

[ERRATA]  
THE "MATERIAL SUPPORT" BAR: DENYING  
REFUGE TO THE PERSECUTED?

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HEARING  
BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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**Transcript of Viedo played during Hearing**

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law

**“The ‘Material Support’ Bar: Denying Refuge to the Persecuted?”**

Tham Hin “Temporary Shelter”—10,000 Karen refugees in less than 1 square kilometer. They cannot leave the compound. They have lived here for ten years with no hope of going home.

“My name is Paw Wah. I’m 15 years old.”

“The Burmese soldiers came and burned our village. We fled to Thailand and ended up in the Tham Hin camp. I was five years old then. It’s very crowded so a lot of people get sick. I live with my mother and father and four siblings.

My father fought against the Burmese army. He stepped on a mine and lost his eyesight.”

Paw Wah’s Mother: “I encourage my daughters to listen to my advice but she’s always got her activities, always busy.”

Paw Wah: “I’d rather be doing something. I get very bored sitting at home. I get up at 5 am, cook, wash and rest. I go to school, weave.

When I grow up, I don’t want to live like this. We have applied to resettle in America.

If we resettle, we can get more education—maybe have better conditions to live in.”

Paw Wah’s Mother: “She’s doing well in school. She says she wants to be a doctor. . . or a female boxer.”

## TEXT:

Paw Wah applied for resettlement in the United States. Her application was denied because her father had been a member of the Karen National Union (KNU), a prodemocracy group that fought against the military dictatorship in Burma.

Thousands of refugees and asylum seekers have been denied refuge in the United States for providing “material support” to armed groups, even though many provided minimal support and did so under duress.