



Laos - Myanmar - Thailand - China - Vietnam

Akha News

Protecting Akha Human Rights Since 1991

Results Based Activism

Salem, Oregon

March, 2008

Akha.org

This Issue

Salem -Portland Akha
 Salem Alliance - Crouch
 YWAM
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 Richard P. Haugland
 takes Akha girls

**ASU Presentation
 Local to Global
 March 1, 2008
 Phoenix, Arizona**

**Karen Refugees In
 Portland - Phoenix**

**Make Your Voice
 Heard**

Contact the Thai
 Honorary Consul in
 Portland:
 Ph: 503-221-0440
 Email: thai@siaminc.com

US Funds Thai Death Squads

Military Aid To Thailand Starts Up Again

Negroponte Says Thailand has Democracy(?)

PM Samak Promises New "Drug War" 4000 to Kill

Thaksin Shinawatra returns to Thailand. No Prosecutions of 2003 US backed drug war, thousands killed, Gross Human Rights Violations. As soon as a new Prime Minister took office, US military aid to Thailand began again. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra went into exile in England after being ousted in a military coup. During 2003 Thailand began a murderous drug war shortly after cont' page 3

Crime of Genocide Filed Against Thailand

Feb 27, 2008 I have filed a case against the Government of Thailand with the International Criminal Court in the Hague, charging the Government of Thailand with the crime of Genocide against the Akha people. A systematic effort to deprive the Akha of land, including land confiscations by the Queen of Thailand, killings, increased mortality and the removal of Akha children by missionaries.

Ride For Freedom

Donors Needed for Project Bus

The Ride for Freedom for the Akha people and human rights has found a bus after quite a search. But we still need more donations before we can take possession and start our trip across the US by horseback. The trip will highlight Akha human rights concerns and seek to educate the public about the Akha people in SE Asia and Akha refugees in the US. The trip will go from Lincoln City to the UN at New York over a period of more than six months.

The trip will be conducted by one or more horses, family and volunteers. Daily videos will be posted to YouTube.com as well as to the internet site www.akha.org

A number of individuals will be joining the trip part way, to support Akha human rights and bring attention to the concerns of indigenous peoples world wide. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples passed the UN vote on Sept. 13, 2007.



New Candidates for Salem Mayor?

"If a dead person ran against the mayor it would be an improvement, anyone. Let's just get her out of there." Salem Businessman

Mayor Janet Taylor Killed Salem's Kiosks

A Public Space Removed One Year Mayor Taylor said: "The businesses didn't like them." "We have a plan to replace them." "We have no plan". However business vendor magazines are allowed everywhere as are newspapers. Salem had only two kiosks which were used for posting music events, announcements. We often used these kiosks to post Akha Human Rights Alerts. While trash cans and flower pots were replaced at great expense, the kiosks which are an alternative form of news and media were only removed. Many people in Salem have complained about this quite vocally. Public Spaces don't belong to the business or the city, they belong to the people. Public Spaces equal democracy. Only a short sighted mayor would ignore a segment of the community. The removal of the kiosks without replacing them came across as a "Top Down" move. Mayor Taylor works as representing only a particular section of the Salem Business community, while ignoring many people who live and work in the area.

Akha in Salem, Portland, Seattle, Sacramento

Searching for members of the Akha people since 2004 has revealed a hidden community spreading from Seattle to Sacramento. Members live in Portland and Salem, refugees to the US over the last 30 years, raising families of their own. Some of the Akha community still speaks Akha while others haven't retained as much since leaving their homelands in Burma and Laos many years ago. A number of the Akha want to return to Laos to find their original families and communities.

Akha Villages in Thailand Blockaded by Thai Army

After word reached the UN that the Queen of Thailand took Akha land, Akha villagers were blockaded. Pg.3

Akha News

Presentations
Lectures on Effective Activism
Trips to Laos
Human Rights Actions
Peaceful Protests and Picketing

**View Akha TV
YouTube.com**



The Akha Heritage Foundation

PO BOX 6073
Salem, OR 97304
www.akha.org
akhalife@gmail.com
971-388-7185

The Akha Population:

Laos 90,000
Myanmar 200,000
China 250,000
Thailand 70,000
Vietnam numbers unknown
US 100-200 refugees brought in as children.

Akha USA:

100-200

Before You Eat that \$.49 Banana

Did you know that much of the food Americans eat is grown overseas? What are the life conditions of those workers? Do they live and work in a safe and just environment? How are they treated? What protection and remedy do they have for human rights violations?

To grasp a better idea of how life may be for people in the third world, try going without food for five days. Then get a neighbor to agree to come to your house at 2 am each night and beat on the door yelling "Police". Do you have an escape plan? Will you go out the back door, the side window, carrying a child in each arm?

Trading Women

Via Inter Library Loan
A video on the sex trade in Thailand.

Boycott Tourism To Thailand Boycott Thai Trade Help Stop Human Trafficking

Who are the Akha? In Salem?

The Akha people live in five countries of SE Asia, Laos, Myanmar, China, Thailand and Vietnam. A mountain people, they are excellent farmers and often live at elevations more than 3000 feet.

In the last twenty years development and land shortages have caused low land peoples including Thais to push their way into Akha areas and cut the forest as well as begin to take larger and larger pieces of land for pig farms, flower farms, pine tree plantations and tea farms.

While the Akha lose their own land they are made to work for the Thais who have brought in practices such as chemical farming and fertilizers, all of which runs off into water supplies.

The Akha are often displaced and may find themselves relocated to the low lands or made to go to low land towns to find work to replace their food. Many end up in unsavory jobs.

The Akha practice an environmental theology that relates daily life to the use and care of the land and the planting of rice and other crops.

At the end of the Vietnam war, numerous Akha children were brought to the US. Since the 1980's other Akha children have also been brought to the US.

In Seattle, Portland, Salem and Sacramento there are numerous Akha families who receive little recognition or support.

In northern Thailand many American missionaries take away Akha children with little authority or oversight. These children are removed as if it is some superior right of a particular religious group to do so. Churches in Salem and across the US support these practices yet would oppose them if another racial or religious group tried to do that to their own children. In some cases the supporting churches don't know the truth...

What You Can Do

You can help the Akha by passing the word on the Akha human rights situation and reading up on reports at www.akha.org. You can ask your congressperson to investigate violations of human rights in Thailand. You can speak out against organizations, religious groups and schools which justify or promote the violation of Akha human rights. You can host a lecture or training session. You may request literature to distribute. Your help is also needed as a volunteer.

Focused effort by individuals has had great improvement in public awareness about the Akha situation and has made it more difficult for individuals who hurt the Akha people and take away their children to continue to do what they are doing.



cont'from page 1 receiving Non Nato Ally Status from Pres. George Bush. From Feb 1, black lists were drawn up across the country by local police departments and thousands of Thais and hill tribe peoples were brutally gunned down. To date there have been few cases followed up on. The Thai military said that the number killed was not 2274 but closer to 10,000. Close connections between the US DEA and US military aid to Thailand via weapons or IMET military training, as well as joint exercises promotes a climate of impunity for Thai security forces. Thai forces take US weapons into the hills and use them against mountain peoples who are evicted from their lands, such as in the case of Hooh Yoh Akha. The land of Hooh Yoh Akha was taken over by the Queen of Thailand, but the displacement was in fact carried out by the Thai Army with US made weapons and vehicles. So it is disturbing that the US so quickly reinstates US Military Aid when nothing has been done to ensure that human rights violations don't continue to happen. Currently there is no oversight by Thailand or the US regarding such abuses. Thaksin Shinawatra bought England's Manchester City football team. But Human Rights Watch said he was unfit to own such a team and his close role in the human rights abuses in Thailand had never been addressed.

