

COLLEGE STUDENT TAKES BURMESE DIPLOMACY INTO HIS OWN HANDS BY LAUNCHING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BURMA.

For Immediate Release: Monday, April 4, 2011

(Washington, DC)- American University student, Kirk Acevedo, launched Scholarships for Burma, a non-profit social campaign to raise money to send Ying Kawn Tai, a Burmese refugee living in Thailand to college. As a testament to his dedication to Ying, he will walk 450 miles in 30 days, from Rangoon to Mandalay in an effort to help raise donations for her college tuition. "I am walking through Burma to show my devotion to my friend Ying, she has an amazing story and I need to help send her to college," said Acevedo.

Kirk met Ying on an alternative break trip to Thailand in January 2009 with other American University students. Ying's story was tragic and heartbreaking to Kirk. Both of Ying's parents died when she was in the 8th grade, so Ying dropped out of school to support herself and her young sister. Ying worked three jobs a week for nearly a decade to keep her sister in school. She was successful, and her sister received a full scholarship to Bangkok University in 2009. However, Ying sacrificed her own education to make this possible.

After hearing Ying's story, Kirk was determined to find a way to help her. Scholarships for Burma is Kirk's response to help make Ying's dream come true. Upon hearing about Kirk's campaign, American human rights activist and pioneer, Jack Healey, current Director of the Human Rights Action Center, offered to help Kirk by taking on a supporting role. Scholarships for Burma is also supported by the US Campaign for Burma.

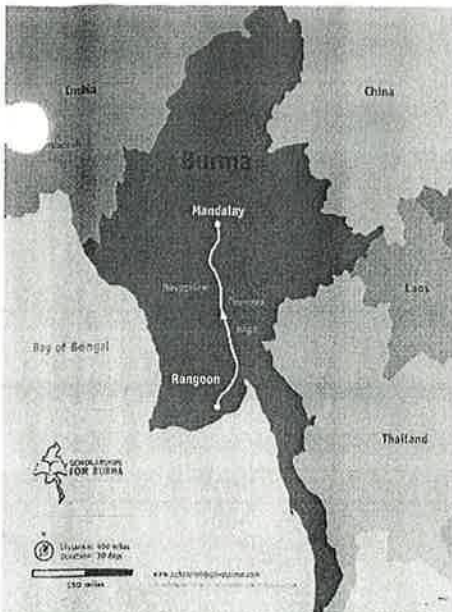
Starting October 15, 2011, Kirk will begin his walk between Rangoon and Mandalay in Burma to raise the costs of four years of college in Thailand—\$26,220. Kirk explained "Ying is a promising future leader for democratic change in Burma and I believe that she has the potential to contribute immensely to a freer Burma. While many people have been concerned about current uprisings in the Middle East, it seems many have forgotten about the other countries where those uprisings are not even possible, Burma is one of those places. I am determined to help my friend Ying pursue her desire to help those who are denied basic human rights. A college education is the first step to help her begin her pursuit of meaningful change. Ying wants to educate others about democracy and I cannot just sit by and watch on the sidelines. Starting Scholarships for Burma is the least I can do."

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For media inquiries please contact Robert Rose or Zach Cohen at (202) 680-8977 or press@scholarshipsforburma.com

Scholarships for Burma is a project of the Human Rights Action Center, a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

1/4 sheets handed out on the quad



Follow my trek.

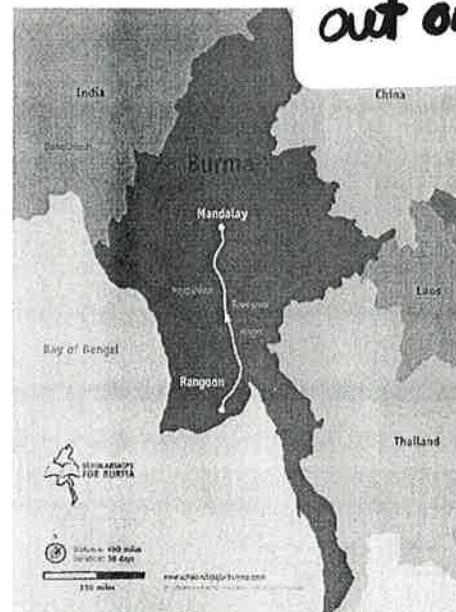
I'm walking between Rangoon and Mandalay to raise \$26,220 to send my Burmese refugee friend to college.

I'd love your support.

Facebook: Scholarships for Burma
Twitter: S4B2011

*Scholarships for Burma is a 501(c)(3) non-profit project of the Human Rights Action Center, and supported by the US Campaign for Burma.

