

NLD Statement 99/2000:
National League for Democracy
No: (97/B), West Shwegonedine Road
Bahan Township, Rangoon

Statement 99 (7/00) (translation)

1. On 7 June 2000, comedians U Shwe Ghai and Khin Maung Win (a) A-shai-gyi , residents of Kwai-lai ward which lies on the other side of the river in Myaungmya township,(Ayeyawaddy division) were arrested and taken away for questioning by uniformed soldiers. They were Sergeant U Kyi Swe, and three lance corporals from the Kha La Ya (94) unit.
2. At the front of the primary school at Tha-hte-gone ward (Myaungmya) these two men were bound with ropes and punched in the face and kicked by Sergeant Kyi Swe and his three associates. Then they were driven away in motor vehicle Number 7A-4927 to the Kha La Ya (94) unit where they were locked up in a room and beaten up again by those four. At the same time they were questioned about the abduction of Sergeant Kyi Swe's wife. Though these two men repeatedly denied having any knowledge of the affair, they were mercilessly beaten up until the Captain of the unit intervened. They were then sent home.
3. Because of the very severe nature of the injuries they bore, U Shwe Ghai and Khin Maung Win went to the public hospital on their own initiative for treatment.
4. The hospital authorities informed them that the nature of the injuries indicated criminal force and consequently advised them that a report had to be made to the police first before treatment could be given. This they did. They were then admitted as in-patients in the hospital.
5. We have information that the six eye-witnesses to the assault on the road were called in by Kha La Ya (94) and made to affix signatures to papers.
6. From the above incident it is very obvious that the army today has the freedom to bully and tyrannize the civilians. In the early days, Bogyoke Aung San taught the army to work for the people because the army is a servant of the people. It seems that the army now is being taught to bully and terrorize the people so that the people will be afraid. Do they think that only the army has the right to govern the country is the question we have to ask. We remind the authorities at every level that they have the responsibility to create good relations between the army and the people. We condemn this dacoit-like tyrannical behaviour of beating up of civilians.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
5 July 2000