National League for Democracy  
No. (97/B), West Shwegondine Road  
Bahan, Rangoon  

Statement No. 38 (3/99)  

Contents of letter dated 23 February 1999 from the Chairman, National League for Democracy to the Chairman of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council is reproduced and published for the information of all.  

START  

Subject- Illegal action by the authorities against a member of NLD organising committee and the unlawful harassment and obstructing to prevent the family from earning an income.  

1. U Kyaw San, NLD organising committee member for Prome Township was arrested by the power-holding authorities for distributing NLD Statement Number 4(1/99) dated 6 January 1999, and our information is that they are planning to proceed against him unjustly.  

2. The Statements issued by the NLD are legitimate publications and as a legal activity of a lawfully constituted organisation is permitted under the law. To take action against a person for distribution of a legal publication is extremely unjust, bullying, and browbeating behaviour. Therefore, we emphatically ask for his immediate release.  

3. More than that, U Kyaw San and his family members earn their livelihood by fortune-telling in the Pagoda precincts. Since the 8 February, the place has been shut down and their means of livelihood has been terminated. This illegal action (arbitrarily depriving a person of his means of livelihood) against family members who are not in any way connected with U Kyaw San's political activity is harsh and inhuman. We have also heard that from the date of his arrest (22 January 1999) to this date U Kyaw San has been denied permission to have a bath and as a result is in a state of worry and depression.  

4. We object and protest these inhuman and despicable behaviour and emphasise the request to refrain from denying families the right to continue with their legitimate means of livelihood. "  

END  

Central Executive Committee  
National League for Democracy  

Rangoon  
5 March 1999