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

STATEMENT 65 (5/99) (translation) 

1. Information received is that every individual of every household in Bogalay township, is required to give forced labour for the construction of a road linking Paechaung and Kadone Ka-ne villages in Bogalay township, Irrawaddy Division.  

2. The car road will be 32 miles long. It will involves crossing six river tributaries with a span of approximately 600 feet, five chaungs (big creeks) with that of approximately 200 feet, and ten small streams. This road is to be imposing and massively constructed.  

3. The residents of the town, villages and wards have been given notice that they will have to give personal or substitute labour.  

4. Substitute labour will cost a household between five to ten thousand kyats. The road will cut across jungles and forests and mangrove swamps. Water under the surface is salty and drinking water is difficult to obtain. Road construction will be most arduous. Moreover, it being the beginning of the rainy season, the cultivators need to be working on their fields. Those who live in the towns have to work to live from day to day. A lot of them sell their petty wares as hawkers (carrying goods on their heads or carting them around). In no way can these people give their own labour or pay someone else as a substitute.  

5. Our information is that this road has not been planned by the Central or Divisional PDC, but has been initiated by Sayadaw U Kawlattha assisted by the army and the township authorities. The reason given is to facilitate pilgrims to reach the site where the sayadaw has constructed the One Thousand Gangaw Pagoda. This car road is not really needed because it is a day's journey by waterway to and from Bogalay town to Kadone Ka-ne village.  

6. U Aung Khin Bo and U Aung Myint (Chairman and member of the township NLD organising committee) who reported these circumstances to us have been illegally arrested and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment by those who hold power. This action is downright unjustifiable. They were only performing their duty as required by the rules and regulations of a legally constituted political party. This is a travesty and miscarriage of justice.  

7. We vehemently denounce such unfair inequitable practices.  

Central Executive Committee  
National League for Democracy  

11 May 1999.