The weak Thai Human Rights Commission worked to get Thailand to ratify the International Criminal Court so that Thaksin could be prosecuted. But the election of Thaksin's party and his friend PM Samak show that this is unlikely. Samak was an outspoken supporter of the "shoot to kill" policy during the drug war although it has been proven that many on the black lists were innocent of charges and were just killed at the discretion or dislike of local police.

In many cases we documented killings of Akha and other tribes people who had never been charged with a crime and were ambushed on rough back roads in Thailand's mountains. In town many Akha were killed in or close to their homes, sometimes in plain view of their children. Many Thai citizens were killed in a similar fashion, men, women and children caught in the crossfire. Relatives are still asking for justice, which is not likely to come in the wild land of Thailand. Army Chief General Surayud Chulanont also stepped down when the new PM was sworn in. But even he was charged with human rights violations for ordering the killing of ten Burmese Karen prisoners caught in a hospital stand off near the Burmese border who were seeking aid for civilians injured on the Burma side of the border. All ten prisoners were summarily lined up in a room, stripped, made to kneel on sheets, and shot in the back of the head, one after the other. While Negroponte states that Thailand has returned to democracy, it was in fact Negroponte who had comments about human rights abuses in Honduras purged from the reports while Ambassador to Honduras.

Thaksin was popular with people living in the Thai countryside, while fanning flames of nationalism and ignorance of hill tribe peoples and concerns. Having gone to school in Texas, it was stated that the closer that Thaksin got to George Bush, the further Thailand got from democracy. It is still a matter of speculation that US secret prisons remain in Thailand. The ICC case against Thaksin Shinawatra documents the extra-judicial killing and torture of 46 different individuals in Thailand between 2001 and 2003.

US Ambassador Ralph Boyce steps down early in Thailand.

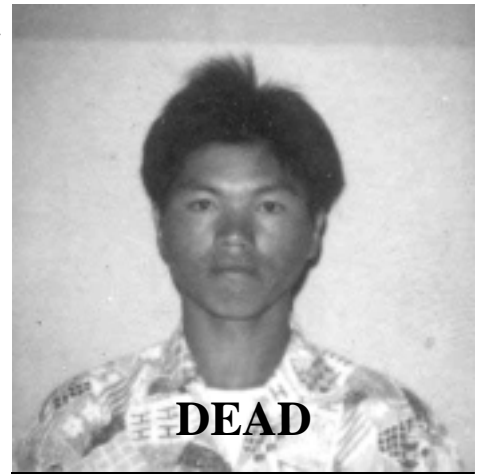
In December US Ambassador to Thailand stepped down early, a long time diplomat in SE Asia, coming to Thailand from his term in Indonesia during the time of the Bali bombing. Speculation is rife as to the reasons Boyce is being retired. But while he was ambassador he pressured Thailand to ease up on tobacco and alcohol advertising and sales. He was also silent about Thailand's constructive engagement policy with Burma. Boeing announced they are hiring Boyce to run their Asia section. He will be working from Singapore.

Ex Forestry Chief Plodprosop Schooled at OSU

Plodprosop was known in Thailand for his brutal eviction of Akha and Hmong villagers from lands they had lived on for years, which fell under new forestry encroachment laws. In one case a Hmong village was destroyed when he led hundreds of Thais to cut down thousands of fruit trees, kill animals and burn homes. Plodprosop went to OSU. He was later seen as having been involved in illegal logging, encroachment, illegal tiger sales and a number of scandals involving the Chiangmai Night Zoo which he hatched with Ex Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. One plan included placing zoo animal meat on a zoo restaurant menu. Efforts to get wild animals from Africa were foiled by Kenyan Activists.

US Military Aid to Thailand - JCEP

Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
Military Aid and IMET Training
DEA Funding and Training
Police School and Funding
Thai Oregon Trade pacts
Thai Oregon Trade \$
University of Oregon Library Addition by Thai Princess



Akha Villages Blockaded in Thailand by Thai Army - Land Taken by the Queen of Thailand

After it came to light at the UN in New York and Geneva, that the Queen of Thailand was accused of taking the land of the Akha people in Thailand, several Akha villages were blockaded effectively. The Queen had originally taken lands of Hooh Yoh Akha, more than 4500 acres.

Then the land grab spread across the valley taking all the land of Pah Nmm Akha and many tea lands of Pai ah Pai Akha as well. Many other villages were also affected.

Numerous complaints were filed at the UN. The Thai delegation to the UN denied the allegations and said that they were lies. But in fact the UN Report on Asia for 2007 clearly states that land confiscations in Thailand continue.

Forced to sign

Akha villagers stated that the Army came to their villages and said that the Queen of Thailand had gotten "a problem" and forced villagers to sign documents that they had given their land freely to the Queen.

During land confiscations villagers were imprisoned, abused and told they had no choice. Villagers were driven into poverty by the sudden loss of all their food producing lands. The Queen of course stated on her fictitious website that the project would teach the Akha how to "grow food". Villagers were forced to work as near slaves preparing their own land for the Queen's use.

Receiving international attention and action at the UN, the Queen of Thailand and the Thai government are attempting to silence the Akha people and keep the world from hearing about their true situation.

Villagers stated that a new army base had been built to monitor foreigners going into the village areas. Villagers were not allowed to accept foreign visitors any more or tourists interested in home stay at these Akha villages where they paid an income directly to the Akha families. The situation is a serious violation of human rights.



UN Report on Asia 2007 Special Rapporteur Stavenhagen

In the 2007 UN Report on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in SE Asia, Special Rapporteur Stavenhagen clearly cites human rights violations in Thailand including land seizures, forced relocations, extra-judicial killings and forced sexual slavery.

But in fact the Thai Mission to the UN repeatedly denied such allegations that were brought to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 2004 to 2007. The Thai mission said that we had fabricated our allegations despite photographic evidence.

We call on Thailand to implement immediate changes in policy to ensure the protection of Akha human rights.

What will Congressman Wu do?

We visited Congressman Wu to voice our concerns about US Military Aid to the govt. of Thailand in light of past human rights abuses that have never been resolved.

We asked that the State Department be informed about the following:

1. Drug war killings in Thailand during 2003 as documented in 1503 filings.
2. Blockade of Akha villages in Chiangrai Province.
3. ICC case against the government of Thailand for Genocide
4. Seizure of Akha land by the Queen of Thailand, the Thai army and the Thai forestry.
5. Akha forced to sign documents stating that they willingly gave their land to the Queen.
6. Removal of Akha children by missionaries.
7. The removal of Akha children by Oregonian Richard P. Haugland.
8. Akha children smuggled into the US with the Hmong, rights not protected.
 - a. Why were Hmong only selected?
 - b. What is the current Akha immigration status?



Congresswoman Hooley Won't Run Again

Congresswoman Hooley won't be seeking office again.

In the past we contacted Hooley's office about human rights violations in Thailand and the US Drug War in Thailand. We asked how the Leahy Amendment could be implemented, due to serious human rights violations in Thailand.

Leahy Bill

We contacted Tim Reser at Leahy's office and also sought out Mr. T. Kumar at Amnesty International in Wash. DC.

