

NLD Statement 104/2000:

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

Statement 104 (7/00) (translation)

1. After suffering a term of imprisonment, U Hla Htun, NLD MP for Kye-myin-dine constituency (Yangon Division) was released on the 10 December 1998. On 21 December, the Deputy Manager U Tin Myint summoned Daw Mya Than (his wife) who was holding a proficiency level 3 position at the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries. As per orders from his superiors, he directed her to bring a letter the next day (22-12-98) from her husband U Hla Htun indicating his resignation from the NLD and his position as Member of Parliament. Failure to comply could effect their jobs.

2. U Hla Htun said that there was no way he would resign. He stood by his convictions and maintained that as a member of a legally constituted party who had been voted in wholeheartedly by his constituents he respected their trust in him and he would not fail them. The message he sent to the Deputy Manager was that resignations (if any) would be from his wife and daughter and not from him.

3. On receipt of this response, U Tin Myint told Daw Mya Than and daughter that they needn't come to work anymore. From the morning of 23 December 1998 they were not employed at the workplace. This displeased their work-mates and associates but the managers tried to hush things up. They were forbidden to talk about the subject for fear that the authorities higher up would be alerted. To keep things under control the Deputy manager issued a letter on the 24th in which he stated that pending a decision about their pension he needed to know the circumstances. On the other hand, if they wanted to take leave, applications as usual should be submitted and personnel in the office should be contacted. They should not consider themselves totally removed because they had to keep in contact to complete the formalities.

4. However, Ma Nwe Ne Htun, U Hla Htun's daughter was dismissed from service on the 31st December 1998 by the administration on the pretext that it was no longer required. Then in January of 1999, they put great pressure on the mother to apply for pension. When this matter was put before the manager U Zaw Win, Daw Mya Than was informed that she could continue to work if she did not want to apply for retirement and pension.

5. On 22 June 2000, U Tin Myint, Deputy Manager, again pressured her to apply for pension or for transfer to another region. She went and placed her case before the manager U Zaw Win and explained that she was the sole breadwinner for the family and she could not apply for her pension now. He said "This is your business, not mine. My business is to enquire if you will apply for pension or be transferred. Your husband wants to ride against the flow of the river stubbornly refusing to resign from the NLD and the Hluttaw. I can do nothing. If you go head-on against the head of the department it will be worse for you. Your husband is headstrong and wont resign so the best thing for you is to apply for your pension. Otherwise we can post you to He-ho (Shan State) or Twin-taung (Sagaing division). Make your choice." She had no choice. Against her inclination she had to apply for "voluntary retirement".

Because of U Hla Htun's determination to stick to his principles not to resign from the NLD and his position as MP, his wife and daughter were made scapegoats and made to give up their jobs. There is absolutely no sense of compassion or morality and this kind of behaviour should never happen. The authorities who have been instrumental in bringing about this situation are imbued with the idea "if you are not like me, you are my enemy". We condemn these injustices and implore the authorities to adopt compassionate thinking and behaviour.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
10 July 2000.