Connect the Dots

An Infographic Guide to The JRS Research and Refugees in the Asia Pacific

Countries we focused on:
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Philippines
- Cambodia
- Thailand

Connecting the Dots

Key

Issues of Concern

1. Onward movement from the country of first asylum due to protection concerns is common and asylum seekers and refugees in the region do not have adequate access to information required to make informed decisions about their futures.

2. Protection of asylum seekers and refugees is a regional issue which requires cooperation between countries, agencies and NGOs.

3. The right to legal representation for asylum seekers and refugees is not fully recognised by UNHCR and governments in practice, compromising the integrity of the refugee status determination process.

4. There are increasing delays for new arrivals to obtain registration documents from UNHCR confirming that they are persons of concern.

5. Countries in the region party to the Refugee Convention should not be presumed to provide protection for all asylum seekers and refugees simply by virtue of their accession.

6. Detention of asylum seekers and refugees in non-signatory countries is a protection issue within and of itself; steps to introduce alternatives to detention of asylum seekers and refugees in non-signatory countries is by virtue of their accession.

Options for Durable Solutions

Voluntary repatriation
A recognised refugee may elect to return to their country of origin.

Local integration
The host government allows recognised refugees to stay.

Resettlement
A recognised refugee must be re-located to another country.

How Long Before I Know My Future?

Average processing times for refugee status determination

- Philippines: 34-46 months
- Cambodia: 28 months
- Indonesia: 316 days
- Thailand: 150 days
- Malaysia: 24.5 months

The Reality of Detention in Thailand

In Thailand, detention of asylum seekers and refugees is a protection issue within and of itself; steps to introduce alternatives to detention of asylum seekers and refugees in non-signatory countries is by virtue of their accession.

Arrests, Raids and Detention

Chronology of arrests of Sri Lankans in Bangkok

AUGUST 2010: 492 Sri Lankan asylum seekers board the ship ‘SunSea’ in Thailand arriving in Canada

11 OCTOBER 2010: 136 Sri Lankans registered with UNHCR are arrested in Bangkok and detained including 3 pregnant women and 30 children

28 OCTOBER 2010: 61 Sri Lankans registered with UNHCR are arrested in Songkha and Hat Yai and transferred to the Suan Phlu immigration detention centre in Bangkok

8 DECEMBER 2010: 28 Sri Lankans registered with UNHCR are arrested in Bangkok

12 JANUARY 2011: 8 Sri Lankans arrested in Bangkok

WHAT DO THE REFUGEES SAY?

When I was 3 years old, I was displaced. Now, my son is 3 years old, and he is displaced. His mother died on our journey from Sri Lanka by boat.
I am doing this for his children, so they won’t have to be displaced.

Kasun, Sri Lanka

Millions around the globe continue to fight against human rights violations, discrimination and deprivation of their rights. Billions of dollars have been spent on military expenditures, but so little is spent on the weak sections of society such as refugees and asylum seekers... with meagre resources and ability, refugees and asylum seekers never run out of steam, we struggle against all odds and never lose hope in order to reclaim our fundamental rights.

Refugees living in Cambodia on International Human Rights Day, 2011

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April, 2012 | Diakonia 17