomi Innkuan Raleigh	NC	North Carolina
28	Zomi Innkuan New York City	NY	New York
29	Zomi Innkuan New York State	NY	New York
30	Zomi Innkuan Columbus	OH	Ohio
31	Zomi Innkuan Oklahoma, Inc.	OK	Oklahoma
32	Zomi Innkuan Oklahoma City	OK	Oklahoma
33	Zomi Innkuan Portland	OR	Oregon
34	Zomi Innkuan Lancaster	PA	Pennsylvania
35	Zomi Innkuan Philadelphia Area	PA	Pennsylvania
36	Zomi Innkuan Knoxville	TN	Tennessee
37	Zomi Innkuan Tennessee	TN	Tennessee
38	Zomi Innkuan Amarillo	TX	Texas
39	Zomi Innkuan Austin	TX	Texas

40	Zomi Innkuan Dumas	TX	Texas
41	Zomi Innkuan Dallas	TX	Texas
42	Zomi Innkuan Fort Worth	TX	Texas
43	Zomi Innkuan Houston	TX	Texas
44	Zomi Innkuan Beaumont	TX	Texas
45	San Antonio Zomi Innkuan	TX	Texas
46	Zomi Innkuan Utah	UT	Utah
47	Zomi Innkuan Washington	WA	Washington

1.4.4. Religious Organization of Zomi in USA

1	Zomi Baptist Churches of America (ZBCA)
2	Full Gospel Assembly International
3	Zomi Christian Alliance of USA
4	Zomi America Catholic Eucharistic Congress
5	Zomi Christian Ministers Fellowship
6	Zomi Seventh-Day Adventist North America Division
7	Evangelical Baptist Conference of America

We are indebted to the founding fathers of the great nation of the United States of America and the federal government, churches, and organizations that have assisted in initial the resettlement and the process of the projects. Without their kind helping hands, Zomi Innkuan USA could have never been here in the great land of America, and would have been left behind with fear, tears and persecution under a merciless military regime.

1.4.5. Contribution of Zomi Communities to rebuilding the economy

Zomi labor forces have played vital role to help the US economy be resilient. The evidence of the importance of Zomi immigrants in the recreation of Tulsa city is clearly visible during the last decade. An important example; Zomi economic contributions in the state of Oklahoma. Zomi people greatly impact industries in Tulsa, with approximately 500 Zomi represented in Aaron's Furniture, approximately 300 at Whirlpool, approximately 300 at the Bus Plant and approximately 200 at Amazon. In addition, Zomi Innkuan USA has been honored to be recognized and welcomed to participate in Resilient Tulsa in 2018. Zomi Innkuan USA was recognized as an entity that not only develops Zomi communities but also the whole of Tulsa as it rebuilds as a world class city, thriving with diversity and growing in resilience.

1.5. The need for recommendation on Refugees

The common nature of Zomi can be described as lovers of justice. Ancient Zomi would advocate for a peaceful and loving community of their own wherever they led the group of people to establish new societies across mountain ranges. Their traits and characters had been challenged throughout both the history of the precolonial period and during the colonial periods. Right after Burma's independence in 1948, many Zomi groups joined military service where they proved their valor in various battles against the communists and subsequent wars. However, it did not take long after the first coup in 1962 before our Zomi soldiers began to face enormous discrimination based in both ethnic and religious racism. The arrival of the first American Baptist missionary Rev. Dr. J.H. Cope significantly influenced the Zomi communities in the Tedim and Tonzang area, with our ancestors gradually leaving "Dawithoih" (a mixture of worshipping spiritual beings and a powerful unknown god). Our people began to spread all over Burma, establishing house-churches everywhere they traveled and settled-most Zomi having embraced Christianity. The Zomi community strived to practice justice and honesty as much as they could under any circumstances, even when the country

was sinking into the pot of corruption and economic crisis. The number of Zomi achieving higher levels of education becoming high-ranking officers began to increase in the late 1970s even under the oppression. These factors later become the primary causes for the persecution of Zomi indigenous groups under the military dictatorship from 1980s and onwards.

