

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

Statement 93 (6/00) (translation)

1. On 31 May, 2000, the authorities staged a mass meeting in the Gwa town hall with a group of people who were forced and pressured to bring down U Nyi Pu, NLD MP elect of Gwa township, Arakan State.

2. This meeting was organized and stage-managed by the Military Intelligence and the authorities at every level in the township administrative department, the police department, the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the Fire Brigade and the Red Cross Association. They visited every house in the wards and villages, threatening, coercing, cajoling and pressuring the people to put their signatures to papers. The outlying villages were visited ten days prior to the meeting while those households in the town were visited one day ahead. They were told that attendance at the meeting was compulsory. Failure to attend would result in punishment.

3. Those who asked questions were treated like enemies. When Daw Win Kyi (U Nyi Pu's wife) refused to sign the paper, the Ward headman said "you will not be arrested now because your child is very young, but as soon as he is old enough we will immediately arrest and imprison you."

4. The personalities who stage managed the function were:-

Chairman -U Ba Thein (Gwa town)

Master of Ceremonies - U Ko Lay (Tamangone village Primary school headmaster).

Speakers to the resolution - U Soe Win (Tamangone village)

U Tin Aye (A-le-ywa)

U Win Pe (A-le-ywa)

U Han Mya (Gwa town)

Seconder - U Tin Myint (Ya-hine-koo-doke village)

We have been informed that all of the above are members of the State National Unity Party.

5. The speeches given at that meeting were unrestrained, void of embarrassment by feelings of respect or delicacy. Abusive, scathing and violent remarks to hurt the MP elect and the leaders of the NLD caused some of the audience to shudder and squirm. Attempts to walk out caused a disturbance because the doors were locked and guarded by the MI, the police, USDA , Fire Brigade and Red Cross members who hurled abuse at them.

6. There are no provisions in law for the holding of such meetings through use of force, threats and intimidation to bring down an MP elect and to disparage, condemn and discredit a legally instituted political party and its leaders. Those people who have organized and stage-managed this function and those who played a part in the performances are indeed offenders of the law. We declare them as wrongdoers, transgressors of the law and we condemn them.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
23 June 2000

