

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

Statement 7 (1/00) (translation)

1. Daw Khin Hnin Kyi, the Youth Wing organizer of the NLD Township Organising Committee of Kalewa town in Sagaing Division was pressured and illegally coerced to resign from her position. This resulted in the break-up of her marriage.
2. She married U Soe Myint (head of the Township Development Workers) in 1993 and after the birth of a daughter who is now 3 years old had to struggle to make a living.
3. On 12 November 1999, she was summoned to attend at the office of the Ward PDC (Ward 1, Kalewa) by the chairman U Hla Tin, but was unable to comply because of ill health. Subsequently, U Hla Tin went to her house and pressured her to sign a form of resignation from the NLD with the threat that failure to do so could have dire consequences for her husband who was in the Township Development Service. That it could even result in losing his job.
4. On 15 November, 1999 at about 6 o'clock, one U Aung Mya Thein, officer in charge of the Town Development visited the house and asked U Soe Myint to take a walk with him and then said " Can you not get your wife to resign from the NLD? It will effect your job. Get her to resign. An offensive is to be mounted against the NLD next month."
5. On the same day at about 11 o'clock, U Aung Mya Thein called Daw Khin Hnin Kyi to his office and pressured her to sign the resignation form giving her an ultimatum that failure to do so would effect her husband's job and that he could even be sacked and that this was not known to the division. However, she explained that her husband was not involved in anyway with the NLD and that she could not resign because of her firm convictions and commitments. U Soe Myint was most concerned about his job and the future of his daughter so they decided finally to part and gave this undertaking to the officer.
6. At 20:30 hours on 23 November 1999, Head clerk U Hla Myint gave this message from the officer U Aung Myat Thein to U Soe Myint :- "If your wife will not resign from the NLD there will be no need for you to attend work tomorrow." On 24 November 1999, the couple went before the Township Judge U Phyo Phyo and signed a divorce deed.
7. A proper analysis of the events shows clearly that in Burma, there is no personal or political freedom. The right to exercise freely one's culture and traditions and religion is denied. Deliberately creating situations to break up the family is not something that should be encouraged. Those who are responsible must be condemned not only as cunning and utterly despicable but also as wrong doers exercising extremely bullying tactics.
8. We regard with horror and loathing the high handed actions of those who have caused the breakdown in matrimonial affairs.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
17 January 2000