Statement of Ko Aung Aung from Democratic Party for New Society

When Daw Suu requested me to repair the car during the break-time on 28 May 2003, I registered the car at the workshop, accompanied by NLD Headquarters (Youth) members named Ko Thet Htun, Ko M yint, Ko K hin Oo, Ko Htun Zaw Zaw. In the evening on the same day, in accordance with Daw Suu’s request, Ko Tin Htun Oo and Ko Htun Zaw Zaw needed to follow to Monywa. But nevertheless Daw Suu told me not to follow up their principles because I was not an NLD member. I wore plain dress and went ahead as an indicator on the way to Monywa on 29 May 2003.

When we, Ko Htun Zaw Zaw, Ko Tin Htun Oo and I, went ahead on 29 May 2003, youngsters from Mandalay pursued us until we reached Sagaing. The NLD (Youth) members from Sagaing, Myinmu and Chaung-Oo welcomed us, and the trip was, in fact, magnificent one. We continued our trip by 16 automobiles and more than 500 motorbikes. The people from ‘Dyna’ truck cried using microphones “We don’t need the ones who were backed-up by the outsiders!” just before we reach at Myinmu on the one hand and the sound disappeared by the crowd on the other. Despite the crying near by the M yinmu NLD office for about 30 minutes their sound could not be permeated to the people’s voice of “Long live Daw Suu!”

NLD (Youth) members arranged lunch for us at Myinmu and we, the Democratic Party for a New Society, led the trip as an indicator to Monywa. After we left M yinmu for M onywa and about 10 miles away from Chaung-Oo, near by Ye-Pu-San Village, we have, unfortunately, already stepped at the enemy’s first combat, and we drove in a hurry to Chaung-Oo because it was impossible to inform to Daw Suu and the NLD delegation. We asked the youngsters and monks from M onywa and Chaung-Oo -- estimated as between 2000 to 3000 motorbikes -- who were awaiting us and they, on the one hand, escorted and paid attention for security, on the other. A t the place, there were 10 to 15 knolls of stones existed although no at other places. The welcoming crowd paid assistance and security for Daw Suu and the NLD members in spite of the annoyance of the group led by one traffic police and unknown colonel. The group’s crying “We don’t need the ones who were backed-up by the outsiders!” nevertheless disappeared within the sound ‘Cannot be adequate till the infinite’ sang by the NLD (Youth) members.

On the way to M onywa, the crowd, including the elderly and newly-born babies, welcomed marvelously and blessed “Long live Daw Suu!” For the welcoming by the people, it took seven hours to reach M onywa though the journey normally needs 45 minutes drive. We reached Chaung-Oo at 4:30 pm, and the authorities cut off electricity when we arrived at M onywa at sunset. But nevertheless it was breathtaking to see the welcoming using candles. It was a Daw Suu victory, in fact. Daw Suu stepped down from the four-wheel-drive and climbed up onto the Hilux pick-up truck and greeted intimately the welcoming crowd. The youngsters from M onywa highlighted the search-light to the truck where Daw Suu was on. Welcoming with the candle-lights means the catcall to the SPDC but cheer only to Daw Suu, and the scene was, in fact, so royal. For the being cause was the disciple of the people who supported Daw Suu and, for the same reason, the SPDC became intolerant. At about
11:30, Daw Suu delivered greeting and speech to awaiting crowd and the people gave wholehearted support. When Daw Suu visited to Zaw-Ti-Ka monastery to offer breakfast in the morning on 30 May 2003 the people welcomed her by both sides of the route. For the out of order of the youth-security-truck when leaving the monastery, we acted as Butalinsecurity-guards started from Monywa.

I went and checked the entry gates to Butalin before the meal, I saw round about 15 to 20 Dyna trucks and the people and monks who wore white arm-scarfs. I heard that about 80 motorbikers who escorted Daw Suu were caught by bulb-wire at Zeedaw Village. After Daw Suu asked U Aung San, Chairman of Butalin Township NLD, and his township members to go ahead but not for security concern but for hunting information. We continued our trip and reach at the Sai-Pyin-Gyi-Welcoming-Camp based at the house of U Win M yin M yant Aung, NLD MP for Depayin Township Constituency, who was arrested last month and two-year-sentence with Section 505 (b). When we said Daw Suu will reach there we asked about the next route and they said it was OK and we, again, continued the trip, but nevertheless, we were arrested at (the Massacre Site) two or three miles away from Depayin.

