

NLD Statement 91/2000:

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

Statement 91 (6/00) (translation)

1. The 266 Battalion in Hakka township of the Chin State had a company encamped in Har-phe village. On 23 March 1999 it was moved to Wunthu village, 15 miles away. The villagers from Wunthu and its vicinity (30 villages in all) had to provide not only "forced labour" for the construction of the new site, but also bear the cost of such transfer. Our information is that they were paid nothing for their labour. All expenses were out of their own pockets. They could not attend to their own cultivation in time and suffered great loss.
2. From information received we believe that Kyats 15 lakhs was allotted for the construction of the 15-mile road from the old site to the new. However, the villagers from the 30 villages who were forced to do the road building received nothing whatsoever for the labour which they were forced to give day and night in order to complete the construction within one month. Because of this, the villagers have been reduced to poverty and destitution mentally and physically.
3. We have been informed about the overbearing way in which the Military Intelligence has browbeaten the NLD State and Township Organising Committee members in the Chin State. Since the 2 August 1998 to this date in the year 2000 they have been forbidden to travel out of their hometowns and villages and their household census lists and national registration cards have been confiscated.
4. The pressure and persecution has increased now and many obstacles are placed to destroy their social and economic well being. The latest information received is that the State and Township authorities and the military intelligence have summoned all NLD members and given them notice to resign from the NLD by the end of May failing which action would be taken against them under the law which would restrict their travel under a bond. Since their travel has been restricted since 1998, these individuals cannot endure the situation any longer we hear.
5. The above activities reveal how the regional authorities including the military intelligence are void of all compassion for citizens who are residing in villages and rural areas. They are looking at their own interests and exploiting the poor relentlessly. The Chin State has always been a peaceful and stable state from early times but in this period of government by the military dictators (anashins) some have resorted to armed conflict destroying the unity and stability of the country. Therefore, we ask that these unlawful actions and deeds that can have dire consequences be immediately halted. We condemn the unlawful exploitations.

Central Executive Committee  
National League for Democracy

Rangoon  
21 June 2000.