We are seeking to bring awareness to the dire human rights situation of the Akha people.

Rambo Movie 2008

The recently released Rambo movie makes out a blood thirsty Rambo going to save reckless missionaries from the evil Burmese. Little is mentioned how much money was spent on this film and what could have been done to assist Burmese refugees in camps along the Thai border. While the missionaries are made out to be concerned for human rights, in fact the missionaries of real life in Thailand are silent on common human rights abuses often supported by their own governments weapons policies. Few mission websites will clearly speak about human rights.

US Missionaries in Thailand Silent on Drug War Killings Brutal Killings Ignored - No Statement or Action Taken

Mission Websites Never Reflect Human Rights Reality

In fact, missionaries would prefer to make out that all the brutality in life in Thailand is all just somehow something that people bring on themselves, while the missionaries live securely in their protected compounds paid with donor money meant for the poor.

During the 2003 drug war killings in Thailand, the scores of missions in Thailand, many of them with websites, ignored these severe abuses of human rights. While many missions pushed churches into Akha villages, they also ignored anyone who was killed there. Not bothered by details like human justice, or whether arbitrary death lists were an aspect of redemption, they remained silent. When asked about brutal killings that happened on a daily basis, they made comments like "We pray about it." Quite ignorant that it was their own Embassy and DEA in Chiangmai that were funding much of the killing. In 2003 the US gave more than \$10 million to Thailand for the drug war. Comments by the Hmong were that the DEA in Chiangmai was worse than the KKK.

The missions of course are not so vague when it comes to overpowering village leadership in order to force their churches and religion on the villagers. If anything, missions work in conjunction with the brutality in the village.

When a Corban missionary was asked why they didn't take action, Jim Morris also made the comment, "We pray about it".



Akha Make Contact with Siletz and Grand Ronde Restoration Ceremonies

In late 2007 Michu took the Akha story to the Siletz during their Restoration ceremony at Lincoln City. Later she made another trip to the Grand Ronde, making contact with tribal leaders and handing out literature.



Increase in Willamette's Asian Faculty

In the last years there has been an increase of Asian faculty at Willamette with the addition of an Asian Studies program and an Asian Studies Center.

Where are the students of Tokyo University?

There seems to be little interaction in Salem between the students from Japan at Tokyo University. Greater involvement could improve the cultural climate in Salem.

Akha Woman Released from Singapore Prison

An Akha woman who was trafficked to Singapore by Thai traffickers was arrested and imprisoned. Significant irregularities existed in this case as it was handled by Singapore Immigration officials and Court officers. After nine months in prison the Akha woman was sent back to Thailand. Numerous human rights groups fought on her behalf to have her sentence overturned.

Racism in Salem?

What do you think is the level of racism in Salem?
What is the minority population of Salem?

Greater Need for Multicultural Films and Presentations in Salem

Minority films and lectures can increase the support for Salem's minority community which is at least 30% of Salem's population.

Where is Salem's NAACP

We'd like to know more about the Salem NAACP.

Community Forestry Bill Passes in Thailand

After many years the Community Forestry Bill passed in Thailand, as indigenous tribes fight to protect their traditional lands and resources. But it will remain an uphill battle to enforce those rights.

University of Oregon Gave a Baptist Missionary a Ph.D. for Sterilizing Akha Women

Investigations revealed that before 1978 the University of Oregon approved a plan of Baptist Missionary Paul W. Lewis to go to Thailand and implement a sterilization program at the request of the Thai government and sterilize Akha women. The Thai government said there were "too many Akhas". Paul W. Lewis was more than glad to help. Rather odd that he couldn't have any children of his own.

Upon partial completion of the project which sterilized hundreds of Akha women, the University of Oregon gave Paul W. Lewis his Ph.D. based on this thesis and sterilization project. The sterilization project was itself stopped in Thailand because of protests from other aid workers.

Akha women complained of ailments, divorce, and villagers complained of higher mortality rates among those sterilized. Paul W. Lewis shrugged off the allegations in a filmed interview called "Untimely Cut". Paul W. Lewis stated in the film that women who complained of pain or hardship probably just "wanted sympathy".

A copy of the thesis can be seen at www.akha.org under the content title "Sterilizations".

We paid a visit to the president's office at University of Oregon. The president's assistant said that he saw no dishonesty in the thesis justifying rescinding it which we continue to demand. However failure to give the Akha women Free, Prior and Informed Consent is in fact a violation of their human rights. This point is lost on University administration.

We made two presentations to the University of Oregon Student Senate. Two articles made it into the Daily Emerald.

We asked the University if such Ph.D.'s would still be awarded?

We also took our case to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. After ignoring our mail and phone calls, the Eugene office told us it was a legal matter that we needed to take up with the Legal office.

A discussion of this case to date can be seen on Youtube.com on Akha TV segment 7.

A Salem woman, Lori Crouch currently works for a mission that was set up by one of Paul W. Lewis' workers in Thailand. Akha Outreach.

Past Gov. Apologized for Eugenics 2002

US Law Prohibits Aid for Coercive Sterilizations



Rotary International Pulled Support of Mission In Thailand that Takes Away Akha Children

CGT Child Labor Scam

A Rotary project that was supporting a mission in Thailand with tens of thousands of dollars was pulled when Rotary realized that the Akha children at the “orphanage” were not in fact abandoned and that they were not being taken care of properly. There was little record of where the money was going and in fact project owners said they had been spending the money on other things.



The project had connections to Rotary at Lake Oswego. We asked the Gov. of Rotary at the Salem Convention Center to pull support. He was upset but in fact did pull the project a week later. No sign of it could be found on the Rotary International website.

The mission, CGT or Children of the Golden Triangle, was set up below Chiangrai, Thailand. Run by Australian David Stevenson, he spoke on video that he intended to continue using the children for child labor to operate a farm for profit.

White Tara Productions from Italy made a film about CGT and the BBC also did a radio show. We continue to press for the closure of CGT and the return of these Akha children to their families. They are not possessions of the missionaries.

This model is followed by many missionaries all over Thailand including YWAM which has an office in Salem. Children are removed from their villages and told they will be cared for. The Akha are not told how much money the children make as sponsored children and that their entire families could be supported in tact by the enormous wealth that the missions accumulate. This model has been used all over the world for centuries. In South America the Jesuits became rich off the labor of indigenous peoples forced into their missions.

The recent case in Darfur and Chad illustrated that the children were not in fact orphans. This is the same case in Thailand where missions have been exploiting the Akha children and donors for decades based on this same deception.

Missions in Thailand have a favored status, will not speak out against human rights violations and some missionary families have had close connections or have been directly involved in the drug trade such as the Young Dynasty. Members of the Young family continue to run homes for “orphan” children near the Thai Burmese border, such as Marcus Young’s “Divine Inheritance” in Maesai.

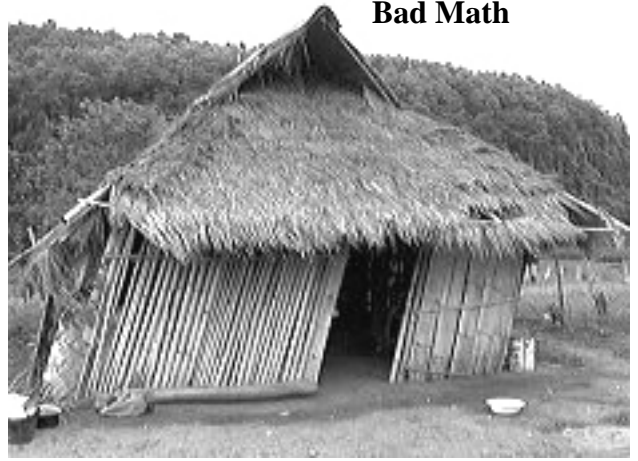
Now more organizations and funders need to follow Rotary’s lead and pull funding for such projects. Missionaries and churches need to comply and make sure that racism is not present in foreign projects, and that the rights of indigenous children are not being violated.

