1. Kyats 2000/- per household was demanded from all the villages in the district allegedly as labour costs for the road construction on the embankment connecting the villages of Kin and Pu-kun in Da-nu-byu township, Irrawaddy division. Our information is that the first payment was in October/November.

2. Another demand of Kyats 700/- per household was made later allegedly for the "Pan-ta" embankment in Tha-byu administrative unit of the same township.

3. Most of the villagers are living in very stringent circumstances with no spare cash. To meet the demand, money had to be borrowed, goods sold or pawned. Our information is that 27 individuals including Ko Sein Win, Ko Thei Thei, Ko Pe Kyei had nothing whatsoever to pawn or sell and were just not able to pay.

4. For this they were arrested, imprisoned and beaten up at the Tha-byu police station by Lance Corporal Thet Maung and his group.

5. Friends and relatives of some of the 27 offered to meet the demand on their behalf but this was not accepted. They were released only when payment in full for all was received.

6. These extortionate charges and brutal beating and arrests of the poor and unfortunate as ransom are practices that we vehemently denounce.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
12 July 1999.