

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

Statement 97 (6/00) (translation)

Note - To be read with Statement 69 (5/00) dated 2 May 2000

The majority of the NLD members of parliament who have been forcibly and illegally incarcerated demonstrated their disapproval of the actions of the military by legally staging a hunger strike. These members of parliament are respectable persons who were elected in free and fair elections by the people and entrusted with state power, which according to democratic principles reposes in the people.

The said persons have been illegally incarcerated from the 6th September 1998 to date while the military dictators deceitfully announce that they are in "guest houses" and "discussion are being held."

The demands by the distinguished members of parliament are reiterated below:-

1. That every honorable Member of Parliament arrested and held in custody illegally since 6 September 1998 be immediately and unconditionally released.
2. That every member of the NLD Youth Wing and NLD organising committee members illegally arrested and incarcerated since the 12 April 2000 be immediately and unconditionally released.
3. That the 1961 Habitual Offenders Act be abolished and all those NLD members whose movements have been restricted as per that Act be immediately relieved from the terms under which they have been held.
4. That every political prisoner suffering imprisonment since 1988 be immediately and unconditionally released.
5. That all political parties be allowed to function and operate according to democratic principles.

We have been informed about the brutal response by the military dictators and the military intelligence to the legitimate demands of the hunger strikers. These responses were as follows:-

1. Rude interrogations conducted to solicit who instigated the strike.
2. Those who refused to respond to the question were told " Since you all are respectable men we are treating you with deference but if you refuse to give us the information we will resort to other methods". These honorable representatives of the people were then transferred to other military outposts and were given the ultimatum that "other methods would be applied".

Our information is that after they has been interrogated by the military intelligence personnel, some were returned to the original camps while others were transferred to the military camps in regions infested with poisonous snakes and centipedes.

We issue this warning to those who authorized the military intelligence and the personnel from that department who conducted the interrogations that they will be held wholly responsible if the lives of these parliamentarians are endangered because of the very inferior food that was provided and the dangerous locality to which they were taken.

Central Executive Committee  
National League for Democracy

Rangoon  
29 June 2000