1.6. The concepts and definitions for the measurement of Refugees

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call on countries to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility. Refugees, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), are people who are “fleeing armed conflict or persecution” and “for whom denial of asylum has potentially deadly consequences.” Refugees leave their home countries because it is dangerous for them to stay. Turning refugees away could mean sentencing them to death. They often arrive without their personal belongings, sometimes without preplanning or any preparation at all. The 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol states the need for international protection of the Status of Refugees. The efforts by Statistics Norway, the Turkish Statistical Institute, Eurostat and UNHCR to produce international guidelines on refugee and IDP statistics under the auspices of UN Statistical Commission reveal that there have been extended definitions of refugee status by various organizations in order to respond to particular refugee situations in different regions. It should be noted that not all legally defined refugees are international migrants when analyzed by existing statistical systems. Given that the definitions of refugees are already established by legal instruments, the gaps between legal and statistical approaches in measuring refugee population need to be identified and clearly explained to facilitate better understanding of migration statistics.

It is well acknowledged that the pledge of the 2030 Agenda to the principle of “*leave no one behind*” requires disaggregating relevant SDG indicators by migratory status, wherever relevant, to elucidate the vulnerability of migrants and certain types of mobility. It should be a reinforced action for discovering our Zomi refugees in the three mentioned countries.

1.7. The Purpose and Scope of Report

This report aims to highlight who we are and how we came to be in the United States and how we have become a well-established Zomi community. This report seeks to document the past, present and the future of our people in America. Most importantly, this report expresses our voices to form a common ground for the welfare of a bigger community, to which we are dedicated to love and serve. Most of all, we want to clearly and concretely report the desperate need of our people who are homeless and displaced as refugees in Malaysia, India, and Thailand. Zomi Innkuan USA wishes to share the burden of our people over the years in Burma, India, and Malaysia refugee camps. This report depicts the current issue with our heart-felt sympathy to all our people who are still in those refugee camps.

This report aims to concentrate on the current condition of Zomi refugees in the above mentioned countries and the enormous distress caused due to their status, as well as the current instability caused by the military coup and persistent attempt to regain power over oppositions and minorities in different parts of Myanmar. It also contains recommendations in our effort to offer solutions that will empower whoever reads this report to identify with the plight of Zomi refugees and to advocate for their protection.

Chapter 2: Legal Framework and Refugee Definition

2.1. The Right to Refugee

Zomi Innkuan USA highly regards the 1951 Refugee Convention as a key legal foundation and defines a refugee as: “someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.” The Zomi refugees in Malaysia camps, India Camps, and Thailand camps fall and fit into this definition.

They fled Myanmar due to the prolonged prosecution in the form of forced labor, war or violence to the person. After living under horrific and violent oppression, they began to accept that there no other option to survival but to leave their homeland. Some of them flew to the west and crossed the Indian border towards the Delhi refugee camp, while some made their way to the eastern border of Thailand, while still others continued to cross the border to Malaysia. They all are frightened to return home because of unceasing ethnic discrimination, religious violence, current political unrest and armed conflicts that are increasing even after fleeing their home country.

2.2. Protecting Refugees and other in need of international Protection

Zomi Refugees are being protected by universal human rights and the international refugee law written in the 1951 Refugee Convention in respective host countries. The legal safety and security task is mainly administered under UNHCR. Several other organizations such as international and local NGOs take part in areas where necessary, especially during Covid-19 pandemic. The safety and conditions of refugee camps differ from one country to another. For example; refugee status in Thailand is determined by the Thai government rather than UNHCR. This matter is widely discussed and addressed with recommendations in chapter six.

2.3. Procedural Framework for status determination procedures

2.3.1. Recognition of protection

All refugees have the right to protection. Zomi refugees deserve protection in host countries. Their needs may differ according to location and host country, but the essential need for all refugees remains the same. Modern ideology may shape the refugee world in many different ways, but Zomi Innkuan USA will never change our authentic concept for the safety, security, and protection from any forms of persecution and oppression whether in mother country or in host country as well as the individual and family members who have been brought into third world countries.

2.3.2. Derivative status, extending protection to family members

Zomi Innkuan USA wholeheartedly supports UNHCR's family reunification policy and procedures in the context of resettlement programs. We adopt a practical approach to help both derivative and other extended family members to be united so that they all may fulfil their dream of living in a land free from fear. We do so not only because of our sympathy or compassion for their tragic experience in their original country, but because of the universal refugee law and international refugee policy which promote family reunification as an imperative.