Bad Math:

Sprague teacher Phil Rhodin says he would financially support Eden House, A YWAM mission in Thailand that removes Akha girls from their villages.

In an email we received from Salem Alliance member Phil Rhodin, we were told that he would support Eden House Children’s Home financially because he liked their work. In fact their work is the removal of Akha girls from their villages. We filed a complaint

Bad Math



with Sprague High School Principal and were told that what Phil Rhodin does in his own time is his own business. However, we saw the statement as an affront to the Akha people, and Michu, a native Akha, asked what right the missionaries have to remove Akha children who could readily be supported in the village environment?

Following the process we were told the same thing by **Sandy Husk**, the Salem Keizer School Board superintendant. And not surprising we were also told the same thing by the Salem Keizer School Board, though up to this point they had never even met an Akha person.

What we did note in the process, as all of these Salem officials stood up to defend racist and ignorant attitudes from such as Phil Rhodin, was that in fact, few other minorities are represented in Salem Keizer School Board meetings either. While Hispanic students make up a large percentage of the Salem Keizer school population, in fact there is not one Hispanic on the Salem Keizer school board.

This is a problem that repeats itself in Salem.

Human Rights

Akha Voices For



Salem Alliance Supports the Akha Ethnocide

We have pursued the case of Lori Crouch and Paul Vernon who live and work in Northern Thailand Akha villages for the last several years. Lori Crouch is from Salem Alliance. We have found that individuals at Salem Alliance financially support her work in Thailand even though the sending mission is actually Faith Chapel Arvada, near Denver Colorado.

We have asked both Salem Alliance and Faith Chapel about their work. We have not received satisfactory replies. In the case of Salem Alliance, while pastor John Stumbo said that he did not support coercive conversions, the church would not in fact give us a letter to this effect in relation to Lori Crouch and Paul Vernon. They don't believe in it, or do they? Pastor John Stumbo and others have done very well at concealing the discussion and keeping the congregation of Salem Alliance in the dark.

Video interviews have shown that the Akha who Lori and Paul work with in Thailand were forced to convert in exchange for having a place to build huts. Though this land was bought with donor moneys from churches, Akha Outreach did not in fact give ownership of the land to the Akha. The Akha were also made to burn their traditional items and remove their gate and swing. Later Akha Outreach mission operator Aje told the villagers to rebuild a fake gate and swing because people were getting upset.

While talking on their website, the Vernon Journal, that they are trying to learn about Akha culture, it is obvious from their mission associations and actions that Lori Crouch and Paul Vernon are very actively involved with a Paul W. Lewis mission in destroying Akha culture as Paul W. Lewis is well known for. While studying the Akha as an anthropologist, Paul W. Lewis in fact destroyed Akha culture in every village he converted. His conversion tactics are used to this day by two men that he trained, Aje and Yot, brothers in Thailand.

Lori Crouch and Paul Vernon say nothing about the gross human rights violations that occur in the region that they work. Nothing can be found on their website, so the donors have no way of knowing the real story of what is happening to the Akha. Just down the road from where they work, Akha have been shot or beaten to death with US weapons.

Further, Lori Crouch and Paul Vernon have even bigger plans to convert villages in the region. No mention is made of the Akha right to their own culture and language. Akha children are taken away from their villages by Akha Outreach Foundation and the Akha children are forced to convert while away at the mission.

Interestingly enough, Lori's father, Gary Crouch of Salem, makes his living as a land developer, building houses on land that he has the rights too, safe from having the US army drive him off his land, and not likely to have anyone force him to abandon his culture or change his religion any time soon. No such freedom is being offered to the Akha of Thailand by Lori Crouch.

As mentioned, two brothers were trained by Paul W. Lewis of Akha sterilization fame. Yot went to work in the Lewis mission called Dapa. Aje set up Akha Outreach. However, since 1991 mission staff have stated that Yot who was then a worker at Dapa, was known to be sexually abusing Akha girls in the mission hostel. He was not fired. One reason for it was that mission land was in his name. But even after this was not the case he was not fired. Instead, Yot was promoted to Dapa Administrator where he works to this day, just down the road from Akha Outreach where Lori Crouch and Paul Vernon work for his brother, Aje.

Meanwhile Paul W. Lewis and his wife Elaine had started up another mission called New Life Center, now renamed New Life Foun-

ation. This center had one office and girls home on Dapa property in Chiangrai. NLF is involved in "safeguarding" Akha girls from prostitution. However we met workers in Laos, who were in fact spending NLF moneys to buy prostitutes in northern Laos while on training missions.

We find it odd how comfortable these missions are with the very abuse they claim to protect the Akha from.

Thousands of Akha children are taken away from their families.



YWAM's Eden House In Thailand Removes Young Akha Girls

Eden House is a YWAM project in Thailand run by Vern McCauley. This project removes only young Akha girls from their villages and families and claims that they are being saved from prostitution. This is often the littyany used in northern Thailand by missions. The missions then get rich and build huge compounds "protecting" these wards. However it is very clear, that if there is an issue of prostitution, it is really an issue of poverty. This poverty could be addressed by the wealth hoarded by the mission and then they would have no need to take the girls away from their families. The Akha don't know how much money is raised on their backs, and the donors don't know that entire families could be supported for far less money. So much for "Family Values" so often touted by the religious right.

We have asked YWAM Salem about this mission. YWAM Salem has stated that they are not connected to this mission, but they do in fact send teams to Thailand and YWAM globally is the same organization. We reject the excuse.

Eden House posted a film on Youtube.com that attacks the Akha as racially inferior. We find this unacceptable. The film portrays village life as dirty and evil, and comments on the video state: "if you knew what went on in an Akha village you would think Vern was doing a good thing." We find this highly offensive, especially since Vern never spent a night in an Akha village.

We have requested that YWAM remove this video and stop taking Akha girls out of their villages, but YWAM has not responded. Many Christians feel that taking other people's children is justified, if you have the power to do it, etc. But recently a case of an American family which provided temporary care for a Chinese girl and then later refused to give her back, came to court. The family in-

sisted that they were better off and thus had more right to the child than her natural parents did. But the court ruled in the favor of the Chinese parents who came to America and left with their daughter. This dynamic is found at many missions in Thailand that take away Akha children. Donors are told the villages and culture is backward and evil and that the children are abandoned. This also is false.

The Eden House video was built with help from Aje, the administrator of Akha Outreach that Lori Crouch and Paul Vernon work for.

New YWAM Base Montana

YWAM has purchased a used military base in Montana for part of its operations. The financial holdings of this mission organization must be compared to a military operation, so it is fitting that they locate there. Some people question if YWAM youth are encouraged to join the military?

