1. On 24.7.98 at 9:05 hours Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the General Secretary of the National League for Democracy and a Central Executive Committee Member peacefully and quietly were travelling to Bassein by car.

2. The purpose of this journey was to raise the morale of NLD parliamentary members and their families. Respected and honourable NLD members of parliament were being deliberately humiliated and subjected to provisions of law designed for habitual offenders committing the most despicable crimes imaginable. This mission is entirely in keeping with Burmese cultural practices and in fulfillment of their responsibility as leaders of the NLD.

3. The NLD and the General Secretary did not have the slightest intention of causing any disturbance when they set out on this peaceful mission. What happened on that journey is set out below as told by them.

(1) On 24-7-98, (19:05 hours) about 15 miles (24 kilometers) away, near Anyasu village the road was blocked by the authorities with barbed wire and security forces encircled the car. The next morning at about 10:40 a:m the car was lifted and pushed on to a near-by wooden bridge that crossed a stream.

(2) Wooden blocks were placed against the four wheels of the car by the authorities. One Dina car (No: 4 kagyi/9518) blocked the road at the head of the bridge which was replaced by another big car (No: pa/3614 TE-10) at about 11:30 a:m.

(3) In the evening at about 16:05 hours, Police Brigadier-General Aung Nwai and one Deputy arrived on the scene and tapped on the door of the car. Then he tried to open it by force in a rude manner. Unlike the authorities at Minhla town in Pegu Division and Pantanaw town in Irrawaddy Division, these people had no authority to use their discretion in making immediate decisions. Besides, because of their uncivil and rude behaviour, the General Secretary refused to open the doors of the car.
(4) Barbed wire rolls were placed behind the car that night at about 19:10 hours. But these barbed wire rolls were removed on 26.7.98 when the authorities brought reporters, some diplomats and military attaches to view the scene. The security forces also changed into civilian clothes for this viewing.

(5) On 25.7.98 at 8:33 hours the wooden blocks that were wedged to the car wheels on 24-7-98 were removed. So at 10:52 hours, as there was no barricade in the front, the car was started and while heading towards Bassein, the security forces came out and again blocked the road. Two minutes later (10:54) they pushed the car from the road back to the little wooden bridge.

(6) One security man purchased a container of pure water for the party but he was never seen again.

(7) Early 26.7.98 at about 6:52 hours when they started to drive towards Bassein they were prevented again. The security forces stretched barbed wire across the road and blocked their passage before they again pushed the car back on to the bridge (about 7:04 hours).

(8) At about 8:00 hours they tried to buy some water for drinking but the authorities prohibited them saying that they had "orders from higher up".

(9) At about 8:50 hours, Major Yan Naing from the Military Intelligence arrived and said "Aunty, where are you going?" The General Secretary replied, "We are going to the NLD elected representatives whose movements have been restricted and have had to sign bonds." She also said "Making out to the diplomats that these measures were taken because there was no security personnel was a big lie."

(10) At 12:07 the road was cleared of all barricades that had been placed there previously and the security men changed their uniforms for civilian clothes. Two security men in civilian clothes sat and waited at the opening of a small hut by the road where the car would drive by.

(11) A second request to purchase drinking water was made to the authorities but permission was refused. As there was no more water for drinking they had to collect the rain water with their umbrellas at about 13:30 hours.

(12) All food and water was exhausted by 26.7.98. The authorities would neither allow the members of the League to supply them with food and water nor did they supply the food themselves.
(13) On 27.7.98, Major Yan Naing came again and spoke to U Hla Pe, the Central Executive Committee member. He said "Uncle, you are old and you can achieve nothing by going on like this. You have had a good deal of experience in the political field, and there is much more to be done in future. I tell you this for your benefit." The General Secretary then responded by saying "Don't utter words with the intention of causing split."

(14) At 12:25 in the afternoon, Major Yan Naing came again and the conversation that took place was as follows:

Major Yan Naing" Big Sister and Uncle, the best thing for you is to return to Rangoon."

General Secretary" A public road can be used by everyone, but to prohibit a particular person from using it has no meaning".

Major Yan Naing" This action has been taken by the responsible area authority for purposes of security."

General Secretary" Security personnel are included here. Don't come and lie to us."

Major Yan Naing" Big Sister, the information that you have got is not true. There has been no arrest whatsoever in the Irrawaddy Division."

General Secretary." You may ask in-charge of the Irrawaddy Division who is here right now."

The Chairman of the organising committee then gave the names of the NLD M.Ps against whom action had been taken under the Movement Restriction Act.

Major Yan Naing" Do not talk to me about this. It is the action of the security authorities of the area."

General Secretary" The government that is in control is responsible for the unjust actions of its servants. There should be one law for all. Cannot the central government taken action and put right the wrongs done by the area commanders? The Central authorities should control the area commanders."