We are fully committed to providing economic, emotional and spiritual support over the years and particularly those disrupted by persecution and other hardships resulting from the current Military coup and all kinds of violence. While working on the case, we know that the procedure seems not always expeditious due to factors involved to gather into consideration. Even then, facts and concrete data with strong blood linkage evidence can be collected via electronic communication nowadays that cases should be taken into action as soon as the evidence is provided. Legal procedure undoubtedly takes more time in working cases due to recurrence of variant Covid-19, our concern is the continuation must be continuously active and informed by both principal petitioners and derivative family members.

Chapter 3: Refugee related populations for the purpose of statistical measurement

3.1. Zomi Refugees population

According to the record collected at refugee camps in Malaysia, Thailand and India, the current Zomi Refugee population is approximately 13,467. Malaysia refugees are about 12,400 in number to be the biggest number among the three countries. India refugees follow next at about 847, and refugees in Thailand are at about 270. Due to the military coup in February this early year and its consequences, the number of Zomi refugees is increasing.

3.2. Major classifications and statistic of Refugees

Zomi Refugees can be classified into the following groups_

3.2.1. The Static of the population of Zomi Refugees in Malaysia

Process	Number of refugee	Waiting period
Ready for resettlement	Approx. 3,000	5 years to more than 10 years
UNHCR-card holder	Approx. 2,400	3 years to more than 8 years
Zomi Community-card holder	Approx. 7,000	3 years to more than 5 years
Total Zomi Refugee Malaysia	Approx. 12,400	

3.2.2. The static of the population of refugee in Delhi

Process	Number of refugee	Remarks & waiting period
Resettlement granted	12	More than a year
Waiting for resettlement/visa	44	More than 5-7 years
UNHCR card holder	202	More than 3 years

Temporary card holder	109	More than a year
RSD interview process	63	More than a year
New cases being added	385	2021
Total Zomi Refugee in India	847	Humanitarian received 32

3.2.3. The static of the population of refugee in Thailand as follow

Camp name	Number of refugee	Remarks
Maela	45	
Nuhpho	75	
Umphein	150	
Total Zomi Refugee in Thai	270	

Chapter4: The Status of Zomi Refugees in Malaysia

4.1. Type of refugee

It is complicated to define the ground for fear of persecution for the refugees in Malaysia. Their cases are connected to persecution through forced labor from the former regime to the local authority. As for Myanmar, towns and villages near by the border area are generally isolated from the mainland that frequently led to tortures and persecution of all kinds to go unnoticed and undocumented by authorities. Additionally, Zomi in these areas are at a disadvantaged to make reports of persecution they had been subjected to. The second ground for fear of persecution is related to social and cultural background. Most Zomi embrace Christianity as

noted above. This factor another major cause for persecution in Zomi inhabited areas. Thus, most cases are related to forced labor, ethnic discrimination, and religious persecution.

4.2. Population of Zomi Refugees in Malaysia

- The first group is made up of more than 3,000 refugees who have been issued official cards and acknowledged by UNHCR. The group with UNHCR cards has been approved to resettle in refugee receiving countries.
- There is a second group of approximately 2,400 who have not yet received UNHCR cards but who hold documents. Since there are only a few benefit or support options for registered refugees, they all have to find their own way for daily survival.
- The third group, who hold Zomi Community Malaysia cards is estimated to be more than 7,000.

4.3. Health care system for refugees in Malaysia

The refugees are allowed to visit ACTS, Tzu Chi, and Mercy clinics supported by UNHCR and other NGOs. ACTS requires RM 10 for registration for a patient's one-time visit and other clinics do not require registration fees. Even then, these clinics are only for minor illnesses, patients have to visit public hospitals or private clinics for major problems. Recently community card holders have not been allowed to be admitted at public hospitals. Patients with UNHCR card or a UC letter admitted at private hospitals receive free of charge for treatment, but admission at public hospitals receive a 50% discount.