We Oppose the Broadway Project

Salem is alive and well with multi million dollar projects to build “centers” to help the poor. Lords of the Poor? No mention is made of making economic opportunities and putting that money where people are helped to build their lives in a more secure fashion. Experts at this kind of financial organization make a long line, Salvation Army, the Union Gospel Mission, YWCA, YMCA, the Kroc Center, and now maybe the Salem Alliance Broadway Project. Salem Alliance realestate holdings already tend to dominate the Grant Neighborhood. While claiming to help hispanic neighbors, do these hispanic families know the story of Lori Crouch and what is being done to destroy independence that the Akha have had for centuries in Thailand?

Neither is there sufficient low cost housing in Salem. There is also need for more support of minority businesses, some of the poorest invisible people in Salem.

Equitable solutions are better than top down economics.

Salem City Council Lacks Minority Representation No Meaningful Participation

The lack of minority involvement in the Salem Keizer School Board as well as in the Salem City Council brings up Civil Rights issues that must be addressed by any government organization that receives Federal funds. Since Salem’s minority population runs as high or higher than 30% the city government and schools must assure that there is meaningful participation on the part of the minority communities in the governance process.

In a discussion with Mayor Janet Taylor, she commented, “If you are so concerned, why don’t you get a Hispanic to run for City Council?”

David Loera Running for US Senate

David Loera is running for US Senate. When asked what he had to say to Oregonians, he stated that “Oregonians should stop blaming minorities for their problems.”

Do Your Students Face Discrimination in Salem Keizer Schools?

We hear from many minority citizens that they are discriminated against in Salem Keizer schools. What is your experience?

Corban’s Mission Mentality - Racism for Jaysus?

We worked at some effort to get OMF to remove racist comments from their website. An OMF administrator and missionary Jim Morris works at Corban as the “missionary in residence”. We asked Jim Morris about these web pages at his parent organization? He

didn’t think they were any problem at all despite the fact that they stated that the Akha as a race were immoral people.

We had to go to Denver to get the main office to remove the pages. One page that has links to OMF remains. It is based on a server in New Zealand. The New Zealand Human Rights Commission said that free speech allows it, though they probably wouldn’t say that if the site was about the Maori.

We are concerned that people of this mindset are teaching young potential missionaries in Salem this mentality. Corban students state that they often end up deep in debt while improving their spiritual education.

The Most Segregated Hour

The most segregated hour in the US is said to be Sunday morning.

No Mention of Human Rights on Mission Websites

According to a paper by Prof. Bodley, in a study of mission websites he found that there is seldom the use of the words “Human Rights”. Possibly concern for human rights is not part of the redemption story. So what would have become of the good Samaritan?

SIL/Wycliffe/UNESCO

Thy Will Be Done

Check out this book for more information on the relationship between big oil, missionaries, extractive industries, the CIA and indigenous peoples.

UNESCO says it is currently working with SIL in Thailand to “protect” indigenous languages and cultural heritage. One must



be joking. SIL in Bangkok would show itself as protecting Non Tangible Heritage. That is like letting the fox in the henhouse.

Poverty

Many people speak as having no knowledge of the grinding poverty in other parts of the world and how those countries may be food suppliers for US tables. Hispanics who want a better life (like Oregon Pioneers) are blamed for wanting it HERE.

Salem Needs Free Standing Human Rights Council

Salem needs a free standing Human Rights Council that has autonomy, responsiveness, action, teeth and results. The Council should not have any direct connection to local government so that it can freely carry out its mandate. The current Salem Human Rights Commission is regarded by most people to have been watered down by the City to be powerless, housed in City offices. Having attended a number of these meetings I did not feel that claims are making it to the current commission and some people commented that it was not worthwhile to bother doing that.

Spin Man

Sam Skillen missed our point, that discrimination against people of color, racism, IS violence. Is Sam the "Spin Man" for the status quo?

We are not ignorant of the fact that there are a lot of people who see Salem as their own theocracy.

Mien and Akha Enjoy New Year Celebration In Portland

January gave way to a Mien and Akha New Years Celebration in Portland that revealed the presence of quite a few Akha in the region, some of them coming from as far away as Seattle. More than 300 people were in attendance at the Armory in Portland.

Bio Fuels - Burning Food

As the world runs out of oil, food and food crops are being turned into bio fuels, driving up the cost of cooking oil as SUV's compete with people for the food supply. A significant increase in the cost of grain such as corn, wheat, oats, barley and rice will have the greatest impact on the poor. Already prices on grains and cooking oil are reported up.

Downtown Tax

7Cents a square foot

Some downtown merchants wonder where their parking taxes and the parking fines go? Wasn't this originally supposed to help lighten up downtown Salem? So not everyone is happy with a new 7 cent a foot tax. Its money they have to charge back to customers and business downtown is not all that good to start with they say. Other members of the public have commented that parking fines should stay in the downtown area, where the public can see the results, more than just a yellow envelope on their windshield.

Hmong and Mien Flower

Farms - Keizer

Hmong and Mien families work productive flower farms in Keizer behind the Keizer Volcanoes Stadium, supplying flowers to the Wednesday market. This is some of the regions most fertile land, much more expansive before Keizer Station was built.

Village Schools Foundation

vsfoundation.org

NW Forest Conservancy

Local organization works to protect forests www.nwforests.org

Gas Pipeline Oregon

Recent protests at the Capitol give light to just another commercial use of Oregon's lands. Yet buying a small farm is getting harder and harder for the



The Akha - The Most Colorful People in SE Asia

comman man to do.

When were the followers of Jesus told to kill?

War and its victims. The perpetrators are made out as doing something just, that somehow went bad.

Faith Chapel Arvada:

Lori Crouch and Paul Vernon

Supporting half the truth

Sending missionaries to "ethnocide" the Akha

Lori and Paul have big plans to do more "converting" of the Akha people while dishonestly withholding crucial human rights information that explains reasons for great suffering in the Akha communities which has been imposed on them by outsiders.

A few of the items excluded from their glowing reports of life with the Akha in the villages near their mission:

1. Queen of Thailand's seizure of Akha lands forcing poverty.
2. Forestry seizure of additional lands.
3. Monocropping of tea destroying jungle and depleting water supplies.
4. Forced relocation of villagers.
5. Intentional destruction of Akha culture.
6. Removal of Akha children.
7. Coercive conversions.
8. Domination of Akha society by centralized American missions and churches.
9. Silence on the sexual abuse of Akha children.
10. Extra-judicial killings of Akha.
11. False arrest and imprisonment of Akha.
12. No ID cards or land rights papers.

Akha Life

The Akha don't ask for much than to be left alone. In this age when we see the global nations attempting to take over every last human and every last piece of the planet for commoditization the pressure on the Akha increases. The Akha make the best of it and hold their villages together. Missions are used to break up Akha village independence, forcing a pastor on villages and removing their elder leadership.

Akha Story

The Green Bird

"Yoh hah Zah yoh hah gah law myah. Ah myah yah duuh jyah teeh jay mah ngurh, yoh hah zah yoh hah gah meeh neh."

This green bird lived in the pine forest and got very thirsty so it left its children at the base of a pine tree and flew off very far to find water to drink. But when it came back all the pine trees looked the same and the forest was very large and the bird was very sad, and called out many times to its children, But she could not find her children and to this day flies in the jungle calling "Chooh Looh, Choeuh Looh."

"If you are good or bad each love our own children."

Festivals

While there are numerous festivals among the Akha, some of the major ones are Rice Planting, Swing Festival, Harvest Festival and Year End Festival.

Ceremonies

There are many ceremonies in Akha life from taking care to the house, the family, healings, weddings, funerals, and special events.

