



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

Position of the National League for Democracy (Liberated Area) Concerning the Previous Referendum

Date: May 27, 2008

Under paragraph (20) of statement 1/90 issued by the ruling authority, the elected representatives from the 1990 elections are solely responsible for writing the state constitution. In violation of this statement, the draft constitution that was put to vote in the recent constitutional referendum was not written by the elected Peoples' Representatives. It was written unilaterally by people handpicked by the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). Furthermore, it is not in line with the fundamental principle of democracy. Therefore, it will not guarantee democracy and human rights.

One week before the referendum, Cyclone Nargis hit Burma's Irrawady delta leaving hundreds of thousands of people dead and millions of others homeless and helpless. The U.N. Secretary-General called on the regime on May 8, 2008, to postpone its constitutional referendum and focus on cyclone relief. He urged the regime to "focus on mobilizing all available resources and capacity for the emergency response efforts." The regime ignored the Secretary-General's request.

The National League Democracy (NLD) has already expressed its desperation and frustration with the regime for exploiting the people's difficulties following the cyclone. The NLD called for the authorities to postpone the referendum in all parts of the country, not only in some parts. Conducting the referendum under these dire conditions is deplorable.

Before the referendum, SPDC authorities instructed village administrative clerks who had been appointed as deputy village election commissioners to cast "Yes" votes on behalf of people who would not report to their assigned polling station by 1 pm on voting day. They were forced to cast absentee "Yes" votes with their superiors looking on.

Government employees in Rangoon were forced to cast absentee "Yes" votes with local referendum officials looking on. Those who refused to vote "Yes" were ordered to hand in their resignation. SPDC authorities in some Townships distributed pre-marked "Yes" ballots to local villagers. Authorities ordered villagers to cast those ballots on voting day.

The day before the referendum, in some villages, authorities visited houses with ballots already ticked 'Yes' and forced people to cast votes in front of them. In some areas, the authorities distributed one day in advance ballot papers that were already marked for "yes" at the front and that included a space to write the voter's name, address and ID numbers at the back. They asked people to come to the polling booths on referendum day and cast these ballots in front of them.

By observing the above-mentioned facts, it is very clear that the referendum was rigged even before the day of the vote. Additionally, on the day of Referendum, authorities brazenly broke the rules of secret voting systems and characteristics of free and fair referendum according to our reliable sources and witnesses.

Taking above facts into consideration, it must be concluded that the referendum conducted by the military government on May 10 and 24, 2008, was neither free nor fair. As a result, the referendum results announced by the SPDC do not reflect the wishes of the people of Burma. We hereby declare the referendum a sham and fake process. We further refuse to recognize the result of the referendum, as announced by the SPDC. We call upon international governments and international organizations, including the United Nations, to refuse to recognize the result of the sham referendum.

Central Committee

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