အမျိုးသားဒီမိုကရေစီအဖွဲ့ချုပ် (လွတ်မြောက်နယ်မြေ)
NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY (Liberated Area)

Special statement of the National League for Democracy (Liberated Areas)
On the special occasion of the 20th anniversary of
The National League for Democracy

27 September 2008

In 1962, a military faction led by the General Ne Win overthrew the democratically elected people's government in Burma and established state rule as a one party dictatorship. The people of Burma have suffered tremendously as a result of this dictatorial system.

Throughout Burma's history, students have initiated a movement for the wellbeing of the people, and this people's movement has established Burma's historic political milestones. In 1988, led by the students, Burma's citizens peacefully rose up and protested the one party regime and called for multiparty democracy. However, the new military regime brutally cracked down on these peaceful protests.

In order to reorganize the people's movement and to achieve a democratic state in Burma, the National League for Democracy (NLD) formed in 1988. The NLD's renowned leaders include people such as U Tin Oo and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Since its inception, the NLD has faced extreme persecution. Its leaders, such as U Tin Oo, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Win Tin, and many others including common members, were arrested, detained, and tortured in prisons, detention centers, or interrogation camps. Leaders and members have not only died while detained but also have died once released from serious diseases and illnesses incurred during the prison term. Additionally, NLD leaders have suffered social and economic hardship as a result of the regime's Military Intelligence harassment.

Among those who suffered most are NLD's common members living in every corner of society and throughout different Townships, wards, and villages. These innocent citizens have been coerced, tortured, and blackmailed by the regime's Military Intelligence unit, by members of Ward and Village Peace and Development Councils, by members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, and by Swan Arr Shin. Some NLD members escaped to liberated areas on Burma's border and continue to struggle on behalf of the NLD for the democracy and human rights in Burma.

Burma's Military dictators unjustly and inhumanely torture innocent people. No one except their cronies is spared from their brutality. The military regime blazes villages, and murdered, rapes, and torture citizens. Therefore, we truly appreciate those who stood up despite these pressures and voted for the NLD in 1990 when the NLD won a landslide victory in the free and fair General Election.

With grief, we also realize that the NLD has not yet been able to achieve or realize its promises to the people and entrusted by the people to restore democracy and human rights in Burma. We admit that leaders in different levels of our organization have weaknesses and controversial working styles. However, despite these challenges, their sacrifice of their self interest, their commitment, their ability to maintain the organization, and their perseverance cannot be denied.

We also appreciate the students, monks, NLD members, and all other people who are currently detained in Burma's infamous prisons or detention centers across the country for their work for democracy and against the military dictatorship. Additionally, we are grateful for the students, youth, ethnic nationality members, and members of NLD and other political organizations who continue the struggle for democracy from liberated areas as well as those who resettled in other countries but still devote their energy to this cause.

Throughout the world, people are more aware of the critical situation in Burma than ever before. NLD leaders now demand that the Pyithu Hluttaw (people's parliament) be convened to respect the 1990 election results. The NLD has clearly and firmly informed the military regime and the international community that the NLD will not accept or participate in any election in Burma if the result of the 1990 election is not recognized in some way. Furthermore, there is no sound reason to recognize or respect the military regime's one-sided constitution which was solely approved by force and coercion. The NLD has issued its position regarding the 2010 election and emphasizes the fact that the NLD will not accept any political initiatives unless the initiatives are a result of genuine dialogue among the military regime, the NLD, and other democratic groups.

We, members of the National League for Democracy (Liberated Areas) fully accept and follow the positions of our mother organization, the NLD. We welcome the release of some political prisoners on 23 September 2008, and we hope that these leaders will accept their roles in the NLD again at an appropriate time in the future. If so, the NLD leadership will once again be strengthened, and we are well aware of the importance of strengthening the NLD.

Nevertheless, we resolutely believe that a new democratic union of Burma, which is the ultimate goal of the people including ethnic nationalities, will emerge only if we analyze the previous 20 years of our movement and move forward to act as we are determined to do.

"The Democratic movement will prevail."

Central Committee
National League for Democracy (Liberated Areas)

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