This time of year

The early part of the year is the time when the Akha prepare the fields, clearing brush and grass, while breaking up the soil to receive the first rains which will begin in April.

Music Groups Downtown

The Insects
Root Villa
Mill Race

Back Up Articles

Salem Monthly
Statesmann Journal
Capital Press
Itemizer Observer
Keizer Times

Gospel Outreach

Efrain Rios Montt and Genocide

A collection of notes:

These bright statistics don't obscure Robertson's notorious involvement in Central America. It began with the March 1982 coup in Guatemala which brought General Efrain Rios Montt to power. Montt is a member of Gospel Outreach, a fundamentalist sect based in Eureka, California. Within a week of the coup, Robertson flew to Guatemala to meet with Montt. Robertson told the New York Times (5/20/82) that CBN would send missionaries and "more than a billion dollars" to Guatemala.

While this promise was not fully met, Montt used the pledges of support from U.S. evangelicals to convince Congress that he would not seek massive sums of U.S. aid.

In June 1982 Montt aide Francisco Bianchi met with senior Reagan administration officials and Christian Right leaders, including: U.S. representative to the Organization of American States William Middendorf, then Presidential counselor Edwin Meese, then Interior Secretary James Watt, Ambassador to Guatemala Fred Chapin, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and Loren Cunningham of Youth with a Mission. Subsequently the State Department briefed Christian Right leaders on the need for "private" support for the Montt regime. On the "700 Club" Robertson urged donations to International Love Lift, an ongoing relief project sponsored by Montt's U.S. shepherds from Gospel Outreach. Robertson also successfully lobbied the Reagan administration to end the five-year ban on military aid to Guatemala.

On January 8, 1983 the ban instituted by President Carter for human rights reasons was lifted. That same day 350 U.S. evangelicals set sail for Guatemala with a boat carrying \$1 million worth of food, clothing, medical supplies, and housing materials.

"The Gospel in Guatemala," a PBS documentary, revealed the complicity of Gospel Outreach in the Guatemalan Army's administration of camps for refugees from Rios Montt's brutal counterinsurgency massacres of Mayan Quiche Indians.

Anyone have info on Efrain Rios Montt, he was a member (maybe an ordained minister?) of Gospel Outreach in Guatemala who became President of that country back in '82-'83. We were all told in Gospel Outreach that God was going to use this humble man to serve as an example to the world.... to show what a "godly" man could do to change this planet for the good.

Well, here's one side of the story:

Gospel Outreach organized a material aid project called International Love Lift, which was heavily promoted on Pat Robertson's "700 Club." ...International Love Lift materials were gathered and delivered in the midst of a reign of genocidal terror unleashed by the Rios Montt regime against Guatemala's civilian, mostly Indian population. In order to annihilate the mass base of support for Guatemala's armed revolutionaries, the Guatemalan military—with training from Israeli advisors—launched "Plan Victoria 82." ... By July 1982, the Montt regime had killed an estimated 3,000 to 10,000 civilians. Throughout the "scorched earth" campaign, Rios Montt's Christian Right supporters justified his actions. In December 1982, a group of North Americans interviewed a Verbo Church pastor who told them: **"The Army doesn't massacre the Indians. It mas-**



sacres demons, and the Indians are demon possessed; they are communists. We hold Brother Efrain Rios Montt like King David of the Old Testament. He is the king of the New Testament. — Sara Diamond, *Spiritual Warfare: The Politics of the Christian Right* [Boston, South End Press, 1989] pp. 165-166.

http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Zeroes/Efrain_Rios_Montt.html
"According to Amnesty International, in just four months there were more than 2,000 fully documented extrajudicial killings by the Guatemalan army: 'People of all ages were not only shot, they were burned alive, hacked to death, disembowelled, drowned, beheaded. Small children were smashed against rocks or bayoneted to death.' The Catholic bishops said: 'Never in our national history has it come to such extremes.' US President Ronald Reagan, visiting Guatemala on a swing through Latin America, hailed Rios Montt as 'totally dedicated to democracy'"

So, is there another side to this story?

Nothing is being said on the Verbo site about Rios Montt. Guess the thing that really bothers me is Jim Durkin's Obituary on the Verbo web site... <http://www.verbo.org/site/obit.htm>

"The ministry of Lighthouse Ranch and its parent organization, Gospel Outreach, expanded in size and influence far beyond anything Jim expected. Missionaries and church-planters went from Eureka to cities and countries around the world, from as far as Europe to Japan, and Alaska to Brazil. Today many pastors and missionaries trace their early spiritual roots to Jim's influence in their lives."

Doesn't mention anything about Guatemala, nor Central America and doesn't mention anything about Rios Montt. Fact, there is no talk about Rios Montt within Gospel Outreach anymore.... why not? I met the man, seemed very humble & gentle. But then why did he stand by and allow these mass killings? Why didn't he resign his post if there was nothing he could do? Doesn't add up.... something is really wrong here.

I worked for New Life Service Co. in New York City for several years (GO church business) in the early 80's.... the whole time I was told (and believed) that I was doing God's work and supporting the ministry and was told that much of the money earned went to support the efforts in Guatemala to feed the poor and build houses (International Love Lift). 100% of my income went into the church, I was just given basic necessities to live + \$10 a week (shared room & meals).

It was soon after the Rios Montt episode that Gospel Outreach began to fall apart and break apart from the inside. It's hard to say what really happened (the trigger), but it was certainly not good. It was discovered that the head elder in charge of finances in GO



Bolivia

Students told by US Embassy staff to report any Venezuelan people they noticed in the country.

Task Force 399

Thailand is guest to Task Force 399 at Mae Rim, just north of Chiangmai. Taskforce 399 has assistance from US military personnel, but there is speculation that these US personnel were involved in drug war operations during the brutal killings of 2003.

The Last Canary

Akha Language, Culture and Identity

Numbering 500,000 people in one of the most remote regions of SE Asia, the Akha are custodians of mountains, forests, farmlands. In a recent survey in Laos the Akha knew the names of hundreds of birds, a feat for only a few Akha interviewed.

Destruction of forests for rubber plantations, sugar cane, casava and other demanded mono crops along with forced relocations at the hands of the US drug war, is destroying much of this valuable environment.

Anyone in the world should be concerned with what is happening to the Akha as an indication of what is being done to the earth and what is coming their way.

Prisoners of a White God

Film

Steve Lichtag, Tomas Ryska, Matthew McDaniel

A film on the missionary exploitation of the Akha in Thailand and the destruction of Akha culture. Details on human rights abuses of Akhas in Laos by NGO staff from Norwegian Church Aid NCA and Action Contre Le Faim ACF. A trailer for the movie can be seen at www.uwip.org.

Negroponte

It is reported that while in Honduras Negroponte had human rights abuses deleted from the US Human Rights Reports.

NYC was using much of the church funds to build his own business. The Durkin GO church seems to have enabled all of this....(<http://www.factnet.org/discus/messages/3/4850.html?1104203535>)... seems the GO ministry was enablers of counterfeit Christians.

The Commission on Historical Clarification (CEH, in the Spanish acronym) reported that the government was responsible for more than 93% of the atrocities committed against the indigenous Mayan population during the war against the communist guerrillas. During General Efraim Rlos Monttis 18-month rule in the early 1980s, there were at least 626 massacres “and the so-called scorched earth operations, as planned by the State, resulted in the complete extermination of many Mayan communities, along with their homes, cattle, crops and other elements essential to survival.”



