

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	309
Land:	Myanmar
Kilde:	Human Rights Watch
Titel:	Myanmar's Military Still Using Children in Fighting
Udgivet:	17. november 2020
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	5. januar 2021

Document #2041159

HRW – Human Rights Watch

Myanmar’s Military Still Using Children in Fighting

November 17, 2020 8:45PM EST | Dispatches

UN Secretary-General Should Return Government to ‘List of Shame’

On October 5, Myanmar’s military, the Tatmadaw, allegedly forced a group of farmers including several boys to walk ahead of their troops to clear a path through mines in an operation against the insurgent Arakan Army in Rakhine State. Fighting broke out and two boys were killed and a third was wounded. Using civilians as “human shields” is a war crime, as is using children in combat. The Tatmadaw says [it will investigate](#) the deaths, but this incident highlights a deeper problem.

The United Nations Country Taskforce on Monitoring and Reporting on Grave Violations against Children in Myanmar has called for a “full, transparent, and expedited investigation of the incident and for anyone responsible for the use and for the killing of the children to be [held accountable](#).” Any investigation should be conducted with impartiality and independence. But the military has [repeatedly failed](#) to do so when its soldiers are accused of violations.

The Tatmadaw has a long [history](#) of using children in armed conflict. Despite the UN’s continued documentation of the military’s recruitment and use of children, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in June decided to [remove](#) the Tatmadaw from his annual “list of shame.” The delisting is [conditioned](#) on the government immediately ending and preventing any misuse of children, including in non-combat roles. This recent incident shows that the Tatmadaw is still making use of children in hostilities, violating the terms of the “delisting.” The secretary-general should return the Tatmadaw to his list for the recruitment and use of children.

In September 2019, Myanmar ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which establishes 18 as the minimum age for direct participation in hostilities. The [2007 Paris Principles](#), which Myanmar has endorsed, prohibits children being used as porters, cooks, messengers, or for sexual purposes. The use of children as porters also violates Myanmar’s 2019 Child Rights Law, which forbids the use of children for forced or mandatory labor.

Myanmar’s government should immediately and publicly order its armed forces to [cease using porters](#) as human shields, such as by having porters lead military columns. The UN Security Council should sanction Myanmar authorities implicated in the sickening practice of using civilians, and children in particular, as human shields. These are war crimes for which all those responsible should be prosecuted.

ecoi.net summary:

Article on the use of children
in armed conflict by the military

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[HRW – Human Rights Watch](#)

Original link:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/11/17/myanmars-military-still-using-children-fighting>

Document type:

Appeal or News Release

Language:

English

Published:

17 November 2020

Document ID:

2041159

Austrian Red Cross
Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum
Research and Documentation (ACCORD)

Wiedner Hauptstraße 32, 1041 Wien
[T \(Telefon\)](#) +43 1 589 00 583
[F \(Fax\)](#) +43 1 589 00 589
info@ecoi.net

[Contact](#)
[Imprint & Disclaimer](#)
[F.A.Q.](#)
[Data Protection Notice](#)

ecoi.net is run by the Austrian Red Cross (department ACCORD) in cooperation with Informationsverbund Asyl & Migration. ecoi.net is funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and Caritas Austria. ecoi.net is supported by ECRE & UNHCR.

