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**Living on the Border: Unsustainable Lives on the Rubbish Dump at Mae Sot**

On the outskirts of the border town of Mae Sot around 100 Burmese families, who have escaped the military junta and economic struggle of the Burmese government, work and live on the rubbish dump in Thailand, for around \$1.50 (Au) per day. In constant threat of abuse, exploitation and unsanitary living conditions the families ebb a living, which they claim is 'better' than their previous lives in Burma. This paper examines through photographic representations and interviews the complexity and paradoxes surrounding their lives in crisis and the NGO projects that are trying to assist. It also examines the wider social and environmental discourse of 'waste' and the rise of disadvantaged people working on rubbish dumps, in third world countries