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Constitutional Workshop N0 (7)
News Release

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The constitutional workshop N0 (7) initiated by the Burma Lawyers' Council (BLC) was held in the Thai-Burma border on 25 September, 2004. The people from the following organizations attended this workshop.

Karen National Union (KNU)	4	people
All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF)	2	
Students and Youth Congress of Burma (SYCB)	2	
All Arakan Students and Youth Congress (AASYC)	3	
Burma Media Watch (BMW)	6	
Burma Lawyers' Council (BLC)	11	
National Development Congress (NDC)	10	
National League for Democracy Liberated (NLD-LA)	5	

Total	43	people

Pado Mansha, General Secretary of the Karen National Union, presided over the workshop as the sitting president.

Ko Naw Khan from NDC discussed the topic of the deforestation of Kachin State and constitutional issues as follows:

- The deforestation of Kachin State is increasing after entering the ceasefire agreement between Kachin Independent Organization (KIO) and State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).
- Despite the existence of laws that address the environment, the corrupt authorities ignore these laws and invite Chinese logging companies to do tremendous cutting in the Kachin forests.
- We must take into consideration how to prescribe the provisions in any future constitution to preserve the environment.

U Maung Maung Teik from the ABSDF discussed the importance of the executive branch highlighting that executive branch should function under the principles of the rule of law with reference to the current practices of the ruling military junta in Burma. U Tint Swe from NLD-LA discussed about the NLD's boycotting of the sham National Convention sponsored by the SPDC, with an analysis that SPDC is holding the National Convention in order to obtain some form of legitimatization of its rule and that SPDC

should not tie the Convention to the pre-conceived framework of the (104) principals and 6 points of the Road Map.

Ko Thu Rein from BMW discussed about transitional justice issue while transforming the society from the rule of military dictatorship to democracy, highlighting important role of civil society organizations and the Medias. **Daw Khin Thida Htun** from the BLC raised the rule of law issue in connection with the constitutional background. She presented that in order to achieve the rule of law, the judiciary must be independent and three kinds of sovereign power: executive, legislative, and judicial power; must be exercised separately.

U Aung Htoo, General Secretary of the BLC, assessed all of the discussions on the whole. Pado Mansha, the president of the workshop, addressed the concluding speech and the workshop ended.