

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

Statement 48 (4/00) (translation)

1. Since the 27 September 1988, the National League for Democracy as a legally constituted political organization has been engaged in activities which must be deemed to be valid.
2. The Youth Wing was formed shortly after the establishment of the party which gained momentum about the middle of 1999.
3. Presently under the supervision of the party's Deputy Chairman, the General Secretary and the Chairman, Rangoon Division, youth groups have been active in the Rangoon Division at the townships of Dagon Myothit , Kyemyindine and Mingaladon. Their activities have in no way been detrimental to the peace and stability of the regions where they operate. They have been engaged in the legal activities of the party peacefully and quietly.
4. Despite this, on 12 April, 2000, with undue force NLD youth members were arrested by the authorities for fulfilling their responsibilities and duties as members of the organisation. The overbearing military authorities carried out these illegal arrests stealthily in the middle of the night treating them like hardened criminals. In so doing, the military arnarshins (despots) have acted in contravention of the provisions of Articles 5, 9, 18, 19 and 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Burma is a party.
5. A total of 28 persons were arrested as listed below:-
 - In Dagon Myothit township- A female member of the organising committee, (NLD office building owner) and 8 other youths.
 - In Kyemyindine township - Township chairman and deputy chairman and 12 youths.
 - In Mingaladon township - The secretary and joint secretary, member and owner of the office building, 2 members of the womens group and 9 youths.
 - South Okkalapa township - Chairman of the organizing committee.
6. The action of the military in conducting these illegal arrests at this time reflects their insensitive and malafide motives because Thingyan is the season when most Burmese Buddhists devote time and activities (religious and cultural) observing the precepts of the Lord Buddha.
7. Because of the deep faith in democracy and human rights a courageous father from Kyemyindine township took his son to the authorities and confronted them. All democracy loving people salute that father and son.
8. The Military arnarshins (despots) are daily committing acts that violate human rights. Yet at the 56th session of the Human Rights Convention currently being held in Geneva, their representatives have blatantly made false statements that members are resigning voluntarily because the people have lost confidence in the NLD.

9. Since 1988 when the military seized power, no public meeting can be held without their consent or participation. Therefore, it is visibly manifest that the statement they make regarding voluntary resignations and demonstrations is the biggest and blackest lie. Should it be true that the people have really lost confidence, will there be any need to surreptitiously arrest citizens at a time when religious activities plays such a predominant role in the lives of the Buddhist people?
10. In making such glaringly false statements at the Human Rights Convention, the military authorities are only exposing their guilt as offenders against their own people. This is a conclusion that can be reached without stretching the imagination at all.
11. Notwithstanding all the lies and illegal persecutions that are being perpetrated, the National League for Democracy, a legally constituted political party, will steadfastly continue in its endeavors and original policy to work for the restoration of democracy and human rights which they swore they would do at the very start.
12. We now welcome Mr. Razzali Ismail, the UN special envoy, because we want him to witness himself and tell the whole world how the military despots are persecuting and illegally imprisoning the National League for Democracy (a legally constituted political party) which overwhelmingly won the support of the nation in the 1990 general elections.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
16 April 2000