All refugee patients may be able to access the treatment at hospitals and clinics in general, but not all hospitals offer the same benefits for refugees, for instance, one of public hospitals such as Serdang hospital does not accept patients with Zomi Community card.

The patients pay for their own bill for minor cases. For major cases that come with a large cost, patients may sometimes contact NGOs for help. It sometimes takes time to get aids so some patients may not be willing to wait for long but his close friends and relatives might collect and contribute for the bill.

4.4. Protection for Zomi Refugees during Covid-19 in Malaysia

During the global pandemic, Covid-19 patients received medical treatment free of charge. When they recovered or if someone got infected, they could stay quarantine for the requested days free of charge without any form of discrimination. Additionally, the Malaysian government helps the refugees receive vaccine shots for free of charge. We were extremely grateful to the government of Malaysia for treating us refugees as they would native citizens during the pandemic waves.

4.5. Education for Zomi Refugees in Malaysia

Regarding education for refugees, Zomi Association Malaysia helps to operate from Kindergarten to Grade five. The students who want to study beyond grade five may continue at two or three schools where he or she is allowed to study up to high school courses under UNHCR aids. Nevertheless, it is too risky and a great challenge for refugee children and youth to study beyond high school. Only 50% of Zomi young refugees, who are capable of education, have access to education in Malaysia. The other half could not continue to study due to two primary factors-the limitation of facilities and lack of financial support.

There are two main accesses to education for refugees in Malaysia. They can decide whether to access Zomi Community Education Programs free of charge or to access private schools at a considerable expense. Thus, only a handful of refugees who have received a very selective scholarship can go to private schools.

4.6. Survival life of Zomi refugees in Malaysia

While going out for daily business, refugees who hold UNHCR cards cannot be taken into custody unless they break the law or commit crimes. Nonetheless, working is illegal for refugees so if they are found to be suspected of working while on daily travel, they are subject to investigation. Refugees with big families have to work just for survival, which puts their life at risk on the daily commute to work. Refugees without UNHCR cards, even though they hold Community cards, are still subject to be arrested if they are found guilty of working.

4.7. Protection for Zomi working refugees in Malaysia

Refugees without holding UNHCR cards are regarded as illegal, so their life is always at risk even when they are not working.

If refugees holding UNHCR cards are mistakenly arrested, they can be held at court until they are taken to a detention center. Even the UNHCR cannot free refugees if they have been sent to detention centers. The police sometimes send the arrested refugees directly to the detention center without bringing them to court. On this matter, UNHCR can do nothing to advocate for arrested refugees.

4.8. Protection for Zomi Women and Children in Malaysia

UNHCR is an enthusiastic advocate and has implemented quite a number of policies to protect women refugees from domestic violence. Still, more substantial laws for safety and security of women are required to be employed. Furthermore, UNHCR could not offer safety and security for women with pregnancy and delivery. UNHCR would hardly support any aids for health care and nutrition for children.

4.9. Resettlement Procedure

Step One: Registration department: Asylum seekers have to register for a refugee case by providing reasons for fleeing the country, bio-data, and a family tree. After filing a case, each applicant is issued a document on which a passport photo is attached.

Step Two: Refugee Status Determination (RSD): Case workers will interview the applicants in order to get ready for a more thorough interview performed by Panel experts. In this step, the applicants will be interrogated for classification of cases by defining logic and truthfulness in one of the five reasons to be qualified for refugee status. The decision is made by the experts for the next interview and for resettlement process assisted by the RSC.

Step Three: Resettlement: In this stage, applicants will receive a UNHCR card after completing an interview that is to update and confirm biodata and family trees. Now the case has been reviewed and updated to submit to refugees from a third world country.

Step Four: Medical check-up: a successful applicant with interviews done by immigration officers from respective refugee receiving countries must go through medical checks. If anyone is found to have infected any kind of disease, he or she must receive treatment.

Step Five: Travel arrangement: having received approval of medical and security checks, travel arrangements are assisted through the resettlement agencies and the International Organization of Migration.

The final step: Cultural orientation: RSCs offer the refugees a cultural orientation about life in the country where they are going to resettle before travelling.

