

NLD Statement 88/2000:

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

Statement 88 (6/00) (translation)

1. The NLD Rangoon Division, Bahan Township organizing committee chairman and his family have been living in rented quarters on Kyaik-ka-san Road, Kya-kwethit ward, Tamwe township since May 1999 is the information that we have.
2. The ward authority requirement (under what law is not known) is that tenants report themselves as guests once a month and this they did ever since they took up residence in the ward.
3. On the 21 May 2000, at about 2200 hours, the Ward Authority Chairman and his associates (appointees of the military rulers) went to their residence and seized the "guest book" under what provision of law is not known. The next day (22 May), the ward authority would not accept the "overnight guest" report they made directed them to see the township authority. Because their report for that night was not accepted, they had to disperse and sleep at the homes of different relatives. They were very aware that they could be arrested and unjustly punished if this "overnight guest" reporting was infringed.
4. The next day (23 May) they went to the Township authority office where they were able to see the Secretary only and were told to return to the ward and settle the matter there. The response they got from the ward authority was that according to the scheme, "overnight guest" report could not be accepted as yet. No information was given about the "scheme". It could be an oral "scheme".
5. Other tenants living in the locality were not refused permission to report. Their weekly reports were permitted so the wife questioned the local authority on the matter. She explained that only her husband was involved in politics and the rest of the household had no involvement therefore she asked that she and her children be allowed to report and continue residing in the area. She was refused. This is a flagrant abuse of power - denying innocent people, fellow citizens the right to spend a peaceful night at their usual place of residence. If people of the country have to abide by such "oral laws" the future is surely doomed.
6. This family consists of 7 members including one elderly mother who is over 90. Because they have been denied a document recognizing their status as tenants even though in reality they are not "overnight guests", they have been and continue to be subjected to much inconvenience. This is not just one day or one night of inconvenience, but has continued this way since the 22 May and any human being must realize the anxiety and despair that is experienced in such situations. The kindred spirit of compassion has vanished completely. It is extremely distressing to be in this situation where one cannot perform one's daily spiritual and social rites as Burmese Buddhist people.
7. There is no other country in the world where parents, spouses and children of politicians are penalized so despicably as is being done to NLD members who voluntarily get involved in politics. Measures taken against them are calculated to result in maximum distress in every sphere of their lives including health, wealth, education, religion and social. These evil forces are working throughout every level of the government and there appears to be no hope for the country. We urge for a turn around immediately. This unscrupulous and relentless illegal persecution of families should be stopped and for such purpose necessary orders and action be taken at once.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
14 June 2000