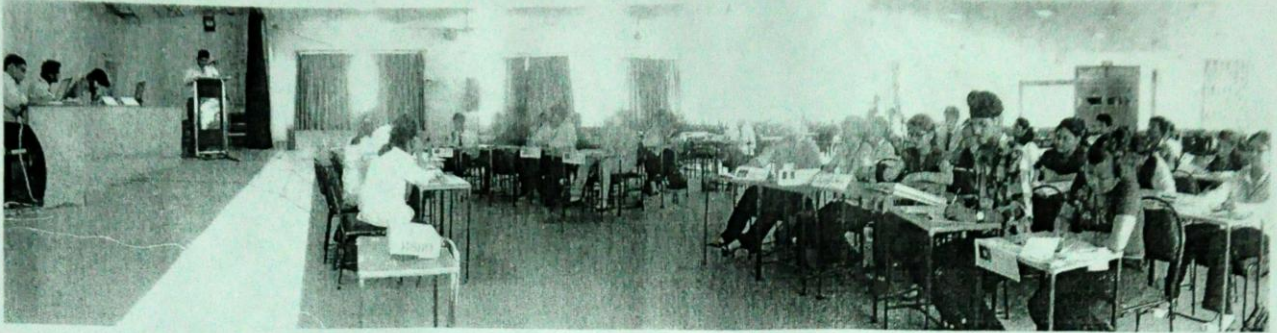


# The Diplomat Review

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## Myanmar makes efforts to tackle forceful recruitment of children in armed forces writes *Shreya Bali*

In the first session the MCS MUN, on the agenda "Protection of children during armed conflicts". The motion to open the general speaker's list was raised by the delegate of Belgium. The delegate of Myanmar threw light on the large scale recruitment of unaccompanied children from railway stations, streets, public places and even their homes in armed forces, belong to the age group 15-17 years. Majority of children have been recruited from the Yangon division.

The delegate of Myanmar also informed the council about the action plan and negotiations between the government and the country's task force on monitoring and reporting to end the recruitment and use of children in armed forces. The Committee for the Prevention of Military Recruitment of Underaged Minors agreed to form a technical panel to negotiate the action plan.

The delegate referred to official report which revealed that 110 child soldiers were released through government mechanism during the year.

The delegate informed that in 2010 the government shared details of a number of new military instructions issued in the prevention of under aged recruitments and granted greater access to UNICEF on behalf of the country's task forces on monitoring and

reporting to recruiting units to observe its procedure. This did not extend to military training schools or operation units.

The delegate also brought to the notice on the UN that the Directorate for the Military Strength in Nay Pyi Taw holds a database of children rejected by recruitment units and who are not included in the lists of children shared with the task force. This measure has been put to place that under age recruits rejected at one unit are not brought elsewhere for recruitment. The delegates of other countries had other things to say on the issue at hand. The delegate of Belgium said, "All the countries need to work together and adopt each other's solutions to improve."

The delegate of Bangladesh believes, "the state of most of the countries is miserable when it comes to compensation made to the victims of armed conflicts."

The delegate of Burkina Faso said, "war ground is not the place for the youth. We must take effective, protective, legal and political actions to ensure that as many children as possible are spared from the brutalities of war and conflict."



