

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 88/93 Fear of Extrajudicial Execution

26 March 1993

SOUTH AFRICA:

Beauty Mkhize (female) - community leader and field worker for the human rights organization the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (TRAC) in Driefontein, South Eastern Transvaal
Star MOTSWEGE - field worker for TRAC in Driefontein
Yunus CAJEE - member of the African National Congress (ANC), Driefontein

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of three community activists, Beauty Mkhize, Star Motswege and Yunus Cajee, who have reportedly been identified as targets for "elimination". Beauty Mkhize and Star Motswege are African National Congress (ANC) supporters and field workers for the human rights organization the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (TRAC), which campaigns for the rights of black people in rural areas who have been victimized by poverty and apartheid laws. Beauty Mkhize is a prominent leader in the Driefontein community and a member of the popularly-elected Council Board. Yunus Cajee is a prominent local member of the ANC. The threats to "eliminate" the three activists were reportedly made at recent meetings of Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) supporters in Driefontein and in the Thokoza hostel east of Johannesburg. The IFP intends to hold a rally in Driefontein, a traditionally ANC-supporting area, on Saturday, 27 March 1993. Local members of the South African Police, who have a history of hostility towards the Driefontein Council Board as well as the ANC, failed to protect members of the Driefontein community from attacks at the conclusion of an IFP rally six months ago. Amnesty International is concerned that the police will once again fail to protect members of the Driefontein community from attacks or targeted assassination.

Fearing a repetition of last year's violence, Beauty Mkhize, Star Motswege, Yunus Cajee and other local leaders held a meeting on 19 March with the police and IFP to agree security measure for the local community during the rally. There appears to have been no agreement reached on measures to be adopted because at a subsequent meeting on 23 March there were no police officers present with any authority to make decisions, and no IFP representatives attended. On the other hand, there are reports of cooperation between the police and the IFP. In the days leading up to this rally, there have been reports of IFP members being transported in official vehicles. In addition there are reports of IFP members bringing weapons into the area in preparation for the rally on 27 March.

It appears that two representatives of the United Nations observer mission, as well as regional representatives of structures set up under the terms of the 1991 National Peace Accord, will be present at the rally on Saturday, 27 March. However, TRAC and other human rights organizations are concerned for the safety of the Driefontein community and in particular Beauty Mkhize, Star Motswege and Yunus Cajee once the outside observers have left Driefontein at the conclusion of the rally.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the early 1980s the Driefontein community successfully resisted government attempts to force them to move into "homeland" territories. On 2 April 1983, Saul Mkhize, the husband of Beauty Mkhize, was shot dead by a white police constable during a protest meeting. Although

the government later reprieved Driefontein from the threat of forced removal, it has attempted to impose the authority of an IFP-supporting chief, Mr S Yende, on the community, even though in 1991 he was convicted of the murder of an ANC official.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English, Afrikaans or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Beauty Mkhize, Star Motswege and Yunus Cajee, who have been threatened with death by armed men who appear to be operating with the acquiescence of the South African Police;
- expressing concern for the safety of the residents of Driefontein who may be vulnerable to attack during the course of a planned Inkatha Freedom Party rally on 27 March 1993;
- urging the authorities to ensure the effective protection of Beauty Mkhize, Star Motswege and Yunus Cajee and of other members of the Driefontein community through measures including disarming groups carrying dangerous weapons in public;
- urging the authorities to exercise their responsibility to protect the lives of all South Africans by making available to them an impartial police force willing to respond promptly to calls for assistance and willing to investigate and arrest the perpetrators of attacks, irrespective of political affiliation.

APPEALS TO:

1) Mr F W De Klerk
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**
Faxes: + 27 12 323 3982

Salutation: Dear State President

2) Lieutenant-General J Van Der Merwe
Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
Private Bag X94
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

**Telegrams: Police Commissioner van Der
Merwe, Pretoria, South
Africa**
**Telexes: 3-20772 SAPQM SA, 3-20838
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**Faxes: + 27 12 323 2033, +27 12 326
5162**

Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-General

3) General Smith
Regional Commissioner, Eastern Transvaal
Private Bag X1801
Middelburg (Transvaal) 1050
South Africa

**Telegrams: Eastern Transvaal Regional Police Commissioner, Middelburg
1050, South Africa**
Faxes: + 27 132 26775

Salutation: Dear General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Standerton District Police Commissioner
Standerton Police Station

Standerton (Transvaal) 2430 , South Africa

Newspapers:

(a) The Editor

The Star

PO Box 1014

Johannesburg 2000

South Africa

(b) The Editor

Sowetan

PO Box 6663

Johannesburg 2000

South Africa

Transvaal Rural Action Committee (TRAC)

PO Box 2827

Johannesburg 2000

South Africa

and to diplomatic representatives of South Africa accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 May 1993.