(15)28.7.98 (11:00 a.m) The General Secretary's personal physician Dr. Tin Myo Win came to attend to her. The Doctor found that there was no drinking water and for the first time, on his recommendation, permission was granted for the purchase of 3 containers of pure water for drinking.
Before returning, the doctor left five hundred kyats with the authorities to supply them with 5 containers of drinking water. When the General Secretary agreed to be attended by her physician, Major Yan Naing brought his camera men but she refused to submit herself to medical treatment in the presence of these people.

(16) Though Dr. Tin Myo Win had given money at about 10:00 in the morning, for five containers of water, the authorities delivered them only at 16:05 hours.

(17) On 29.7.98 at about 12 noon, Dr. Tin Myo Win was brought by the authorities to attend to them. The food and medicines and clothes that he had brought for the general secretary had to be left at the inspection gate of the Police Battalion No: 9 that was posted there. He could take her only some of the medicines which they approved. Dr. Pyone Ei Moe, the lady doctor was not permitted to accompany him but was herself subjected to a body search.

(18) At 17:00 hours, The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and a member of the Central Executive Committee went and saw the General Secretary and party. They were not allowed to take them the food and clothing that they bought. All had to be left at the gate. These things were given back to them on their return.

(19) A suggestion given by the SPDC to a CEC member through Major Thura has to be brought before all the Central Executive Committee members of the League. Therefore, a reply was given to Major Thura that it would be necessary for them to meet with the General Secretary and U Hla Pe to discuss the matter and come to a decision. Major Thura said that it would not be appropriate for all to go and gave permission for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one member only to see them. (This explains the reason for the visit to the barricaded place on the bridge.) After discussing the SPDC’s proposal. It was decided to put a counter-proposal to them and by a unanimous decision the Chairman took the responsibility to implement the terms of that decision.

(20) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a CEC member left the barricaded General Secretary and the party at 19:40 hours and at 21:00 hours arrived back at the house of U Lwin (CEC member). Before they could act on their decision, the authorities grabbed, seized and forcefully removed the General Secretary and her party from their vehicle, and took them back.

(21) It was because the General Secretary sent for the Chairman through a messenger that he and three others went to see her. She was not entrusted to their care by the authorities.
(22) This was how she was brought back. At night (about 20:10 hours), Major Thura (who had at one time been posted on security duty in her compound) with about 50 of his forces, arrived on the scene. There was a long line of cars already parked in readiness on the road.

(23) Ko Tun Myint, Ko Nyunt Shwe (NLD members) and U Hla Pe (Central Executive Committee member) were forcefully and physically seized and shoved into the motor vehicles that were standing by.

(24) At the same time, having been deprived of food and water, the exhausted and weak General Secretary was lying supine in the car. Major Thura and his party entered the car and using physical force seized her bodily, thus committing acts amounting to assault and battery. Without her consent they took her back to her residence. Without her consent or permission, they drove her private car back also.

(25) Major Thura's version given to U Than Tun (CEC member) on 30-7-98 (16:00 hours) was:- For about 15 to 20 minutes he requested Daw Aung San Suu Kyi but she said that she could give him only five minutes and that he was to go and ask U Than Tun in the morning. She kept counting the minutes do when five minutes was up he had no choice. He lifted her up and places two female medical nurses on either side of her. The soldiers drove this car and returned her to her home.

4. An assessment of the facts given above are as follows:-
(a) By committing acts of illegal obstruction and illegal capture and detention a deliberate situation has been created to bring about confrontation.
(b) Criminal acts including intimidation, battery and assault, and theft have been committed.
(c) Acts violating the provisions of Articles 3, 9, 13(1) and 25(1) of the Declaration of Human Rights relating to basic human rights of individuals have been committed.
(d) Refusing to let them proceed on their journey, cutting off all contact with their surroundings and environment and denying them access to food and drinking water amount to behaviour and actions endangering the lives of the General Secretary and her party. Then, when they were weak and exhausted, physical force was applied against them. If medical assistance had not been provided, the General Secretary could have lost her life.
(e) Previously on two occasions the General Secretary's life had been threatened. Once, on 9-11-96, a group of hooligans attacked and struck her car endangering her life while the security forces looked on and did nothing,
Again on 25-6-98 the General Secretary was hurt in a melee when a group of youths of the NLD were on their way to the reading session, the authorities blocked their passage and beat them up. Activities of the authorities jeopardising her life has occurred three times in all.

(f) The present operation was deliberately planned in advance.

(g) Though they proclaim that women are being protected, the fact is that the Noble Peace Prize Laureate, Democracy leader, General Secretary of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's life is being threatened by illegal activities.

These facts are categorically and explicitly set out for all to know and understand.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
August 3, 1998