



DONCASTER
SECONDARY COLLEGE

"EVERY ENDING IS A NEW BEGINNING..."

Imagine you have lost all the privileges afforded to you for being in this country. Imagine being under 24-hour surveillance, having no financial support, no internet connection, no access to education, and living in constant fear of losing someone you love every single day. What would you do? Well, this is exactly what the Burmese people including my close friends and families are facing right now, at this moment, but it's a horror many around the world, including in Australia, are unaware of.

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, I am a representative of Doncaster Secondary College for the International Student Public Speaking Competition 2021. Earlier this year on the first of February, Myanmar fell to the corruption of the Burmese military and since, has been trapped in a state of emergency. Every single day, civilians of Myanmar including young children are forced to suffer unimaginable human rights violations such as brutal murders, rapes, violation of human rights and illegal custodies. I want to talk to you all about this, for two reasons, firstly, because awareness is critical for change. Secondly, because I want to talk about the power of hope and the human spirit, in the face of such horrors.

Rather than giving in to the terrible situation, the Burmese people view this as an opportunity to fight against dictatorship and gain back the democracy that their country truly deserves. They are moving forward with a spark of hope that there are far better things ahead for them than what they are leaving behind. They consider that the sufferings they experience at the present time, will be worth it if they can achieve a better future. Witnessing such positivity and drive is inspirational at a time like this in our global history, where so many are struggling to make choices that are in the best interest of the whole community.

In Myanmar, some endings are easier to accept than others, some stories have torn my heart apart. For example, when I hear of the heroes that have risked and sacrificed their lives for an oppressed nation, I feel both empowered and saddened. This civil war story is not brought up to solely exemplify how critical it is to look out for the future during adversity, but to reiterate the ideology of optimism, so that we don't wake up in the morning and fixate on what we lost yesterday but reflect on what we have learnt and make tomorrow a better day.

My message to everyone here today is that every ending, no matter how much suffering is disguised, is always a door for new opportunities. My name is Berry, and I believe that every ending is a new beginning.

Berry EAIN

Time: 3 min 15 sec

International Student Public Speaking Competition