Chapter 5. The status of Zomi Refugees in India

5.1. Population of refugees in Delhi

The total number of Zomi refugees in Delhi is around about 847. They can be grouped as follows:

(a)	UNHCR card holder (Smart card)	: 202
(b)	Temporary card holder	: 109
(c)	New case being added in 2021)	: 385
(d)	RSD Interview accomplished but card hasn't been received yet	: 33
(e)	RSD interview pending	: 30
(f)	Number who have granted resettlement	: 12
(g)	Number of refugees who have received humanitarian	: 32
(h)	Number of refugees' visa granted	: 9
(i)	Visa in process	: 35

Remarks: (1) These figures are placed under case wise.

(2) Visa granted and visa in process mean refugee's approval for resettlement.

5.2. Rights and Protection for Zomi Refugees in India

Zomi Refugees are in Delhi after flee Myanmar to escape continuous persecution under the military regime. Even after Myanmar embraced the reformation of democracy, the government system remained challenging in many different ways. Today as a result one can notice the

recent military coup early this year. Myanmar is still in a political crisis that seems unpredictable but armed conflicts have broken out since early 2021.

5.3. Protection from refugee hosted country India

Refugees in Delhi have the right to remain and request their resettlement in the third world. Until then, they all deserve protection of their life even in the refugee camps in refugee host countries.

5.4. Protection from UNHCR

(a) How do they receive protection from the refugee-hosted country where they are living now?

No aid from refugee-hosted countries. In addition, whenever conflicts occur between refugees and local citizens, refugees receive no support or advocacy.

(b) How does the refugee hosted country treat those who do not have legal documents? Work discrimination is common and refugees are openly despised.

5.5. Education for Zomi Child Refugees in India

(a) How many refugees are there who can study? Approximately 450

(b) Can they access education in the country they are in? Yes, they can.

(c) What do they need to access education?

They must have Aadhaar Card (India Unique Identity Card), UN Card, FRRO etc. It has quite a long process to receive the card.

(d) How many are there who can't access education due to not possessing the documents? Approximately 250

5.6. Health care for Zomi Refugees in India

The following Q&A will give us information on current health care for the Refugees.

(a) How do they receive treatment when they get sick?

Patients can be brought to private and public hospitals for treatment. If they need an interpreter, they can contact BOSCO which is a partner of UNHCR. But the number of interpreters is always limited and cannot meet the increasing demand. No aids are available for the patients to purchase medication. So they have to go for their own ends.

(b) Can refugee patients receive treatment at a clinic or public hospital?

In general, they can, but they must have an Aadhaar Card if they need to take a CT scan or Ultrasound. So this brings dilemma to those who do not have an Aadhaar Card.

(c) Where do they get aids to give treatment for the sick.(Government or NGOs or Individual?)

The sick themselves have to find a way to pay the bill. They have never received any aid from UNHCR or BOSCO. There is a huge difference between those who hold UNHCR cards and those who hold Temporary cards.

(d) How many people got infected with Covid-19? : 1

(e) How many people have received Covid-19 Vaccine? : 600 approximately

(f) Does UNHCR pay for treatment when infected?

Only those who have SA (Financial assistance) from UNHCR receive aids for treatment. If one doesn't have or if the patients are temporary card holder, they will get nothing.

5.7. Resettlement Procedure

Registration: Asylum seekers are to have registered at the UNHCR office. They are to provide information for the application. Applicants are prepared for interviews with Refugee Officers from respective refugee receiving countries.

The interviews: In order to determine the eligibility of the applicant for resettlement is conducted and decided by DHS/USCIS for USA, or other agencies for the other third world countries. There are two cases in common_ individual and family. As for family, all members will be interviewed but one must meet refugee definition in order to be considered.

Medical screening: Applicants must be fully engaged in medical check-up for physical well-being. Failure to this step will delay resettlement.

Final step for resettlement: Travel arrangements are assisted by the resettlement agencies and other International Organization of Migration. Before traveling, they will be given a short cross cultural training course about the destination country.

Chapter6. Zomi Refugees in Thailand

6.1. Reason for fleeing Myanmar

The military began building bases and barracks for the forces around Kalay valley in 2005. Consequently, forced labor fell upon the shoulders of the local indigenous Zomi in several villages while developing construction. The worst came to pass when soldiers plundered properties of civilians, and they all became victims, which caused them to flee for fear of their lives.

