National League for Democracy  
No: (97/b) West Shwegondine Road  
Bahan, Rangoon  

STATEMENT 125 (12/98)

1. Examples as evidence of the persecution meted out to members of organising committees and ordinary members of the NLD by the military intelligence personnel are set out herein and published for all know.

(1) (a) Irrawaddy Division, West Bassein township- Commencing from 2 December, 1998, military intelligence groups combined with ward authorities called at the homes of NLD members with printed resignation forms and forcibly obtained signatures from them.

   (b) Also, one organising committee member was pressured to destroy the committee by the sacking of his school teacher wife from her position and by threatening that the education of their children was in jeopardy.

   (c) One organising committee member against whom action had been taken under Section 5(j) of the 1950 Emergency provisions law was pressured and advised to resign.

   (d) However, all the organising committee members have firmly resisted the pressure and have said that they cannot resign, nor will they dissolve the committee for which we commend and honour them.

(2)(a) Irrawaddy Division, Danubyu township, Mukon village in Sankin sub-township. On 10 December 1998, U Tin Ohn, the chairman of the village administrative unit forced the members of the NLD organising committee to put their signatures to prepared resignation forms.

   (b) By use of force and in the same manner, resignations of NLD members were obtained from -

      (11) Danubyu township, Kyauktaing village tract
      (22) villages in the Molamyaing-gyoon township.

      (33) Daedaye township, Kyone Kyat Payagi-Kone village-tract where U Shwe Lin, the man in authority forced the said resignations.

      (44) Daedaye township, Kyonedachaung village-tract where U Aye Thoung, the chairman of the administrative unit forced the said resignations.

(3) In all of the above areas the illegal method and use of coercion and intimidation was of the same pattern. The form used contained blanks following the words 'name', 'registration number', 'father's name', 'address', 'occupation', which had to filled in. At the bottom, the following words "I am suffering from ill health and have no inclination to continue working in the NLD and ask that I be permitted to resign without reservation from the organisation." had to be written and signed. (Note - It is not possible for every individual to have been suffering from ill-health at the same day and the same time.)

(4) (a) Irrawaddy Division, Wakema township, sabayoe village- In this area, Military Intelligence personnel, members to the police force, and village authorities together illegally forced resignation of NLD members.

   (b) In Shwelaung sub-township of this township NLD members faced the threat of having their children expelled from the schools.
(5) (a) Magwe Division, Chauk Township- Here the authorities are shamelessly enticing resignations from NLD members by promising to hold special ceremonies for the occasion.

(b) A courageous resolution was taken by the NLD members that no matter how they are threatened there would be no resignations, signboards would not be taken down nor would they allow any black mark to lower their prestige and honour.

(c) Chauk township, Pwintpyu township, Sinpyukyoon township, Salin township, Say-toke-ta-ya township- NLD parliamentarians-elect in all of these areas resolved not to resign from their positions or from membership of the NLD.

(d) Chauk township- Because of rising costs the workers who form the manistay of this area cannot balance their budget and their living, health and social welfare conditions are deteriorating.

(c) Our information is that there are others whose moral standards have deteriorated due to general hardships.

(6). Mon State, Kyaikhto township- In relation to the operation of the Military Intelligence units on 22 November 1998 to destroy NLD branches in this area, we publish what happened for all to know.

(a) Every member of the organising committee in this township with the exception of the joint secretary, is living in fear of the Military Intelligence.

(b) When the Deputy Chairman of the organising committee was questioned by the Military intelligence officers why the Township NLD Organising Committee was being extinguished he answered that he did not know. No further questions were asked though he was pressured and the interrogation was postponed for a video recording arranged for 10 December 1998.

(7) Pressure is being applied by the Military Intelligence units to force the removal of signboards of NLD organising committee in Mandalay Division by intimidating the persons concerned.

(8) (a) Sagaing Division, Salingyi township- Between the 5th and the 8th of December 1998, the District Chairman of the Multi party Elections Commission here summoned the members of the NLD organising committee members and threatened them as follows:-

"What more can your party do to us? They cannot do anything. They will not succeed in doing anything"
"We will not urge you to resign or not to resign from your party. It is still a legitimate party."
"When the party is declared an illegal organisation, action will be taken against you."
"The penalty will be between 2 to 3 Years"
"The building belonging to the party will be confiscated"
"If you do not listen to our words, you will face difficulties."
"When the task is given, even a father cannot be spared. It is compelling"

(note - one can assess the mentality of the speaker)
"Give us the figures of your membership. There will be less work is there are no numbers."
"You are obligated to give us the number (the strength) of you membership. you will not take the bananas that are offered now, but you will be there when the stick is applied. No matter what government is in power, it is compulsory that statistics be given"
"The people will not be behind you always. The people are opportunists."
"If you resign from the party you have to inform NLD central office of your
resignation yourself."
" Now you can resign individually or en block. The deadline for resignation is the 8th December 1998.

