

Another human trafficking transit camp found

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One more human trafficking transit camp has been found at the Mata Ayer Forest Reserve in Lubuk Sireh, about 100 metres from the Thai border.

The camp, complete with numerous facilities such as a generator and a small dam, is very different from the transit camps found in Bukit Wang Burma, Wang Kelian.

It took two hours to reach the site on foot, according to Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Shahidan Kassim, who visited the area today.

Meanwhile, 35 human skeletons, believed to be victims of human trafficking syndicates which were found in the Bukit Burma jungle in Wang Kelian, have been taken to the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital in Alor Setar, Kedah, for pathology tests.

To date, 139 graves have been found at 28 such camps between Kampung Wai in Kuala Perlis and Tangga 100 at Felcra Lubuk Sireh, Padang Besar - an 11 sq km swathe of land.

Meanwhile, the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) received information that individuals involved with the camps and the killings were believed to be hiding in Ranong, bordering Kawthong in Myanmar.

Ranong is located along the North Andaman Beach in southern Thailand and is easily accessed via boat from Kawthong. It became the syndicates' choice to conduct the human trafficking activities.

The masterminds, believed to be Thais, have avoided detection by the authorities in Malaysia and Thailand, who have continued to escalate operations to hunt them in Ban Ta Lok, Padang Besar, the location where the biggest grave containing six bodies, was found.

The seriousness of the Thai police in hunting down the traffickers was apparent with 81 warrants of arrest issued to date, including four new ones yesterday.

Fifty-one suspects have been detained while 30 others are at large, and Thai police are hunting the remnants in Songkhla, Satun and Ranong.

- Bernama

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