In those days, due to lack of land transportation for the military to reach front lines posts and battlefields, civilians nearby the villages and towns were caught for labor forces for carrying rations and ammunition for military base relocation or mobilization. There was no room for

the sick while carrying military related materials but most of the porters left on the way deceased because of no medical treatment nor no food supplied.

While camping at villages, they were forced to build Buddhist religious buildings and facilities that no one was allowed to have rest even for church service on Sundays. Whether one liked it or not, there was no other choice when the commander ordered to build pagodas or shrines for religious infrastructures, one had to be fully engaged with the task, otherwise, your life would be in danger.

Due to the ongoing forced labor for the whole weeks and months, and even a year around, no Christians were allowed to attend for church services on Sunday's worship. Church buildings were demolished around the villages so that no one could come for prayers and worship on Sundays. By doing this, the military's strategic handling with minorities in remote areas.

6.2. The population of Zomi Refugees in Thailand

- There are seventy five altogether in ten households at Nuhpho Refugee camp.
- There are a hundred and fifty altogether in twenty three households at Umphien Refugee camp.
- There are forty five altogether in eight households at Maela Refugee Camp.

6.3. The process of refugee registration for Zomi Refugees in Thailand

The interview undertaken by Thailand Interior Ministry takes around three months to six months to reach a decision to be granted a Pre-registration card.

After completing the first step, another interview is held by UNHCR. Both the interview performed by Thailand Interior Ministry and the UNHCR are to be evaluated by the

government of Thailand for approval to receive a UNHCR card. This last process could take about five years.

The refugees who have US connections are more advantaged to receive UNHCR cards and it might also assist the process faster.

6.4. Health Care for Zomi Refugees in Thailand

The refugees inside the camps can access free Medicare aided by the NGOs that specialized in helping medical facilities and treatment.

6.5. Education for Zomi Refugees in Thailand

The children and young refugees receive basic education provided by the NGOs for free of charge.

6.6. Protection for Zomi Refugee in Thailand

The refugees who stay inside the refugee camps are not allowed to go outside, unless a refugee is permitted by Thailand Security Guards. If a refugee is caught by Thai police or immigration while going out, he or she will be deported to the Border Guard Force (BGF) at Myanmar border. They will be kept for forced labor or forced to be enlisted. All refugees staying inside the camps are to abide by all laws and regulations set by the Thai government and Camp authority without fail.

6.7. Resettlement Procedure

Zomi Refugees in Thailand will have to pass through Thai authority for initial registration.

As for resettlement procedure, they are more or less similar to one another. In general, various interviews are followed at each step for conformation, updating, and approvals.

- In first step, having done the process by Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs) abroad, qualified refugee cases are prepared for interviews with Refugee Officers from the Department of Homeland Security.
- In the second step, the eligibility of the applicant for resettlement is determined at the interview conducted by DHS/USCIS. There are two cases in common_ individual and family. As for family, all members will be interviewed but one must meet refugee definition in order to be considered.
- In the third step, a successful interview with DHS/USCIS, applicants must go through additional medical and security checks; tuberculosis and certain venereal diseases. Persons testing positive for any of these diseases will have received medical treatment.
- For the fourth step, upon approval of medical and security checks, travel arrangements are facilitated through the resettlement agencies and the International Organization of Migration. The assurance process is managed by the Refugee Processing Center and once it is received, travel arrangements are made.
- The final step, RSCs offer the refugees a cultural orientation about life in the country where they are going to resettle before travelling.

Chapter 7: Conclusion and Recommendation

7.1. Report conclusions

Zomi Innkuan USA is honored to write this report on behalf of Zomi refugees in Malaysia, India, and Thailand. After fleeing their motherland for resettlement in other refugee accepting

countries, they all have rights to claim for humanitarian aid. As this report unearthed facts and data of Zomi Refugees in three refugee-hosted countries, their hardship and suffering at refugee camps is pervasive. This report has explained their data that leads to the accumulated needs to be taken into consideration and action. UNHCR and Refugee hosted countries, including the NGOs and Zomi Association Malaysia (ZAM) have identified the need analysis that will assist action requirements. Most importantly, this report would surely assist refugee receiving countries how to respond to the increasing challenges they are facing. In addition, we hope this report will give a glimpse of light to handling not only to the predicament of Zomi Refugees but also to one of the greatest current high calling issue in the world as we, Zomi Innkuan USA will continue to fully support UNHCR and all humanitarian related organizations who serves to ensure the rights of refugees are respected and protected.