Residential Mission Schools

Take the Akha Children

Missions Traffick in Thousands of Akha Children

The evidence increasingly suggests that US and other so called christian missions are nothing more than a front for sex trafficking, pulling in the girls of choice from various villages and moving them on to other locations. The thriving business in “children” conducted by these missions draws quantities of money and interest that can only cause one to wonder what is going on. For the informed, the word “Super Pimps” comes to mind. In case after case missions of every ilk are caught in actions of sexual abuse of the very children they claim they are saving from sexual abuse.

No children should be taken from their village communities and we encourage the Thai government to stop the exploitation these missions in north Thailand are involved in.



What does a horse have to do with Akha Freedom?

Quite a lot actually.

We will ride across the US to bring attention to the Akha human rights situation in Thailand.

We hope you join us and follow in on this Ride for Freedom for the Akha. From Lincoln City, Oregon to the UN at New York..



Direct Action! - Results Based Activism!



The Story of Hooch Yoh Akha and the Land the Queen Took

In 2003 the Akha came to us and asked us to help them defend their land. They were the people of Hooch Yoh Akha village. The Queen was setting up a Royal Project on their entire farming valley. We had seen this happen before, the Akha reduced to poverty as serfs on their own land for another project. We took action and went to work to defend the land of Hooch Yoh Akha.

That struggle goes on. But the Queen has not stopped. The Royal Project has gone on to take the land of many more villages across the valley including the land of Pai ah Pai village, Pah Nmm Akha, Soi Yah Akha and others.

In the picture below a young Akha woman smiles. Do you know the story? She is from Hooch Yoh Akha. She is smiling because she just got out of jail. As a means of intimidation the Thai forestry department and army, working with the Queen's Royal Project, put her in jail for one month when she was 8 months pregnant. By protesting to the Thai government, we got her released. She gave birth to her child a day later, tired but safe.

Isn't it time the Thai government answered a few questions? We think so.

Your help in contacting the Thai government can bring accountability. Contact the Thai Embassy or Consul nearest you.



Chasing Old Men

Taking money from old Akhas is a favorite police and army past time in Thailand. Wandering around with weapons supplied by the US, old men like this man had to run for their lives, or have their money taken at gunpoint.

Excerpts from the US Human Rights Report on Thailand

There are a couple of mentions of hill tribes, one in reference to their lack of citizenship, freedom of movement, and right to own land...it's a long report....

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78792.htm>

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2006
Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
March 6, 2007.....



..Members of indigenous hill tribes continued to face forced evictions and relocation. Due to lack of proof of citizenship and land ownership, they were forced to move from areas they had cultivated for decades. Conflicts occurred when the land on which they lived was converted to forest conservation areas. Court hearings in the case of the 2004 raid on Palong Pang Daeng Village and the arrest of 48 persons were scheduled to begin in 2007.

In 2004 the government embarked on a "New Model of Forested Villages" project covering approximately 10,866 villages in 70 provinces. Under this project land that tribal villagers had cultivated for more than a hundred years was declared state land, and the indigenous hill tribes became illegal trespassers and faced forcible eviction and other penalties. During the year the project was abandoned due to public discontent and lack of budgetary resources....

Indigenous People

Members of hill tribes without proper documentation continued to face restrictions on their movement, could not own land, and were not protected by labor laws, including minimum wage requirements. Freedom of movement was often dependent on their residency status, which was identifiable by the color of their identity cards (see section 2.d.). Citizenship is not automatically granted to children born to persons living illegally or without status in the country. Lack of citizenship makes hill tribe persons vulnerable to abuses and exploitation, such as trafficking (see section 5, Trafficking). They sometimes were denied adequate education and health care. Those residing in national parks or wildlife sanctuaries were subject to eviction (see section 1.f.). As noncitizen residents, they also were barred from participating in the political process (see section 3).

In recent years regulations eased the requirements to establish citizenship by allowing a wider range of evidence, including testimony from references and empowering local officials to decide cases. According to the Registration Administration Bureau of the Ministry of Interior, roughly 60 percent of potentially eligible candidates have received citizenship under the regulations. Although the government was supportive of efforts to register citizens and to educate eligible hill tribe persons about their rights, activists reported that widespread corruption and inefficiency at all levels, including among highland village headmen and government officials, contributed to a backlog of pending citizenship applications.

Hill tribe members continued to face societal discrimination arising in part from the belief that they were involved in drug trafficking and environmental degradation. Hill tribes occasionally were subjected to indiscriminate searches of villages for illegal drugs (see section 1.f.).

UNPFII

This year's United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held in late April at the UN in New York.

This two week forum sees Indigenous Peoples from all over the world attending and presenting their cases before the Forum. However it is sad to note that last year, when activists sought to show films depicting the situation of various peoples, the nation governments protested and censored those films. This year a policy has been made that a national government has to sponsor a film before it can be shown in a side event. This weakens the Forum as a place for Indigenous Peoples, free from national government harrassment.



The Akha Projects

Activism

Results based activism
 What you can accomplish
 Changing attitudes
 Challenging the status quo
 Actions
 Peaceful Pickets

Akha CD

Myspace
 Facebook
 Akha TV

Projects

Malaria Prevention in Laos
 Human Rights Network in Thailand

Volunteer

Part time
 Any skill can help, because your help is needed.
 Got an hour or two?
 Computer skills?
 Other skills?
 Traveling to Thailand?

ACTION:

What You Can Do - Results Based Activism!

You can make a difference to the Akha people by helping to spread the word about who they are, and the conditions they face. Become a researcher or do other volunteer work.

Activism both in the US and around the world is important in pressuring governments to enforce treaties and uphold the law.

You can write to your congress person or to members of parliament in other countries to inform them of the Akha situation and request action.

Write to the Thai consular offices and embassies around the world and demand that changes be made to protect the Akha.

International organizations such as the International Labor Organization and UN agencies can be pressured to take a greater role in defending the Akha.

Host A Presentation

Host a presentation at social organization, colleges, universities or other public venues. Form a support group in your community.

Help with Fundraising

We need people who can help raise funds for specific projects in the Akha villages. This includes health care, Akha literacy projects, agricultural aid and support to widows.

Support the Akha Cause



Statesman Journal Comments Section Promotes Racism

On line at the Statesman Journal the comments section allows people to make comments without using their real names. Many racist comments aimed at Hispanics can be found there. This would identify race hate as a problem in Salem.



The Feds Flunked Border Rules

The Federal Government has allowed people to come into this country in the same fashion as pioneers came into this country. But when these people have provided much needed labor and set up their lives here, local governments set up laws that criminalize them and break up their families. This is based on the ill concept that the current laws put on the books are the only laws being broken here.

Driver's License law will criminalize a group of people

The new driver's license law based on the Real ID Act will criminalize a group of people by making it impossible to have a driver's license and legally drive a car.

Minority Suspension Rates in Salem Schools

1. Hispanic
2. African Americans
3. Native Americans

Local activists state that these groups have a high suspension rate, higher than normal for the size of their population.

Do Churches Teach Race Hatred?

Do local churches teach race hatred wrapped in a cloak of religiosity?

Politics Aside - Obama Vote

Politics aside, the Obama vote is from minority voters long disenfranchised by the current system. It is not a final word on Obama's platform, but rather a statement by people of many races that they are NOT represented and that they intend to change that.

Akha Immigration

We are investigating why it was that Akha in the Wat Tom Krabok camp were not allowed to come into the US as immigrants.

