

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

Statement 98 (6/00) (translation)

On 6 September 1999 at about 15:00 hours, the military intelligence illegally and forcibly captured and took Ko Thein Lwin, an NLD Youth Wing member accusing him of being involved in the 9999 operation. There was no substantial evidence. He was deliberately victimized.

The bloody attack and capture of an innocent man was performed in a public arena by a force of 25 consisting of military intelligence, ward authorities (lackeys of the military dictators), USDA members (supposed to be non-political, but slaves of the military dictators). Ko Thein Lwin was beaten and bruised and his hands behind his back were doubly handcuffed.

This illegal attack, capture and arrest was followed by his incarceration at the Military Intelligence Office of the Navy (2) where he was mercilessly tortured and interrogated.

At this place he was thrown into a cell which was not big enough for a person to stretch out and sleep. Both hands were placed behind his back and handcuffed for two whole days. Interrogation was conducted at night while his eyes were covered and hands doubly handcuffed behind his back. His interrogators were drunk and rowdy. He was made to stay on his knees then his ribs were touched by hands followed by kicks to that area repeatedly. Other areas of his body were kicked and beaten. When Ko Thein Lwin could not withstand the blows and kicks he fell to the concrete floor. Then he was kicked in the face and forced to a sitting position but the kicking and the blows to his face and head did not cease.

When he screamed out in agony because hard sticks placed between the fingers were squeezed and pressed into his flesh while the hands were held in double handcuffs, he heard his tormentors being ordered "Just carry on, it doesn't matter if this fellow dies."

When Ko Thein Lwin pleaded for his hands to be placed in front rather than behind he was mocked and probed with a wooden stick and greater pressure and repeated beatings were applied to the hands.

His shirt was removed and hot candle wax was dropped on his back. This form of torture went on continuously for 15 days while he was held at the Navy Military Intelligence center.

In addition to all the torture his bed was the concrete floor and the only clothes he had was what he was wearing at the time of capture. This caused his temperature to rise and his inability to walk.

He was transferred to the Special Ward in Insein jail on the 21st September 1999. From there he was taken with two other political prisoners to another place and held there for three weeks. All were covered with hoods when they were being removed. We have now been informed that it was MI 26 personnel that removed them. During this three weeks period the International Confederation of Red Cross (ICRC) visited the Insein jail. They asked to see Ko Thein Lwin and the other two political prisoners, but another person was presented to them (not the real Ko Thein Lwin) we are told. This was engineered by the military police and the jail authorities.

After a period of nine months imprisonment, Ko Thein Lwin was released on the 5th June, 2000.

This illegal capture, torture, interrogation and imprisonment that went on for nine months was not followed by any charges or court intervention. No information was given as to why he was arrested and under what law such action was taken. The military dictators' lackeys, the military intelligence and administrative bodies whose duty it is to defend the rights of the citizens of the country are now going in a totally opposite direction. Senseless, inconsiderate, willful abuse of power. The country is heading for anarchy and destruction - a country of slaves. History is being blemished. This is entirely unacceptable. Those actors in this performance will one day be made accountable for their deeds. That day will come when genuine "rule of law" prevails. Be warned.

Central Executive Committee  
National League for Democracy

Rangoon  
30 June 2000