



# Akha Alert!

Vol.1 No. 5

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## “Results Based Activism”

### Activists and Serious Human Rights Workers Wanted!

Your energy and skill in activism can help improve the lives of indigenous people.

Volunteer and make a difference!

Learn about the hill tribes of Thailand.

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## The Akha of Thailand

The Akha hill tribe people live in Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), China and Laos. Having originally come from Tibet over hundreds of years, the Akha number 400,000 with 70,000 living in Thailand. They are one of the region’s most colorful and vital hill tribe peoples and are excellent farmers. The Akha Heritage Foundation (Salem, Oregon) has worked for 13 years with the Akha people to protect their choices and defend their traditional culture, community and language along with providing health care, clean water and agricultural investment. Just recently the Foundation made presentations at the United Nations in defense of the Akha cause and human rights. The Akha Heritage Foundation will be developing funding to support the travels of Akha representatives to the next Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples at the UN in 2005.

### Boycott Thai!

The Akha in Thailand experience severe abuse and discrimination at the hands of the Thai government, army, police, the forestry department and the US financed “Drug War”. Documentation and photographs of these abuses and executions can be seen in the contents section of [www.akha.org](http://www.akha.org). The Thai government takes away essential rice lands placing villagers in conditions of starvation, forces the relocation of villagers to areas with no farm land, and allows the abuse of Akha prisoners. Hundreds of Akha men and women languish abandoned in Thai prisons scattered across the country far from families and with no legal representation, often arrested for infractions or pleading guilty to offenses they didn’t commit to avoid getting a life sentence. The Akha are exploited for tourism but receive none of the benefit. Boycott Thai! Demand protection for the Akha people!

### Family Values?

Comfortable, well fed US missionaries threaten to completely eradicate Akha culture, religion and language. Akha children are removed from their families to mission residential schools. American missionaries have eliminated the traditional culture in half of the 320 Akha villages in Thailand, but the villages are increasingly impoverished as a result. This is a far cry from the good hearted assistance that church congregations think they are paying for. Is your church involved?

### Get Involved - Take Action!

We encourage you to discover the beauty of these unique mountain people and become a part of this valuable work to protect their lives, culture and environment. Your interest and concern in spreading the word about the Akha struggle for freedom, human rights, and independence can make a difference in the safety of the Akha people. We encourage you to become a volunteer.

### Questions?

For more information please look at our web and visit our download section. Music, video, books for free. Questions? Contact us at the email address below.

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# Volunteers Wanted!

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**The Akha Heritage Foundation**  
**PO BOX 6073, Salem, Oregon 97304 USA**  
**[www.akha.org](http://www.akha.org) ~ [akha@akha.org](mailto:akha@akha.org)**

### What You Can Do? VOLUNTEER!

Activism

Travel

Photography

Video

Writers / Teachers

Observers

Computer Work

Graphics

Publications

Fundraising

Giving Workshops

Promote the issues  
to other travellers

Organic Farming

Medical

Dental

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MAKE A DONATION  
To The Akha Center  
[PayPal.com](https://www.paypal.com)  
[akha@akha.org](mailto:akha@akha.org)