

## Appendices

### Appendix A: SPDC Plan of Action regarding child soldiers

#### **Plan of Action For the Implementation of The Objectives of the Committee for the Prevention of Military Recruitment of Under-age Children**

##### Introduction

The Child Law and the Rules of the Child law were promulgated in 1993 and 2001 respectively, to protect the best interests of the children in Myanmar. Moreover, there are orders and directives regarding the prevention of recruitment of children for military services.

The office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council by its letter No. 205/Na Ya Ka Oo)/Ka Sa, dated 5 January 2004, formed the committee for the Prevention of Military Recruitment of Under-age Children.

The Chairman of the Committee is Secretary (2) of the State Peace and Development Council and it includes as its members: the Minister for Home Affairs, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and resettlement, the Minister for Labour, the Deputy Chief Justice, the Deputy Attorney-General, the Judge Advocate General of the Ministry of Defence, Vice Chief of Armed Force Training of Ministry of Defence, and senior officer of the Ministry of Defence as the Committee's Secretary.

The objectives of the committee are:

1. To prevent the forced recruitment of under-age children as soldiers;
2. To protect the interests of under-age children; and
3. To ensure faithful adherence to the orders and instructions issued for the protection of under-age children.

### Plan of Action

The committee at its first meeting decided to draw up a Plan of Action for the realization of the above objectives. A task force composed of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Minister for Labour and the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, was entrusted with the implementation of the Plan of Action.

The Plan of Action is as follows:

### Recruitment

Recruitment is done according to the following procedure:

- To examine whether the recruitment is in conformity with orders, instructions, rules and regulations;
- To recruit those who fulfill the requirement; and
- To train the new recruits.

### Function of the Directorate of Military Strength

- The Directorate of Military Strength was established on 23 July 2004. The Directorate is to examine systematically whether recruitment conforms to orders, instructions, rules and regulations issued by the Ministry of Defence.
- One of the primary functions of the Directorate is to ensure that anyone whomsoever under 18 years of age is not recruited into the armed forces.

### Discharge from military service

- To send back to parents or guardians those found to be under 18 years of age during the training period or while in services.
- To hand over to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement those who are orphans and without guardians.
- To register those found to have joined the armed forces while under 18 years of age though at the time of discovery they have completed 18 years of age. They may be asked whether they would like to serve in the armed forces on a voluntary basis. Those who wish to remain in

service may do so in accordance with established rules and regulations. Those who do not wish may be discharged from the armed forces.

#### Reintegration

- To send back to parents or guardians those found to be under 18 years of age.
- To make arrangements to give vocational training, other alternative educational options and livelihood supports with special focus on orphans, those without guardians and other vulnerable under-age children.
- The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is responsible for making above mentioned arrangements.

#### Measures for public awareness

- To put up signboards in visible places at recruitment centres stating that entry into the armed forces is voluntary and permissible only after the attainment of 18 years of age.
- To disseminate widely through newspapers, journals, magazines, publications, radio, TV and video-plays.
- To circulate pamphlets.
- To disseminate information up to village/ward levels.

#### Action against Transgressors

To take effective action against transgressors if recruitment is not done in conformity with orders, instructions, rules and regulations.

#### Cooperation with international organizations

- To co-ordinate Ministries concerned and UNICEF with a view to effecting wider co-operation on matters concerning birth registration.
- To co-ordinate Ministries concerned and UNICEF with a view to effecting co-operation on matters concerning reintegration.
- To co-ordinate on other possible areas of co-operation with UNICEF including awareness training on child rights.

- To provide information, as necessary, on the above-mentioned matters to the UN Resident Co-ordinator.
- To provide timely information through the Myanmar Permanent Representative in New York.
- To cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in accordance with the existing laws of Myanmar.

#### Reporting

To submit quarterly reports or as instructed by the Committee on progress concerning the implementation of the Plan of Action.

#### Submission of Recommendations

The Task Force may assess the implementation of the Plan of Action as deemed necessary, and submit recommendations to the Committee.

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