

National League for Democracy
No: (97/b) West Shwegondine Road
Bahan, Rangoon

Statement No: 75 (9/98)

1. Members of organising committees of the National League for Democracy continue to be illegally apprehended and taken into custody non stop.
2. Examples of such are:-
 - (a) On 24 September 1998, NLD member Ma Hnin May Aung of Ward Salein/Ta, Thamadi (1) Road, Thingangyun was arrested and taken into custody by a team consisting of the following without any warrants to arrest or search:-
 - Four Military Intelligence personnel including one Ko Yan Naing,
 - Police Station officer-in-charge and four others,
 - Three female police constables,
 - Ko Sein Win (Ward chairman)
 - Ko Kyi Shwe (one hundred headmam)
 - Ko Win Myint (Ten house headman), and
 - Two video cameramen.

When they were questioned about a warrant they replied " No warrant is necessary because this is not an opium case. The presence of the Ward elders is sufficient. You can go and report us to whoever you like." They ransacked the house and seized whatever papers they found.
(Note:- Warrant for search and warrant for arrest are requirements of law where the "rule of law" prevails. It must be assumed that the higher authorities have given the arresting teams power to do anything they want equivalent to carte blanche authority).

(b) On the night of 23 September 1998, 7 NLD members from Sanchaung township were arrested and kept at the Sanchaung Police Station and on the 24th were remanded and sent to the Insein Jail (annex). Our information is that the remanding magistrate was not made aware of the facts of the case.

(c) On the evening of 23 September 1998, NLD member Ko Than Lwin and his wife of Sanchaung were arrested and taken away. Our information is that only their two minor children were left in the house. Though they requested that only one of them be taken the arresting team replied that this was " out of their power". Such lack of human compassion and fellow feeling is cruel and deplorable and totally contra to Buddhist teachings. It is a blatant contravention of Section 3, 5, and 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Burma is signatory.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy
Rangoon
28 September 1998