

NLD Statement 78/2000:

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

Statement 78(6/00) (translation)

- 1 We have information that the township authorities arrested the Magwe Division, Taungdwingyi township NLD executive committee and 39 members in the early morning (2:00 a.m.) of May 1, 2000. On the 10th May, 2000, the Township Organising Committee Chairman (U Mya Saing), the Secretary (U Tin Win), the remaining five executive committee members and one member of the village organising committee (totaling 8) were all sentenced to suffer imprisonment for 8 years each (7 years on one count and 1 year on another)
2. We have also heard that 25 of the remaining members (innocent young men and women who had been arrested at the same time as the above 8 who were sentenced) were sent to the Thayet prison on 11 May, 2000
3. The prison authorities there cruelly treated them. Odoriferous rice and boiled leaves was impossible to eat. They were crowded into filthy and stinking rooms. Waste matter was never removed and they were never allowed to bathe. All this effected their health but no medical attention was given to them. No family visitation was allowed. This cruel persecution went on from the 12th to the 19th. In addition to this lack of compassion for one's fellowmen, they were beaten and subjected to severe harassment and physical and mental torture.
4. On the 19th, the parents and relatives of the youths were summoned to, the office of the Taungdwingyi PDC and were threatened with severe action if they did not prevent their children from associating with the activities of the NLD. They had to agree to take full responsibility for their children. These parents had to sign papers not knowing what or why. Only then the children were released, we are told.
5. The 8 members of the Taungdwingyi Branch who are serving sentences in the Thayetmyo jail are receiving the harshest treatment, especially the Chairman, U Mya Saing who is suffering from head injuries because of the beatings.
6. It is very obvious that the authorities are disconcerted because the Taungdwingyi NLD Organising Committee peacefully continued their political activities. They have resorted to ruthless illegal and overbearing misuse of authority void of natural human compassion for one's fellowmen. We vigorously condemn these illegal tactics and seriously warn that those responsible authorities will be made accountable for their actions.

Central Executive Committee  
National League for Democracy

Rangoon  
1 June 2000