7.2. Recommendation for improving the coordination of systems of refugee

- We recommend UNHCR and related organizations establish strong relationship with Zomi Innkuan USA and related associations in those refugee-hosted countries in order to be able to assist Zomi Refugees more effectively and to understand the nature and culture of Zomi indigenous.
- We would like to suggest UNHCR and other prominent organizations to create more space for Zomi Innkuan USA and related organizations_ Zomi Association Malaysia, Zomi Innkuan India, and Zomi Innkuan Thailand so that they could extend their research findings within their communities in all countries to bring up the update and ongoing issue in Zogam in Myanmar. (Zogam means the land where Zomi live in Myanmar)
- We also recommend the resettlement should flow continuously with more perceptible life of the refugees rather than the ongoing changing policies in hosted countries and other

opinions so that our refugees may not have to face or suffer unnecessary struggles in the hosted countries.

- We also suggest UNHCR recognize all asylum seekers including new arrival due to the current conflicts in the above three countries so that they will find safety and security of life after fleeing their country with fear.
- We would like to advise UNHCR to issue cards for the registered asylums by finding an approachable solution for the refugees who haven't received UNHCR cards.
- We also recommend providing to increase a more effective health care system for refugees.
- We also would like to recommend finding a way to protect refugees from being arrested while going out for business. And reconsider more effective humanitarian need for the deported refugees at the border.
- We also acknowledge and consistently support the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol that are the key legal documents that form the basis of our refugees in Malaysia, Thailand and India. In addition, the safety, security, protection of individual and family members should always be the constant focus of the sustainability of Refugee programs that are best described in 2030 SDG.
- The core principle of the Convention should be refocused which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom. This principle adopted by all states must apply to all Zomi refugees around the world.
- Zomi Innkuan USA and all other Zomi Innkuan from all over the world wholeheartedly request the US government, and policy makers, leaders of organizations to accept more

numbers of refugees from Zomi indigenous base on the current political unrest and armed conflicts interstate.

Bibliography

1. An UNHCR and Chin leader's meeting on Malaysia refugee matter, 25-April-2019.

2. Living a dream: Thousands of Burmese refugees build community in south Tulsa, John Klein Tulsa World Mar 17, 2018.
3. Myanmar Connection: Thousands of Zomi people moving to Tulsa from Myanmar Zomi people establish new homes near ORU, Bill Sherman World Religion Writer Apr 13, 2013 Updated Feb 20, 2019.
4. Report from Zomi Refugees in Malaysia 2021.
5. Report from Zomi Refugees in India 2021.
6. Report from Zomi Refugees in Thailand 2021.
7. Resilient Tulsa, An equitable, Action-oriented, a collaborative roadmap for all of Tulsa, June 2018.
8. Revisiting the Concepts, Definitions and Data Sources of International Migration in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Population Division Department of Economic and Social Affairs United Nations Secretariat New York 7-8 September 2017
9. The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, UNHCR, September 2011.
10. The “Essential Right” to Family Unity of Refugees and Others in Need of International Protection in the Context of Family Reunification Frances Nicholson Independent Consultant Division of International Protection, January 2018.
11. The Indigenous Zomi by S.Khamzalian Ngaihte, K.Vungzamawi, 2018.
12. The Right to Family Life and Family Unity of Refugees and Others in Need of International Protection and the Family Definition Applied Frances Nicholson Independent Consultant Division of International Protection, January 2018.
13. The statement of Zomi Association of Malaysia.
14. Zomi Innkuan USA official website: <http://www.zomicommunityusa.org/>

15. Zomi International Conference (ZIC2019KL) 17-19 February, 2019 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
16. Zomi USA: How a City in Oklahoma Became Home for an Ethnic Group from Southeast Asia, nearly 5,000 Zomis, an ethnic minority in Myanmar, Bangladesh, and India, have resettled in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Kristi Eaton, Dec.6, 2016.

