

# WHY WE LEFT OUR HOME

STORIES BY KARENNI REFUGEES

## “In Burma I was never able to go to school.

My parents did not like to send me because they needed me to work. Also the school was not in the village and we had to walk a long distance.

We came here to the refugee camp because of the SPDC (Burma Army). They were always asking us to do many things for them. They took all our money. When that was all gone, when they couldn't get any more money from the villagers they starting taking our things. They took our chickens and our pigs. They left us nothing. We had a single nothing to feed our stomachs. So we knew that we couldn't stay there any longer.

So I had to leave my village and come here. On the way of coming here I met many soldiers. They shot at us. I saw someone die. We had to run. In the night we could not make a fire because we were afraid that the SPDC would see it and kill us again.”

## “The S P D C came and beat us and destroyed our birdhouses.

Their policy is to get rid of us or to kill us. Everyone in the villages is afraid. We were not able to attend school because the S P D C came very often to our village. Also my parents did not allow me to go to the school because they wanted me to work with them so we would have food for my little brother and sister.

So we left and came here to the refugee camp. When I arrived in the refugee camp I was 14 years old. I had to start at the kindergarten level in school and so I was very shy, but I tried. I will try my best to finish school.”

