

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

Statement 95 (6/00) (translation)

1. On the night of the 28 May 2000, a group of thugs crept into the compound of the NLD office situated on Min Road, Min Ward, Sagaing town, in Sagaing Division and destroyed the NLD (Sagaing Division) and (Sagaing Township) signboards.
2. U Kyi Htay, owner of the said premises is the Deputy chairman of the Township Organising Committee. At about 5:30 a.m. the next morning (29 May 2000) he noticed that the signboards were missing so he went to the front of the office and discovered that the posts and planks to which the signboards had been attached strewn on the main road in front. On further examination he arrived at the conclusion that the signboards had been uprooted from the ground manually and taken outside on the road and broken into pieces. The zinc sheets were stolen. Near the base where the posts for the signboards had been embedded he found a five-foot long cross-cut saw. Evidently, the intention was to saw across the base of the posts if they could not be uprooted. Military boot prints were left on the wet soil in the signboard area. It had rained that night.
3. U Kyi Htay wanted justice and the rule of law to prevail so he went to the office of the local PDC and reported the matter. U Aung Sway (Chairman, NLD township committee) and U Maung Maung (Joint Secretary) went to the police station and lodged a complaint. The Deputy Superintendent of the Security forces and one constable visited the scene of crime and apart from taking five photographs (paid for by the NLD) and making a record, nothing was done. No assistance of any kind was given.
4. When the township members were arranging to replace the signboard, the authorities forbade them to do so referring to a directive by the Divisional PDC (No.111/ admin/1/ta-wa-ta) dated 19 February 1989. They also banned all the signboard writers from doing the job. The said directive is irrelevant because it relates to a time period for signboards to be erected in wards and villages as per an agreement that was reached between the Elections Commission and the NLD. The NLD is a legally instituted political party that has complied with all the provisions of the Political Parties Registration Law as issued by the Elections Commission. It has the right to form branches in the States, Divisions, Townships. Wards and villages, the rights to erect and hang signboards and fly their flag. Therefore, it now has the right to replace the signboard that was stolen and destroyed. The more it is hassled, the more sympathy it will receive from the masses. The culprits of this illegal destruction and theft must be dealt with according to law so that justice will be restored by the authorities who are constantly shouting out about "rule of law". We vehemently condemn these base, vile, despicable activities.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
28 June 2000.