Glossary

Adhaar Card	India Unique Identity Card
DHS	The United States Department of Homeland Security
FRRO	Foreigners Regional Registration Offices

IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations – Provide resettlement assistance and services to arriving refugees.
RSC	Resettlement Support Centers – RSCs consist of international organizations or non-governmental organizations that carry out administrative and processing functions, such as file preparation and storage, data collection and out-processing activities.
RSD	Refugee Status Determination
1951 Refugee Convention	The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol are the key legal documents that form the basis of our work. With 149 State parties to either or both, they define the term ‘refugee’ and outlines the rights of refugees, as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them.
SDG	The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) define the world we want. They apply to all nations and mean, quite simply, to ensure that no one is left behind.
UNHCR	The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was created in 1950, during the aftermath of the Second World War, to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes.
USCIS	United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
ZAM	Zomi Association Malaysia
Zogam	The land where Zomi live
Zomi	The name for Indigenous people groups who live in Northern Myanmar (Burma) the westward of Chindwin River from Kalaywah to Kalay valley, Kabaw valley, Tamu, Tedim, Tonzang, Cikha, Lamka (Churachanpur) in Manipur, India, Mizoram, India.
Zomi Innkuan	Zomi Family (Innkuan means family or a close bond groups of peoples, it is also called “Community” with a closer relationship among the people in the groups)
ZIUSA	Zomi Innkuan USA

Appendices: Photo section

1. Zomi Life Point Shelter



2. Delivering baby at home as the couple could not afford the bill



3. While going to hospital for delivering a baby, the parents arrested by Malaysia Immigration



4. The sister taking care of her child-sister as no child care centers nearby



5. Treatment is done at home where there is no clinic nearby



6. Financially struggling family with 6 kids



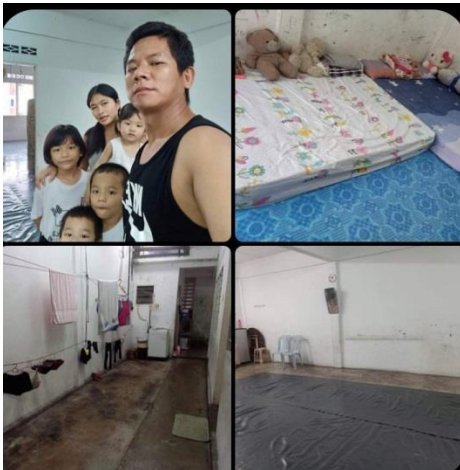
7. The family could not afford treatment at hospital



8. Two girls were redeemed back with RM 1,500 by Zomi Association Malaysia. The two girls were sold out for cash by their own biological father who had struggled for bankruptcy



9. Life in the tiny rooms for big families



10. A destitute mother with two children



11. This man severely suffered from psycho when his UN card he received in 2013 was rejected in 2018



12.Photos collection of Zomi refugee education programs while waiting for resettlement in third world countries









PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The organization, Zomi Innkuan USA (ZIUSA) has set up a Refugee Program to help Zomi Refugees in Malaysia, India, and Thailand. The program is self-funded by Zomi individual that supports the effective resettlement of Zomi refugees in their safe places in the world and ensures their basic needs are met so they can live in dignity and achieve their higher potential.

The goal of the Refugee Program is to ensure that every Zomi Refugee, who have been persecuted on the basis of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group, will receive proper treatment and protection under the Refugees' rights, and to work together to uphold humanitarian response to refugee through the U.S. Resettlement Program.

OUR MISSION

Zomi Refugee Program carries out the aims and objectives of the Zomi Innkuan USA (ZIUSA) to serve and advocate for the Zomi Refugees around the world. It offers services targeting gaps within the refugee community by ensuring the continuation of services in their efforts towards self-sufficiency and integration such as social level assistance, skills development (English language education for adults,) health promotion and cultural orientation, youth mentoring, and case management.

OUR VISION

Zomi Refugee Program is a leading network for the enhancement of cultural and community development in the Zomi refugee community to have the opportunity to integrate into the larger American society by interacting and sharing their unique cultures and skills.