

NLD Statement 123/2000:

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

Statement 123 (8/00) (translation)

1. From information received we relate how the Kalewa township (Sagaing division) administrative authorities, police and elections commission collectively operated to demolish the township NLD branch and to bring down the signboard in obedience to the military dictator's wishes.
2. There were five remaining NLD organizing members in the township, two of whom were Daw Thee Thee and Daw Khin Hnin Kyi.
3. Daw Thee Thee and her husband U Htoon Kyi own two cargo carrying trucks No.KHA-KWE/454 and NA-NGE/9614.
4. On the 1st May, 2000, under instructions from U Hla Maung Gyi (Superintendent of Police), U Kyaw Zaw, (Police Station-in-charge) designated those two vehicles as " rules infringed" vehicles. They were seized and held at the police station. U Htoon Kyi and his son Maung Kyaw Thu were also arrested and confined at the police station. They had not offended any law but were sent to court and the accused U Htoon Kyi was described as husband of NLD Daw Thee Thee. Maung Kyaw Thu was described as son of NLD Daw Thee Thee.
5. The police station officer in charge himself went to Daw Thee Thee's house and gave her the assurance that if she signed her resignation from the NLD the case against her husband and son would be dropped and the two vehicles would be returned to her. Consequently, Daw Thee Thee reluctantly signed her resignation as a member of the NLD and as a member of the Kalewa township organising committee on the 9th May 2000.
6. Similarly pressure was applied on Daw Khin Hnin Kyi to resign as member and organising committee member of the NLD. The promise held out was that her teacher sister would be given a transfer from a remote village to the town.
7. After this the Election Commission branch office at Kalemmyo issued a letter stating that the Kalemmyo NLD branch was dissolved because its membership consisted of less than five and ordered that the properties, signboard, seal and documents be surrendered at the branch office on the 13 May 2000.
8. This is not only an extremely unjust performance, it violates the Political Parties Registration Law and the guidelines (No 245) issued by the Central Elections Commission. Furthermore, the Order issued on 26 April 1991 has no force of law because it is retrospective in effect. We announce that the instructions contained therein are not binding. These unjust performances are denounced.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
4 August 2000