(b) Those committee members who declared that they will continue in the NLD have given us this information.

(9) (a) Our respective branches in the wards and village-tracts of Mandalay Division, Meikthila township have n information about resignation letters from their areas.

(b) We have been informed about the arrest on 6 September 1998 of one member of the organising committee from Sagaing township, Mandalay division. At about 12 midnight, U Myint Thein and U Kyaw Nyein from the MIS, U Soe Win, Officer in charge of the Police Station, his deputy U Myo Tin Khaing, Sergeant U Tun Hlaing. U Htay Saung and his troops, together with the ward administrative chairman U Min Thu, and members U Maung Lay and U Kan Nyunt, and members of the patrol unit committed the criminal offence of trespass and damaged and destroyed the entrance gates and doors, fence, and office buildings of the NLD. They had no search warrants or arrest for the search that was conducted.

(c) Illegal pressure was applied to NLD members from the villages of Taungpyonegyi, Luntaung, Sa-lay, and Saedawgyi in the township of Madayar, Mandalay Division, and they were coerced and forced to resign.

(d) Mandalay Division, Kanma township - NLD members in this township were made to sign on already prepared forms (example annexed) which had to be forwarded to the authorities.

(10) Rangoon Division, Thaketa township - The NLD organising committee members were arrested and kept in detention at Ye-mon military outpost, Rangoon Division, Hlegu township. Some of the members wrote to the authorities to release them from this illegal detention. This letter was intercepted by the MI personnel and the authors of the letter were falsely accused and as a result, U Zaw Min( Advocate of the Central Court and Township NLD Secretary) and organising committee member U Than Htut Shane were sent to the Insein Jail while U Myint Aye and U Shwe Baw were sent to Ye-Kyi- Aing, MI outpost at Mingaladon. These are outright illegal actions.

2. The above actions are vehemently condemned and those illegally arrested must be immediately and unconditionally released.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy
22 December 1998.

ANNEXURE

To
Chairman
Township Multiparty General Elections Commission
Kanma Town

Chairman
National League for Democracy
Rangoon

Date.........................1998

Subject- Letter giving information of my voluntary resignation from the party.

I, U/ Daw......................whose father
is.................................
aged............................, National Registration number
.....................
party registration
number...........................................................
residing
at.................................................................
...........
having no inclination to continue my activities in the National League for Democracy hereby inform you that I will be voluntarily resigning my membership with effect from...............................................

(U/ Daw..............)

copy
Commanding officer, No (11) MI unit, Padaung
Chairman, Township SPDC, Kanma.
Commanding officer, Township Police Force, Kanma.
Commander, No (11) MI unit, Kanma sub-unit, Kanma
Office copy

ADDENDUM TO STATEMENT 125

1.(a) Three members of the organising committee in Mandalay Division, Wundwin township were summoned to the township branch of the Multiparty General Elections Commission and illegally given the following ultimatum:-
"When the NLD is declared an illegal organisation, you will be sent to jail"
"You are required to resign from the party now"
(b) Because the respective members failed to resign, they were again summoned of the 5th and 8th December 1998 and threatened.
(c) One of the three members did not respond to the summons so the Secretary of the
Township administrative authority threatened to issue a warrant for his arrest. 

(d) On 3 December 1998, the chairman of the Township organising committee who had already resigned, was again threatened by the MIS and was told that he had to inform the NLD Central office himself of the resignation. He declined to do so.

(e) Pressure is being applied to NLD members in village-tracts and wards of the Wundwin township area to resign from the party. They are being summoned by the authorities and forcefully made to resign by threats that "when the NLD is declared an illegal organisation, party members will be imprisoned."

2. The Central Executive Committee of the National League for Democracy honours and applauds the members who have resisted and not caved in to the pressure and illegal methods of the authorities to obtain their resignations but have been strong in their determination to abide by the principles of the party for the attainment of democracy and human rights.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy
22 December 1998.