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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 to end War Crimes?

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 WAR CRIMES

Part 1 Child Soldiers Part 2 Sexual violence in conflict

Historical context:

Burma has been fighting a civil war for more than 60 years and is thought to have the world's longest running internal conflict. Fighting began at independence in 1948, and increased when the Military Government took power in 1962 after they refused to allow any federal governance. Widespread human rights violations against ethnic groups in border areas have perpetuated the conflict, and most of these violations are committed by the military themselves. With over 17 different armed ethnic groups fighting against the Burmese army in several different parts of the country, over the years various groups have documented a widespread and countless number of crimes against civilians. Unfortunately, during time of conflict it is often the most vulnerable that become the victims, and women and children are routinely targeted. The recruitment of underage soldiers for duty in conflict as well as rape and systematic sexual violence towards girls and women by members of the military are two such example of the sort of crimes that have consistently occurred throughout decades of civil war. These crimes are outlawed under both domestic and international law and yet they continue to occur across the country, and perpetrators are rarely punished. Under the 2008 constitution, any crimes committed by military personnel are tried by military court and this allows military personnel to act almost with impunity.

Facts & figures:

- The Myanmar government signed a joint action plan with the United Nations in June 2012 to rid its forces of children, in January 2014 272 had been freed as part of this plan.
- Myanmar ranks 8th in the Child Soldiers Index 2014.
- In 2002 Human Rights Watch estimated that Burma has as many as 70,000 underage recruits.
- On 5th June 2014 Burma became the 150th country to endorse the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict,

launched last September on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

- A January 2014 report by Women's League of Burma documents that 104 women have been subjected to sexual violence perpetrated by the Burmese Army since the Thein Sein's government took power.

Points of view:

"In ethnic areas it is common to find child soldiers who volunteer for a variety of nationalistic reasons, or families who hand over troubled children to the ethnic army in hopes the child will gain discipline." (Matthew Smith, Human Rights Watch Researcher in Myanmar)

"There is no good reason to recruit the child soldiers for the army. The army is not a place where the children should grow up." (Ashok Nigam, UN country coordinator)

"Research has clearly demonstrated that when children experience extreme forms of trauma — whether sexual abuse, physical or psychological violence, or experience in combat — they can and often do become full, productive members of communities." (Bertrand Bainvel, head of UNICEF Myanmar)

"Our military is very disciplined, there is no reason for the military to commits acts of rape or murder." (President Thein Sein)

"It [Rape] is used as a weapon by armed forces to intimidate the ethnic nationalities and to divide our country." (Aung San Su Kyi).

"Our military has never committed any kind of War Crime and we took effective action on the soldiers who broke the rules of the military." (Min Aung Hlaing, Commander in Chief)

Information links:

www.mswrr.gov.mm
www.savethechildren.org
www.child-soldiers.org
www.ilo.org
www.unicef.org

www.womenofburma.org
www.hrw.org
www.chinwomen.org
www.karenwomen.org
www.kachinwomen.com

www.dvb.no