National League for Democracy  
No: (97/B), West Shwegondine  
Bahan Township, Rangoon

Statement 96 (10/98)

1. The members of the Military Intelligence, without any justification whatsoever, have illegally arrested and held in custody and imprisoned NLD parliamentarians, NLD organising committee members from the states, divisions, townships, wards and villages, and other ordinary NLD members since the 27 and 28 May, 1998.

2. We have repeatedly reminded the authorities that it is the entire responsibility of the arresting military intelligence units to provide proper food, accommodation and medical attention for those they are holding illegally in their custody. Why are they still holding them if they are incapable of taking such responsibility? They must be released immediately and unconditionally.

3. Failure to fulfil this responsibility has resulted in the premature death of U Aung Min, NLD organising committee member of the North-East Township, Mandalay Division on the 21st of October, 1998 while in custody at Number 109 Military Battalion.

4. U Aung Min was 53 years old and was in charge of the Mandalay Division NLD office, Joint Secretary of the North-East Township, and Chairman of Maw-ra-ge-war Ward. He performed all his duties efficiently, loyally and with integrity. He was illegally arrested and taken into custody on the 6 September 1998. He had committed no offence whatsoever. Because of his passion for democracy and human rights he had no fear and acted with great courage and honesty. Acting in this manner does not constitute any offence. He was serving his country nobly.

5. He was buried on 23 October, 1998 at the Kyanikan cemetery. The funeral was attended by about 100 NLD members dressed appropriately in uniform. The family rejected whatever assistance was offered to them by the military intelligence.

6. U Aung Min became ill while in custody and refused medicines offered to him by the arresting authorities. He exercised his right to refuse their offer. Dr Htay Hlaing, another NLD member was his companion in custody and he requested medical treatment from him but the doctor was himself unwell and had no medical facilities to enable him to attend to his needs. U Aung Min's family has informed us that prior to his arrest, U Aung Min had no medical problems. For a healthy person to suddenly meet with his death within forty five days of arrest is an event that gives rise to suspicion.
7. The National League for Democracy hereby places on record its gratitude and pride for the loyal service rendered to the party by U Aung Min and his adherence to the democratic and human rights policies adopted by the party right up till his demise. We salute you.

8. This incident that has caused irreparable loss of an individual and suffering and sorrow to the family is deplorable and strongly denounced by the NLD. The NLD again gives notice to the authorities that there should be no repetition of such occurrences.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy