National League for Democracy
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Statement 6 (1/99)

Contents of letter dated 6 January 1999 from the Chairman of the NLD to the Chairman of the SPDC on the subject " Living conditions of NLD members in the prisons near the town of Kalay" are distributed for public information.

(Start)

" 1. With great integrity, Burma became a signatory to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights wherein
Article 18 states- "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. -------"
Article 19 states- " Everyone has the right to freedom of opinions and expression: this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through media and regardless of frontiers."

2. With a genuine desire to promote the worthy principle of democracy and human rights for its people, the National League for Democracy and its members in their political activities have been exercising " the right of everyone to freedom of opinions and expression". It is obvious that there has been no violation of any law. It is only the authorities who have been offending the provisions contained in Articles 5, 6, and 8 of the Human Rights Declaration.

3. The persons who have taken over state power and authority have in devious ways used the law to suit their own purposes and have for long periods of time punished innocent members of the NLD.

4. Apart from imprisonment for long periods of time they have made it difficult for the families (who have a duty to attend to their well being) to reach them by imprisoning them in distant places. Thus, innocent persons are being doubly punished. This kind of maltreatment without fellow feeling (spirit of brotherhood as human beings) or compassion should never be indulged in. It is in direct contravention of Article 1 of the Human Rights Declaration.

5. For example, some NLD members are imprisoned in the jail that is built in deep jungle area near Kalay town in Sagaing Division where family members can not reach. Malaria is widespread in these jungles and it is reported that all of fifteen NLD members there are suffering from this disease.

6. Despite the authorities being wholly responsible for them, no medical treatment is given. Though it is stated in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that " Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." this right is being totally denied to the prisoners confined in the jail near the town of Kalay.

7. The authorities have a duty to attend to the health and daily needs of NLD members who are innocent of any crimes and are illegally imprisoned. If the lives of these individuals are at risk due to any omission, lapse or defect of the authorities, they will be held entirely responsible.

8. Moreover, we demand that these innocent victims be immediately released. " (End)

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

11 January 1999