



REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
National Unity Government  
Ministry of Defence

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Directive (3/2022) for People's Defence Forces

Protection of Children in Armed Conflict

4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

1. All People's Defence Forces must be particularly mindful of the protection of children under 18, who are our future, and the alleviation of any and all potential physical and mental sufferings they may endure during this people's resistance against the military council.
2. The Ministry of Defence under the National Unity Government has therefore published the following Code of Conduct and regulations to protect children under 18 during the people's armed resistance.
  - (a) Protect and provide necessary support to all vulnerable groups including children, disabled people, women, and the elderly (Article 6, Code of Conduct for Civilian Relations)
  - (b) Ensure an absolute prohibition of any sexual act or violence against minors (Article 2, Code of Conduct regarding women and children)
  - (c) Never target and attack schools, hospitals, religious buildings cultural monuments, and public places (Article 3, Designation of Military Targets)
3. Moreover, the People's Defence Forces need to ensure that they do not commit any of the six grave violations that are often committed against children under 18 during armed conflicts. These violations are as follows:

- a) Killing and maiming of children;
- b) Recruitment and use of children;
- c) Sexual violence against children;
- d) Abduction of children;
- e) Attacks against on schools or and hospitals;
- f) Denial of humanitarian access for children.

4. The People's Defence Forces must be determined to avoid any occurrence of these six grave violations. They must take necessary measures to protect children from such breaches.
5. The People's Defence Force and other armed groups under the Ministry of Defence of the National Unity Government are honourable security forces that follow international norms, laws and treaties. Thus, conscription of those 18 and over as members of security forces must follow the policy guidelines of the Ministry of Defence. If children under 18 are already in different stations for whatever circumstance, measures in accordance with additional guidelines must be carried out to protect them.

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