

Ride for Freedom

382 Days Across the US

by Horseback

For Akha Human Rights

2009-2010



The Akha Hill Tribe

The Akha live in Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, China and Vietnam with a population of about 600,000 people. They are mountain farmers who are self sufficient.

Human Rights - Prevent Malaria

In Thailand the Akha are not considered Thai and can not easily obtain an ID card. This prevents them from owning land, going to school and seeking medical aid. Help purchase nets for the Akha of Laos - STOP MALARIA.

“Orphans” Like Haiti

Recently missionaries who went to Haiti took away children whom they claimed were orphans when in fact they weren't. This practice has been going on at the hand of American missionaries in Thailand for more than two decades. They take the children to residential schools, tell the churches back home they are orphans, and collect money for each child. The money is never given to the parents, and the parents are not told about it.

Land Rights

Land that the Akha have farmed for decades, is now being taken away from them by the Thai Forestry Department. Often they are forced to relocate or are left in the village with no land to farm.

The Queen of Thailand takes their land

In 2003 the Queen of Thailand took more than 10,000 acres of Akha rice land for a development project. The Akha did not give their consent and were not compensated. Papers have been filed at the UN regarding this human rights violation. See our UNHCR link at <http://www.akha.org> - “Letter of Allegation”

Work them like slaves!

The Akha who lost their land now have to work for the Queen or starve. They are paid \$1.50 per day. NOT per hour but per DAY!

The Akha were growing rice, coffee, tea, ginger, sugar cane, red beans, black beans, garlic, soy beans, onions, bananas, bamboo roots, potatoes, squash, pumpkins, corn, cucumbers, sunflowers, peaches, avocados, mangos, spices, figs, chestnuts, sweet potatoes, peanuts, plums and many other crops as well as raising cattle, horses, pigs, chickens, geese, ducks, goats and water buffalo on these same lands, as they had been doing for more than a 100 years.

What you can do:

Contact the Thai Mission to the UN (New York City) and ask that the Queen of Thailand give back the land of the Akha. The Thai monarchy is the richest in the world at a wealth estimated over \$35 billion. So why does the Queen need to take the land of the poorest? Your help is needed to get the Thai Queen to give back the land of the Akha people.

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