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## Former student activists debate approach towards democracy

**They were once comrades, if not close friends, with the same aim to abolish the one-party system that has been plaguing the country for years and to bring about a multi-party democratic system.**



Ko Aye Lwin (L) and Ko Moe Thee Zun

Ko Moe Thee Zun and Ko Aye Lwin were active student leaders during the 1988 nation-wide uprisings, and both later became the chairmen of the two of the biggest student political parties -- Democratic Party for New Society (DPNS) and the Students' Revolutionary Party for Democracy (SRPD).

But today, they hold very different views and approaches towards how the Burma could achieve democracy.

Ko Aye Lwin, who leads the newly-emerged group 88 Generation Students and Youth (Union of Myanmar) blames the National League for Democracy (NLD) -- the winners of the 1990 elections -- for the current political impasse. He refuses to criticise the military for the country's failures but says the current military's attitude towards pro-democracy forces has been shaped by the NLD's actions. He believes the cooperation with the military is the only way forward.

Ko Moe Thee Zun now lives in exile in the United States and is the leader of the Democratic Federation of Burma, an umbrella group of pro-democracy forces. He questions the sincerity of the military to bring about the democratic changes in the country. He asks Ko Aye Lwin why the military regime cannot allow the elected representatives to hold a parliament.

Ko Aye Lwin and Ko Moe Thee Zun debate their views on the BBC's Burma Perspectives Programme, moderated by U Kyaw Zan Tha.

You can listen to the programme here:

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So, what do you think. Who do you agree with. Is the cooperation with the military only way to the democratization in Burma, or is there other alternatives?

Name Surname\* Town Country Email Telephone\* 

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Your opinion 

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