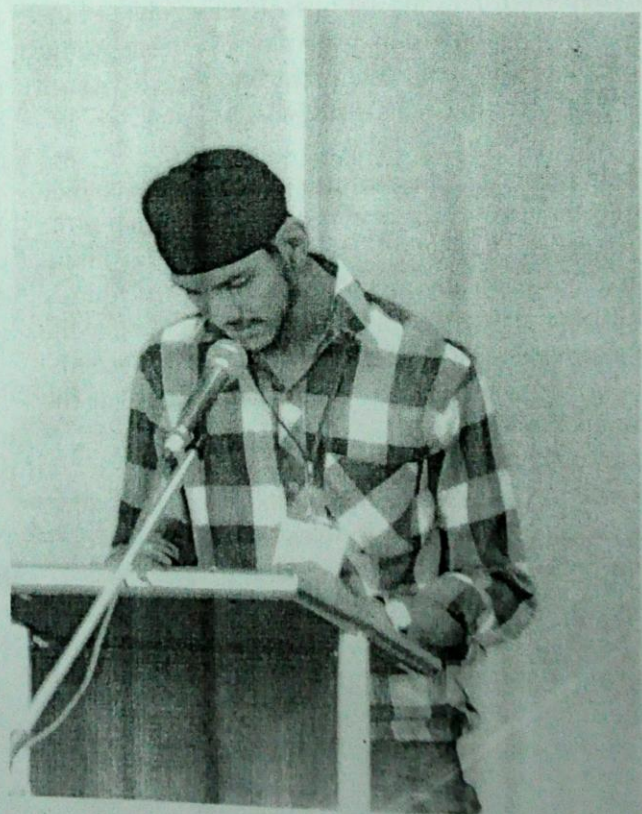


## Civil War Because of Civil Injustice writes *Tanya Himcha*

In a surprising statement Angola said that the state of children in Angola was pathetic, but it was due to the civil war which plagued the country for 40 years wherein children were used ranging from child soldiers to porters, spies, messenger, sexual slaves and even human shields or in propaganda.

Angola however said that it was planning steps to aid child welfare. Coupling rehabilitation, health care and education was the only way out but Angola did not shed any light on its alleged role that it played in recruiting children.

When asked to explain, Angola said that the constitutional age for recruitment was 20 years. Further there were no reports of children being recruited ever since 2002. Nearly 3000 children were already rescued and were admitted in child friendly schools. The government said that it was partnering UNICEF in order to protect children.





# ADOLESCENT RECRUITMENT IN ARMED FORCES: National service or childhood butchered?



Child soldiers have been used extensively throughout the 27 years civil war in Angola by both the government and the armed opposition group UNITA. Both FLEC-FLAC and FLEC-Renovoda had recruited children during the war some as young as eight years old out of which 30% were girls. The demobilization and re-integration of former UNITA fighters was completed by December 2005. A 100,000 combatants have been demobilized. Angola implemented the Post War Child Protection Strategy under which they were given rehabilitation also gave birth to the Back to School Programme which encouraged the building of "child friendly" schools that give a healthy learning environment to those who were rendered hopeless by the war. The Central Republic of Africa acknowledges that children are being used in armed conflicts.

The Uganda rebel groups have steadily become more active this year, their latest attack occurring in March this year during which 50 people were abducted including children. The abducted children were taken to the Republic of Congo where the boys were recruited in the army and girls were forced to work as sex slaves. In June the government signed N'Djamena Declaration to end the recruitment and use of children within its armed forces. Between 2009 and 2010, 525 children were separated from the ranks of the Army for the

Children as young as 10 to 12 years old have been reported working in armed forces of various countries. Whether it be a fight for democracy or a civil war, these military conflicts have always taken their toll on the youth and the children of a country. Children who should be in schools are being given weapons to man the military front.

This session Of the MUN MCS brings this topic to the international forum reported by *Abhinav Khetarpal, journalist, International Press.*

Restoration of Democracy bringing the total of the number of children rescued to 1300.

Question : Myanmar being the largest recruiter of child soldiers, what is its stand on the agenda at hand today?

A: Myanmar had been the largest recruiter of child soldiers but times have changed as the country is now strictly against the recruitment of child soldiers in its armed forces and is taking steps to eradicate this from the country.

Q: How did the recruitment in the past took place?

A: children were taken from the streets and recruited into the armed forces belonging to the age of 15 to 17. Majority of them were recruited from the Yangon division. Most of them weren't even asked their age when they were recruited.

Q: What is Myanmar doing to curb this situation?

A: it has created child protection group which are working at grassroots level to eradicate this problem from the root. The CTFMR with the government is making joint action plans to regulate the migration and to keep a proper check regarding the legal recruitment age of the armed forces in the country.





Blesson Mammen, Head of International Press

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