

Synopsis

Burmese immigrants in Thailand

**Photographs by John HULME
2004-2007**

Burmese immigrants are among the most oppressed workers in Thailand. They work in dirty, dangerous and difficult jobs in the fishing and construction industries, rubber plantations, dockyards and shrimp farms, as well as providing cheap labour for the tourist industry. I have been making regular visits to Thailand's Western border with Burma now known as Myanmar recording the plight of some of the estimated one million workers inside Thailand more than half of whom are undocumented.

Gross human rights abuses by Burma's military government, now called "The State Peace and Development Council" (SPDC) as well as decades of internal armed conflict have caused hundreds of thousands of Burmese to flee to Thailand since the mid-1980s in search of a job, any job.