

Post reports lead to fisherman's release

TRAWLER skipper Chuchart Saeng-in was released on Tuesday from Burma after weeks of captivity in a Victoria Point prison after warders read of his family's anguish in the *Bangkok Post*.

His wife Metta, 23, said the 38-year-old skipper had written her five letters requesting money and clothes.

She said she enclosed two issues of the *Bangkok Post* that reported his on-going detention in Burma.

Warders in the Victoria Point prison read the newspapers and asked him if it was true that he had four daughters and three sons awaiting his return in Thailand.

The sympathetic warders then treated him with more respect, Thai fisher-

man said.

Bp 88 0908

Mr Chuchart said he would continue working for his old employer, Tiamjua sae Ngo, who owns the trawler Phrom Samut 9, upon which he served before his arrest by Burmese authorities for violating Burma's territorial waters last month.

The skipper also said he had seen a 12-year-old Thai boy in the custody of Burmese police for the past seven months.

The unidentified boy had gone to sea with a trawler that was intercepted by Burmese authorities. The boy is believed to be the last Thai remaining in the Burmese town of Mergui, Mr Chuchart said.

CA/1398/26/0004



Trawler skipper Chuchart Saeng-in poses with his wife and six of his seven children after being reunited at their home in Ranong. Mr Chuchart was freed from a Burmese prison after his captors saw stories about him in the *Bangkok Post*.