

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

Statement 49 (4/00) (translation)

1. Six members of the NLD organising committee in the Magwe Division, Aunglan Township Branch and other ordinary members peacefully celebrated the 55th anniversary of Resistance Day on 27 March 2000 at its branch office. The six organising committee members were the Chairman U Htoon Kyaw, Deputy Chairman U Kyi Nyunt, Joint Secretary U Sein Maung, U Kyaw Hla, U Nyan Paing and Daw Waing Than (owner of the building in which the office operates).
2. There is no justification for the authorities to take action against citizens who peacefully and appropriately commemorate important and significant days in our national history e.g. Independence Day, Union Day, Resistance Day, Martyrs Day etc. In fact, it is the duty of the authorities to encourage and facilitate the commemoration of such events to awaken the national spirit.
3. At about 14:30 hours on the following day (28 March 2000), the Police Superintendent of the Township, some members of the Police force, Ward PDC members, Members of the Fire Brigade arrived at the NLD township branch office in three cars and claimed that they had to do some interrogation. They took pictures of the building (inside and outside), seized office papers and conducted interrogations individually from 15:30 hours right up to midnight we have been informed.
4. In the afternoon of the next day (29.3.00), Chairman U Htoon Kyaw was brought to the office in a jeep by the authorities. U Tin Aung and U Shwe Kyaw (members of the Sanpya ward PDC ) were also taken along. One U Tint Swe, bicycle repair shop owner in the vicinity opened the door after forcibly smashing the lock.
5. The office room was then thoroughly searched and everything except two pictures of Bogyoke Aung San was taken away. The same evening at about 16:00 hours, Daw Waing Than was rearrested and all 6 (including U Htoon Kyaw). They were charged and remanded under Section 188 of the Penal Code. The trial was on on 31 March 2000 where the Township Magistrate sentenced all six of them (U Htoon Kyaw, U Kyi Nyunt, U Sein Maung, U Sein Hla, U Nyan Paing and Daw Waing Than) to each suffer 6 months imprisonment.
6. We have also learnt that after such sentencing the premises was again broken into and everything was removed and taken away including the signboard and flag.
7. The actions of the authorities of Aunglan township are outrageous, overbearing and demonstrates a flagrant abuse of power which we vehemently denounce and declare publicly that all the individuals who participated in this abuse of power will be individually held responsible for whatever consequences that follow.

Central Executive Committee  
National League for Democracy  
Rangoon  
17 April 2000