

NLD Statement 138/2000:

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

Statement 138 (8/00) (translation)

Letter number 057/see (chan)/00 dated 25 August 2000 from the Chairman of the NLD to the Chairman of the SPDC is published for the information of the public.

Start " Subject - An emphatic declaration disapproving the illegal, unjust blockade forced on NLD Deputy Chairman U Tin Oo, General Secretary Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Rangoon Division Organizing Committee Chairman U Soe Myint, and members of the youth wing.

1. The honorable persons mentioned in the subject left Dala (on the other shore from Rangoon) at about 1900 hours in the morning of the 24 August 2000 to conduct organizational matters in the townships of Kungyangon and Kawhmu (Rangoon Division). There was nothing on the agenda to adversely affect the peace and tranquility of the region.

2. (a) The National League for Democracy (NLD) exists as a legally constituted political party and has the legal right to discharge its legal duties and activities.

(b) Members of the NLD are members of the public and have the same legal rights as every member of the public to use the public highways and waterways.

(c) The NLD is only exercising its legal right to perform its legal tasks of organizing its members and for this purpose exercised the right to use a highway open to the general public.

3. However, in the process of exercising and performing its legal tasks, the persons holding the highest positions with the highest responsibilities have now been illegally stopped and blockaded at a point known as Kyansitha ward, preventing them to proceed from Dala to Twante

This in itself is a criminally actionable wrong. To make it more heinous, food and water for them brought by the community is prohibited. It is obvious that the purpose for this treatment is to starve them out to diminish their strength and threaten their lives. The tyres of the vehicles they were using have been deliberately deflated and all tyre-pumping shops have been prohibited from giving them any service we have been informed. Their attitude and behaviour of those authorities is so degrading that it puts to shame the Burmese Buddhist culture.

4. The right thing to do is for the immediate removal of the blockade, which has been done under orders of the military anashins and to give every assistance to the leaders of the NLD to proceed with their mission.

5. We strenuously ask you, Mr. Chairman, to attend to this matter immediately. Should the lives of these dignitaries be at risk, the responsibility will be totally that of those performing the blockade operation and of those under whose instructions they are acting..

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
25 August 2000