Akha in Sacramento

We continue to investigate what became of the Akha in Sacramento who came in with the Hmong.

Akha Children stolen and brought to the US ignored by State Department

We continue to follow up on this story.

Are there Akha in Toulouse, France?

We hear there are Mien there, are there any Akha?

We File Case with International Criminal Court ICC

We have filed a case with the ICC outlining how the Akha are treated by the Thai government and what damage is being done to the Akha community and chance for survival.

The Red Crown Review

An online review of the Salem Music Scene
www.redcrownreview.com

Why Your Help is So Important:

Our Appreciation to Businesses and Individual Donors

During our fundraising campaign this winter for the Akha and the "Ride for Freedom" we met many business owners and other individuals who made a point to financially assist our work and pass the word. We greatly appreciate their willingness to take time to listen to the Akha story, and make a contribution.

These are people who are interested to know what is going on in OUR world, and want to make a difference.

Thank you so much for your support.

We hope to bring ever more information about the Akha and what can be done to protect their lives and culture.

While many people from Oregon travel to Thailand, some people didn't think that this was a local story or a local cause. We hope they come to see how we are all connected, and that when we travel to distant places, we have responsibility to the lives of those people besides just our own.

Awareness and commitment can change the lives of the Akha and give them a more hopeful future.

Matthew McDaniel
Michu Uaiyue

www.akha.org
akhalife@gmail.com



Names to Watch:

Admiral Keating
Christopher Hill
US Militarization Plans for Africa

Donate

Support Akha Human Rights

Your donation to our 501-c(3)e non profit organization goes to support Akha human rights projects and also helps to prevent malaria in the relocated villages of Laos.

Over the years we have had a significant effect on bringing to world attention the situation of the Akha people.

16 years of intervention and giving voice to the Akha situation has helped prevent greater loss, but there is much that must still be done if Akha rights and fundamental freedoms are going to be protected.

You may mail a check to the address below or make a donation on line at www.akha.org. We will send you a receipt and our non profit ID number so that you can claim a deduction on your taxes.

The Akha Heritage Foundation

PO BOX 6073
Salem, OR 97304

501-c(3)e Non Profit

Projects

Ride for Freedom

Across the US by horseback for Akha Human Rights

Akha Human Rights Network in Thailand

Help support our human rights network in Thailand. Documentation, reporting, training, equipment assistance.

Malaria Prevention in Laos

We need bed nets for 70,000 Akha.

The Akha Endowment

Give a donation that will keep on giving. Donate to the Akha Endowment. Help us build up this endowment to support Akha projects long term.

Donation of Stocks

If you would like to make a donation of stocks, please contact us.

akhalife@gmail.com



Salem Keizer School Board Makeup Not Representative of Minority Populations

The Salem Keizer School Board as well as the City Council are seriously lacking in representation for the minority populations in Salem. Minority members in the Salem schools say that “disciplinary action” is used much more frequently against minority students to default them out of the system. Naturally, with few minority members on the Salem Keizer School board, no one is going to have to think much about it until the minority community becomes so large in Salem that it can no longer be an imbalanced system. No MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION. Conditions found in Salem Keizer could not be found in cities like Eugene or Portland.



Salem Alliance Dodges the Lori Crouch Question

Coercive conversions of the Akha in Thailand by Salem missionary don't seem to upset anyone at Salem Alliance. Tim French spoke of it as inevitable, no harm done. We picketed Salem Alliance at least five times for Sunday services. But when asking church members if they knew what the picket was about, they said that people in the church had said nothing to the congregation about the issue.

Pastor John Stumbo denies church connection to Lori Crouch mission, but members are said to be financially supporting her work in Thailand.

We asked John Stumbo to request that Lori Crouch take the link to Salem Alliance off her website if he didn't support what she was doing. John Stumbo said he would consider it, but in fact we have never heard further on the issue and the link to Salem Alliance is still there. It is one thing for the pastor to say that the church does or does not support this or that, while in fact plenty of people in the church do. We were encouraged that numerous members of Salem Alliance asked us what this was about. But in the end, their church was the authority to them, and that an Akha or other activist would hold them accountable had not much to do with what they were going to do as a matter of choice.

Other churches in Salem also have connection to the dire Akha situation in Thailand. Jim Morris is a member at Bethany Baptist. See Page 7

Oregonian Removing Akha Girls in Thailand

Richard P. Haugland, previous owner of Molecular Probes in Eugene, Oregon (sold for \$325 million), suddenly showed up in northern Chiangmai, Thailand and built a dormitory where he began bringing small Akha girls that he coaxed away from their families in Thailand. He used local women to help him gather the children. Promising to educate the children he in fact rejected some of them as “dumb” and sent them further into Chiangmai. What we find odd is what a micro biologist with an emphasis on genetics wants with small Akha girls, depending on how bright they are? We have received numerous complaints from volunteers recruited to work for this man in Thailand. The name of his project is the Starfish Country Home and can be seen on line.

Removal of Akha children from their families is a very common practice which we condemn.

Mr. Haugland also splashes funding around to numerous other child related projects and clinics. But we have also received complaints from some of the workers at these projects. Some people were told the children were orphans when they are not. Our emails to Mr. Haugland went unanswered.

A change of heart?

While locals might claim that attitudes which prevailed in Salem during the displacement of Native Americans off the land and mistreatment of minority communities have changed, one can say that DEMOGRAPHIC change in Salem has an increasing impact on that change.



The Akha Flag

Black and gold stripes top and bottom. Two white diamonds, two red diamonds and a blue star, found commonly in Akha cloth and handiwork such as baskets.

Is Water Boarding a Human Right?

Don't support Torture

The US double standard on human rights does great harm to the US image in the world. The US is seen as having a separate set of rules for those deemed not deserving of the same protections that are the right of all peoples.

YWAM Eden House Video Slams

Akha Culture

A video on Youtube.com portrays Akha culture as evil and tries to justify the removal of Akha girls by the YWAM missionary Vern McCauley. When we asked YWAM Salem about the situation, they made out they had no connection to YWAM in Thailand, despite the fact that “teams” of young people regularly leave from Salem to go and work at YWAM projects in Thailand. YWAM's pervasive presence in communities, churches and schools, may seem harmless enough, but smacks of a global religious empire based on the concept that God is an American.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=uu4SEpe-8PE>

Thai Food Will Make You PUK

Don't Support Thai Human Trafficking

Many Thai workers at Thai restaurants complain that they are underpaid and that if they complain they get sent back to Thailand. Interestingly enough, near many Thai restaurants in the US there is also a nearby “massage parlor”. Thais come to the US where they enjoy a bit of democracy by Thai standards but forget how harshly the Akha and other ethnic minorities are treated in their own country. Trafficking in Akha children is rife in Thailand, as well as the trafficking of many other people, women and children being those most seriously affected. An Akha woman trafficked to Singapore by Thais was recently released after serving more than 9 months in prison there.

Salem's Vinyard Church?

Is there any relationship between West Salem's Vinyard Church and the one in Sacramento, California?

Gospel Outreach and Genocide

In California there was a church organization called Gospel Outreach. This church group also had a mission church in Guatemala. One of the elders in Guatemala was Rios Montt. Villages that were collectivized by Gospel Outreach into what is now referred to as “Verbo Villages”, saw many of their people slaughtered by death squads when Rios Montt was the dictator in power in Guatemala. In an email discussion with Gospel Outreach, people at the church had little comment except to say that those were “interesting times”.

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