The scheme was conducted by the Strategy Consultant of the Northwest Military Command Region. They knew that Daw Suu would come and gathered around four or five thousand people and fenced three-sided bulb-wire in order to beat Daw Suu and her sympathizers. They arrested us in the beginning, then brought us to the Irrigation Department compound and forced us to sit down. For a while later, the Strategy Consultant came and lied to the monks that the people were dissatisfied with Daw Suu and they were going to make a strike. They asked the monks to control the people and not to have problems. Then he himself ordered, using a microphone, the people not to step on the route where Daw Suu would come.

Meanwhile, the Dyna trucks arrived at the back of the people and, also from Koko-tree on the left side of the road, lighted on to the crowd, and he was ordering his followers not to step onto the road. Shortly after this, Daw Suu and her group arrived. The location had a slope-down and easy to lose the location where the highway used to be. One of the five monks whom might be artificial ones asked Daw Suu to climb up onto the truck and deliver speech to the people after Daw Suu reached to the crowd. While Daw Suu and H tun Zaw Zaw were saying it is too late, about 20 Dyna trucks that came from Butalin brought people and monks and cried "K ill... k ill!" and launched an attack -- beating, chopping with swords, digging with bamboo-sharps -- to Daw Suu and her sympathizers. The NLD (Youth) members have no choice but to keep quiet because their policy is 'keep silence if they beat or even kill.' A few minutes later, the car that U Tin Oo was being carried arrived and he stepped off and tried to meet the Strategy Consultant.

At that time, the awaiting people started destroying U Tin Oo's car and arrested U Tin Oo and his five colleagues. When Daw Suu's car driven by Ko Kyaw Soe Lin drove ahead very quickly and the youngsters shouted as "Protact to mom, protact to mom!" and they really protested Daw Suu, riding motorbikes covering to Daw Suu's car. There was one no counteraction to the people who beat them. The Strategy Consultant tried to hit Daw Suu's car by another one truck, tete a tete, of the two Dyna he arranged.

Ko Kyaw Soe Lin drove smartly and shunned the blocked two trucks and broke through the six-foot-high four bulb-wires in order to release Daw Suu from the danger. The two Sunny pick-ups followed to Daw Suu's car, in which Daw Win Win Mya was on, and the Strategy
Consultant ordered to fire to the three pick-ups. The stand-by army and police fired and the bullets hit Daw Win Win M ya's car-tyre. The driver dropped from the car and the car hit to the roadside Kokkotree. Daw Win Win M ya's two hands and one leg were broken and injured a little in her face. The driver was cut in the forehead between the two eyes by beating and has got four stitches for the injury. The last car driven by U Thaung Nyunt, of which U Hla Soe Nyunt from Sagaing was on, was fired and glasses were smashed, seven were severely injured and the driver drove so fast to Depaeyin hospital.

Dr. Hla Soe Nyunt was shunned away from the hospital. Since Daw Suu escaped the Strategy Consultant himself ordered through the intercept-machine to the gates at Ye-Oo, Tamar-Taw, and use even machine-guns if needed, and et cetera. And he also ordered to beat and dig with bamboo and even shoot to the remaining people as foes. The authorities already announced martial law at the massacre site at Kyi Village before Daw Suu was arrived. But nevertheless, the villagers nearby the site took care of the people who escaped. The authorities ordered to shoot them too. U Tin Oo, U Tin Aung Aung, MP for Northwest Constituency, and other five people were brought to Depaeyin Police Station.

The escaped Daw Suu’s four-wheel drive car, of which NLD (Youth) members and about 20 youngsters from Mandalay, Monywa, Butalin and Myinmu were on, was stopped at Ye-Oo Gate. Daw Suu herself treated to the injured youngsters. The army trucks arrived in the morning and arrested everyone at the area. The two NLD (Youth) members named Htun Zaw Zaw, Htun Myint and Daw Suu had stayed together at Ye-Oo Township Military Hall until 2:00 am, and the two members were brought away by the Strategy Consultant. All the youngsters who were on the car, apart from Daw Suu, were brought to Shwe Bo Prison at 11:00 am. Daw Suu was injured at the end of her right arm, no one knows injured whether by the beating or stone throwing, and a crashed glass cut a little at her throat too.