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World Longest Ongoing Civil War

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World Longest Ongoing Civil War

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NEBRASKA COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Omaha North High Magnet 2022

University of Nebraska Lincoln



Abstract

Today, in a world where conflict arises from geopolitical and ethnics differences, Burma is a country that has faced significant impacts of civil conflict and is a country that is not often brought up. However, the conflict this country faces represents one of the most complicated and longest cases of ongoing ethnic conflict in a country. The civil conflict in Burma has negatively impacted the independence of the Karen community, caused mass human displacement and human right violations, as well as left an entire race of people to be without a place to go for future prosperity. Over the 70s years long conflict, there very little has been done with no resolution to resolve the ongoing conflict.

Key Points

- Myanmar’s army had been attacking civilian areas, destroying food stores, laying land mines in civilian locations, and shooting fleeing civilians, all of which are in violation of international law and have resulted in the displacement of tens of thousands of individuals and the deaths of many.
- For decades across Burma, human rights abuses, many of them committed by the Burmese army, or Tatmadaw, have been rampant. Common tools of state control include torture, rape, and forced conscription of child soldiers.
- Due to the annual threats to their lives and villages, many Karen must flee for their lives into the mountains and thick jungle.



Figure 1: “Karen displaced villagers take shelter in the jungle after following attacks by the junta.” Chance for burma to end ethnic conflict: TBBC. (n.d.). Retrieved April 8, 2022, from https://www2.irrawaddy.com/article.php?art_id=22317



Figure 2: “Karen IDPs fleeing a Burmese army attack.” Karen refugee testifies to Junta Crimes.” (n.d.). Retrieved April 8, 2022, from https://www2.irrawaddy.com/article.php?art_id=15526

Conclusion

The bitter experiences of Karen’s throughout history in Burma, especially during the Second World War, speaks to a larger lesson. Its taught us that as a nation, unless Karen people control a state of our own, Karen people will never experience a life of peace and decency, free from persecution and oppression. Karen people will never be allowed to work hard to grow and prosper. The Karen and their struggle for freedom continues; only time will tell the future of the Karen people and the future of those stuck in the refugee camps, but the future belongs to only those who fight for it. How many more years will the Karen people have to endure the tyrant from the Burmese?

Citation

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