

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: 53/35/91
Distr: UA/SC

11 October 1991

Further information on 328/91 (AFR 53/34/91, 7 October 1991) - Detention /
Legal Concern

SOUTH AFRICA (Bophuthatswana):

Di Charlton)	
Penny Geerts)	
Adelheid Kistner)	all members of the
Lydia Kompe)	human rights
Pam Lloyd)	organization
Gudrun Oberpreiler)	Black Sash
Laura Pollecutt)	
Kathleen Sidebottom)	
Janet Small)	
Ethel Walt)	
Sheila Weinberg)	

Laura Taylor, chairperson of the Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum

Laurie Adams (USA))	
Chris Denner (USA))	four foreign
Heinz Kusbere (Germany))	nationals
Kerstin Möller (Germany))	
(please note corrected spelling)		

The Bophuthatswana authorities have now released all 16 people who were arrested on 5 October 1991 in Mmabatho, in the nominally independent "homeland" of Bophuthatswana, during a peaceful protest by the human rights organization Black Sash. A court hearing on their case took place on 7 and 8 October in the Mmabatho magistrate's court. On 7 October the prosecution argued for all 16 to continue to be detained while their case was further investigated. On 8 October, however, all charges against Laurie Adams, Chris Denner, Heinz Kusbere, Kerstin Möller and Laura Taylor, who had been present at the protest as observers only, were withdrawn and they were released unconditionally. The 11 Black Sash protestors pleaded guilty to one charge each of attending an illegal gathering in terms of the Bophuthatswana Internal Security Act. Other charges against them were dropped. They were convicted and sentenced to a fine of 400 South African Rand or eight months' imprisonment (half the sentence suspended for three years). At the conclusion they each paid a fine of 200 Rand and all were released on 8 October.

Amnesty International remains concerned that the provisions of the Bophuthatswana Internal Security Act effectively prohibit people from organizing or attending peaceful meetings of a political nature, and permit the repeated detention of political activists, human rights workers, such as Laura Taylor who is currently chairperson of the Bophuthatswana-based human rights monitoring organization MAREF (Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum), and others perceived as opponents of the Bophuthatswana authorities. Amnesty International continues to call upon the authorities to repeal provisions of

the law which lead to people being imprisoned solely for the non-violent exercise of their fundamental human rights.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send one final round of express and airmail letters:

- welcoming the unconditional release on 8 October of Laurie Adams, Chris Denner, Heinz Kusbere, Kerstin Möller and Laura Taylor;
- urging the Bophuthatswana authorities to repeal the provisions of the Bophuthatswana Internal Security Act which effectively provide for the imprisonment of people solely for the non-violent exercise of their fundamental human rights;
- also urging the South African authorities to use all possible influence to bring about the repeal of these same provisions.

APPEALS TO:

Chief L M Mangope **Dear President**
 President
 Government Offices
 Mmabatho

Bophuthatswana, South Africa
Telegrams: President Mangope,
Bophuthatswana, South Africa
Telexes: 937 3008 BOP
Faxes: +27 140 842626

Mr F W De Klerk **Dear President**
 State President
 State President's Office
 Private Bag X83
 Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Telegrams: President De Klerk,
Pretoria, South Africa
Telexes: 321695 SPLIB SA, 321890 PRES SA
or 322158 PRES SA
Faxes: +27 12 323 3982

Mr R Cronje, **Dear Minister**
 Minister of State
 Department of State Affairs
 Private Bag X2172
 Mmabatho 8681

Bophuthatswana, South Africa
Telegrams: Minister of State Cronje,
Mmabatho, Bophuthatswana, South Africa

Mr R F Botha **Dear Minister**
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Department of Foreign Affairs
 Private Bag X152
 Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Telegrams: Foreign Minister,
Pretoria, S. Africa

Telexes: 0959 350060 EXTERN TTX SA
Faxes: +27 12 323 1664

Mr S G Mothibe **Dear Minister**
Minister of Justice
Department of Justice
Private Bag X2033
Mmabatho 8681
Bophuthatswana, South Africa
Telegrams: Justice Minister,
Bophuthatswana, South Africa

COPIES TO:

- The Editor, *Sowetan*, POB 6663, Johannesburg 2000
- The Editor, *Vrye Weekblad*, PO Box 42637, Fordsburg 2033
- Human Rights Commission, PO Box 32723, Braamfontein 2017, South Africa
- Black Sash, P O Box 2827, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
- Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum (MAREF), P O Box 158, Ratshidi 8681, South Africa

and to diplomatic representatives of South Africa in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 November 1991.