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DVB Debate is produced by DVB Multimedia Group Ltd. Co. The debate is recorded every Saturday morning in Yangon with a live audience, which is invited to join the discussion as well.

 DVB TV		DVB RADIO	
Sunday	7.15 pm	Saturday	Evenings
Monday	1.15 am / 7.15 am / 1.15 pm	Sunday	Mornings
Wednesday	8.45 pm	DVB ONLINE	
Thursday	2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm	dvbdebate.com	24/7
Friday	8.45 pm	facebook.com/ dvb.debate	
Saturday	2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm	twitter @dvbdebate	

DVB Debate aims to contribute to a new culture of open debate, in which anyone can participate and agree to disagree, in order to exchange ideas, create better mutual understanding and find solutions for societal issues to improve the future of Myanmar.

The team invites fellow media and debating clubs to join this initiative for open debate. A weekly press release, press picture and cartoon are available shortly after the recording. DVB Debate also has a modest budget to support local debating initiatives.

For any inquiries, remarks or questions, please call 01292743 (office hours), leave a comment on facebook.com/dvb.debate or email debate@dvb.no.

DVB DEBATE



Welcome to DVB Debate,
Myanmar's 1st open debate program.

This week's debate question is:

How free and reliable is media?

If you have any remarks, suggestions or questions,
please ask a team member,
call 01292743 (office hours) or email debate@dvb.no.

This week's topic is NEWS TRUST

Historical context:

For half a century, Myanmar suffered through a 'dark period' for media freedom. From 1962 onwards, various military regimes kept tight control over the media. Anything in print that the government saw as a contradiction to their policies and wishes was banned under the 1962 the Printers and Publishers Registration Act. Pre-press censorship was introduced in 1964 for any writing related to politics or economics. Later pre-press censorship was applied to foreign affairs, religion, even sports and culture; and then eventually to everything. Journalists had to work under cover at risk of arrest. In 2010 Burma was ranked the as the fourth worst jailer or journalists worldwide and has long been denounced as one of the worst countries for media freedom. But since the new government took power in 2011 many restrictions on media have been relaxed and things are looking up. In 2012, Thein Sein shut down Myanmar's notorious censorship board, granted private daily newspapers the right to publish for the first time in 50 years, and released dozens of journalists from prison. Exiled media organisations were able to enter the country for the first time and people began to report openly. However, although prepublication restrictions have been lifted journalists continue to face risks after publication. In the last year, a handful of journalists have been imprisoned for their work and the government continues to retain the power to withhold or revoke publishing licenses.

Facts & figures:

- Reporters Without Borders' (RSF) 2014 press freedom index saw Burma jump six places up to 145th in the 180-country ranking.
- In 2012 two weekly journals were suspended for breaking the 44th directive of the Printers and Publishers Registration and Press Scrutiny and Distribution Central Supervisory Committee.
- In December 2013 Ma Khine, a reporter from Daily Eleven newspaper was the first journalist to be imprisoned during Thein Sein's presidency. She was sentenced to three months in prison for trespassing, criminal defamation, and using obscene language.
- DVB video reporter, Zaw Pe, also known as Thura Thet Tin, was arrested in August 2012 after visiting the Magwe Region Education Department to conduct an interview about a scholarship

program. In April 2014 he was sentenced to a year in prison for trespassing and disturbing a civil servant.

- On at least two occasions since the new government took power, news journals in Burma blacked out their cover pages as a sign of protest amid rising discontentment with limits on the freedom of press.
- In February 2014, 4 reporters and the chief executive of Unity Journal were arrested and charged under the Official Secrets Act for a story about an alleged chemical weapons factory.
- The Media Bill, which outlines the rights and obligations of the country's media and the running of press enterprises, was drafted by the government-appointed Myanmar Press Council (MPC) which advocates self-censorship.

Points of view:

"Journalists are sometimes incompetent... [They] need to observe a journalistic code of ethics and develop their capacity if they are determined to carve out a career in journalism. **(Ma Thida Sanchaung, Executive Editor of Echo Journal)**

"Media reports from Rakhine State risk enflaming the conflict.... This is a very important time in Burma so when reporting the news [journalists] should be aware of [their] responsibilities rather than just being competitive with rival journals." **(Rangoon Division Chief Minister Myint Swe)**

"The jailing of a journalist on questionable charges shows just how far Burma still needs to go in reforming and scrapping laws that are often used to suppress the media." **(Shawn Crispin, CPJ's senior Southeast Asia)**

"Limitation on the freedom of media is the same as limitation of the development of that country"
(Aung San Suu Kyi)

Information links:

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www.en.rsf.org www.cpj.org
www.elevenmyanmar.com www.irrawaddy.org