

# CHIN FORUM

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## MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FOR RECENT DISASTER VICTIMS IN THE ANDAMAN SEA

We, the members of the Chin Forum Managing Board, wish to express our deepest sympathy to the families of the 46 victims of Chin nationals including several children. The Chin perished in the Andaman Sea near Ranong, Thailand in a tragic accident. We express our deepest condolences and sympathy and our solidarity during this painful time.

The incident is especially heartbreaking in that it occurred during the Christmas season when everywhere people prepare for reunions with their families to celebrate the festival together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of the victims, as well as other relatives who are mourning the loss of their loved ones. We share their pain caused by this horrific disaster.

Most of the victims are Chin refugees heading toward Malaysia to join their families in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Chin situation is dire. The lack of economic opportunities and the constant forced labor recruitment along with political and religious persecution compels the Chin to leave their homeland to seek opportunity, safety and freedom elsewhere. By vacating their homeland, the junta takes control of the region and along with it, its rich natural resources. It appears that the junta systematically makes life in Chinland impossible and in this way is responsible for the Chin fleeing.

The Chin Forum condemns the Burmese military dictators who are responsible for such a disaster along the country's borders. We strongly urge the international community to wake-up to the "concealed ethnic cleansing" occurring for too long under the eyes of the United Nations.

CHIN FORUM MANAGING BOARD  
Dated: 26. December 2007  
Ottawa