

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

STATEMENT 130 (12/98)

Contents of letter dated 29 December 1998 from the Chairman of the National League for Democracy to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council on the subject given in the heading is published and distributed for information.

BEGIN

" Subject-In the matter of three NLD parliamentarians elect who were illegally arrested and are in illegal custody at the military base of Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) No: 6 at Teinmyoke, east of Oke-Pho town in Pegu Division

1. The individuals listed below are respectable and of good character who were elected by the people in free and fair elections in accordance with their own wishes to be their representatives in parliament but are now being held in illegal detention by the military intelligence authorities. They are:-
(1) U Thar Maung (age 79 years) of Pegu Division, Oke-pho township, No.2 constituency - held in illegal detention since June 1998
(2) U Tin Oo (aged 59 years) of Pegu Division, Oke-Pho township. No.1 constituency- held in illegal detention since June 1998
(3) U San Tin (aged 64 years) of Pegu Division, Zeegon township- held in illegal detention since July 1998.

2.(a) At first military intelligence took action against all three of them under Section 5 (1)(f)&(g) of the 1961 Habitual Offenders Act and their movements were restricted under bond. This law is in no way applicable to them and is most inappropriate. It reflects the deliberate animosity of the authorities.

(b) Then, action was taken under Section 5(j) of the 1959 Emergency Provisions Act against U Thar Maung and U Tin Oo.

(c) Now, they are held in custody at LIB(6), military base which is east of Oke-pho.

3.(a) It is the responsibility of the military intelligence authorities who have illegally arrested and are holding these individuals to provide for their food, health and creature comforts.

(b) The arrest and detention of innocent and respectable individuals who have not infringed any provisions of law is unjustified and is tantamount to a crime by the authorities.

(c) Our information is that the authorities have neglected to provide them with proper food and nourishment resulting in the ill-health of U Tin Oo who had to be admitted to the hospital on the 15 December 1998.

We hear that his condition is serious and requires the attention of a specialist and that the hospital at Oke-pho is not equipped with the necessary medicines.

4. The illegal arrests of these elderly and eminent parliamentarians who have not committed any crimes is evidence of the spiteful, vindictive attitude of the authorities who are out to humiliate and degrade their opponents. Should the lives of these eminent individuals be endangered, we will hold the authorities responsible. The crime of illegal arrest will be compounded if death is caused in so doing.

5. U Thar Maung and U Tin Oo have refused the offer by the authorities for short visits to their homes. They have the right attitude. All three of them are sincerely committed to achieving democracy and to fulfil the desire of the people. They are standing firm and resisting all the illegal actions, discomforts, abuse and persecutions that the authorities have showered on them for which we honour and salute them."
(END)

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

31 December 1998