Learn more. Find out how you can get involved. www.scholarshipsforburma.com
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Responses

This section is my favorite. The next few pages look at the campaign since launching through the eyes of how others have perceived Scholarships for Burma. From positive comments like, “Okay, where can I donate?” on a comment on Facebook, to more sober ones like an e-mail from a Shan refugee who came across the website and wanted to know why I was only sending Ying to college and not other Shans like him. This section displays how this campaign has been received and viewed. Overall, the comments are positive and encouraging. For privacy reasons, names and contact information have been removed.

Support The Monks' Protest In Burma's Profile



Support The Monks' Protest In Burma

Starting on October 15th, 2011, Kirk will trek 450 miles across #Burma's countryside, from Rangoon to Mandalay. His journey between Burma's two biggest cities will be done in order to raise \$26,220 to give a full college scholarship to Ying Kawn Tai, making her dream to go to school a reality and changing her life forever.



Scholarships for Burma

www.scholarshipsforburma.com

In January 2009, I traveled to the Thailand-Burma border with a group of students from American University. During the trip, I met Ying Kawn Tai, a 23-year old girl from Shan state in Burma.

Wednesday at 2:28pm · Like · Comment · Share

Nyi Nyi Aung and 353 others like this.



Johan Sundstrand Ok , how can I chip in ?

Wednesday at 5:35pm · Like



Ray De Los Cobos Jr After reading this girl's story, i feel very emotional!! :)

Wednesday at 6:11pm · Like · 1 person



Shin M.Ko What an amazing guy!

Wednesday at 6:12pm · Like · 1 person

Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 6:12pm



Swati Prasad Just click on the link & you can donate through clicking the support tab and going through the steps.

Wednesday at 6:38pm · Like · 1 person



Dave Turpin He's brave. I lived in Myanmar for 2 years and I wouldn't dream on leaving Yangon on foot.

Wednesday at 6:43pm · Like · 1 person



Lisa Mackey Wonderful story about a fellow American University alum!

Wednesday at 6:47pm · Like · 1 person



Penny Darlene Prosick beautiful!!!

Wednesday at 8:28pm · Like · 1 person



Neil Quinlan Go Kirk! Marvellous stuff. X-)

Wednesday at 9:19pm · Like · 1 person



Thinzar Zaw thank you. appreciate your work!

Yesterday at 12:35am · Like · 2 people



Dzintra Baumanė This is something real and we should have more real deeds like this! Thank you for doing something real that matters!

Yesterday at 2:25am · Like · 2 people



Scott D Bowen Money goes a long way over seas. Oh well.

Yesterday at 5:20am · Like · 1 person

Hello

http://email.fatcow.com/sqmail/src/printer_friendly...

Response Letter
#1

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Hello
Date: Wed, April 20, 2011 6:39 pm
To: kirk.acevedo@scholarshipsforburma.com

Hi Kirk,

I found your website through my facebook group "Support the Monk's protest in Burma" and I'm very inspired by your story. It's very admirable that you're going to Burma to raise a scholarship for Ying and I've donated to show my support for her education. I'm also a Burmese girl and my family and I were lucky enough to leave the country in 1997 when my dad got a job in a small island in Micronesia. I went to a highschool there and although it was not a pleasant experience (I was the only foreign student there besides the missionary teachers from the states), I learned a lot. Then I moved to the Big Island in Hawaii to attend the University of Hawaii at Hilo and studied English as my major. I transferred to the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Honolulu after my parents moved there from Micronesia. Now we live in Honolulu and I've changed my major to Graphic Design as it's my original passion. My goal is to work for a major fashion magazine one day.

I just want to thank you for what you're doing in Burma and supporting Ying's education. It's incredibly brave and kind of you! I wish you the best in your journey!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Response
letter # 2

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Mai Soong Kha (the greeting in Shan language)
Date: Thu, May 12, 2011 5:43 am
To: kirk.acevedo@scholarshipsforburma.com

Hi, Dear Kirk

My name is [REDACTED]. I am from Shan State and Shan ethnicity. I have read your web and got to read Ying Kawn Tai story and about how will you help her. It very nice of you to help our Shan people. Thanks for being understand and interested the condition in Burma.

But there are hundred of thousand of people who left behind and still waiting for opportunities. When you got into Burma you will know almost all of the situation there, I hope. Or if you would like to know anything, please feel free to ask. If i know i will tell you.

For me, i am also the person who struggle for right, freedom and education as i have to left my family since i was 10 years old because of family problem. And there are million of young people who facing like that. I hope you will get to know many people and learn many things of them.

Anyway, i would like to know that. How do you support for scholarship? by application or how...Honestly i am still finding for scholarship to continue my education next year.

Mang Greeting
[REDACTED]

Attachments:

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]