

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 203/91 (AFR 53/19/91, 12 June 1991) - Legal concern/fear of torture

SOUTH AFRICA: Abraham LURULI, teacher, chairman of the
Nancefield Civic Association
Jacob MATAKANYE, Messina Advice Office worker
Lesiba MATSAUNG, a minister of the Ned Geref
Kerk (Dutch Reformed Church) in Africa
Portia KINDLANDE, student
Solomon CHAUKE
Abel DUBE
Stanley MAPHANGA
Baldwin MARAVHA (please note correct spelling)
Joseph MURACHA
George SAKALA
Robert SIBADI

NEW DETENTION: Eric MOLEYA, a student detained 16 June 1991

The 11 people named above were all released from detention on or before 16 June 1991. They had been arrested in connection with a consumer boycott taking place in the township of Nancefield, near Messina in the Far Northern Transvaal. Four of the released detainees have been charged with offences under the 1982 Intimidation Act and with common law offences of public violence and arson.

It appears that a pattern of short-term detentions is continuing. Eric Moleya, a student, was detained on 16 June 1991 and is believed to be still in custody. A further 15 people were arrested on or before 14 June 1991, but have since been released. At a Messina-Nancefield community meeting on 16 June 1991 the community decided to continue with the consumer boycott. In response to this, apparently, the police threatened to redetain the released Nancefield Civic Association leaders.

Amnesty International was concerned to learn that Baldwin Maravha was physically tortured during his period in detention, and that on 8 June 1991 Reverend Lesiba Matsaung was apparently subjected to ill-treatment by being locked in a very cold "refrigerator" cell, probably a cold storage room built to store meat, at the police station in Duiwelskloof. Duiwelskloof is a small town situated some 110 kilometres north-east of Pietersburg in the Northern Transvaal.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the detention on 16 June 1991 of Eric Moleya; asking for the reasons for his detention and where he is currently being held; seeking assurances that he is not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment while in custody; urging that he have access to visits from legal counsel and relatives; and calling for his immediate and unconditional release if he is not to be brought to trial promptly and fairly on recognizably criminal charges;

- expressing concern at reports that Baldwin Maravha and Reverend Lesiba

Matsaung suffered torture or ill-treatment while in custody and calling for a full, independent and impartial investigation into these allegations;

- urging that any police officers alleged to be responsible for the torture or ill-treatment of these or other detainees be immediately suspended or transferred to other duties, pending a full investigation, and that in due course those found responsible should be brought to justice;

- urging the authorities to state clearly and publicly that torture and ill-treatment of prisoners will not be tolerated and that those found responsible will be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

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
or 322158 PRES SA
Faxes: + 27 12 323 3982

Mr A J Vlok
Minister of Law and Order
Private Bag X463
Pretoria 0001
South Africa
Telegrams: Minister Law/Order, Pretoria, South Africa
Telexes: 321353 HABS SA or 321358 HABS SA
(via Ministry of Home Affairs)
Faxes: + 27 12 322 2559

Major Van Wyk
Divisional Commissioner of Police
Far Northern Transvaal Headquarters
Private Bag X9429
Pietersburg 0700
South Africa
Telegrams; Divisional Commissioner Police, Pietersburg
South Africa

COPIES TO:

- The Sowetan, POB 6663, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
- Northern Review & Lebowa Times, POB 45, Pietersburg 0700, S.Africa
- Vrye Weekblad, POB 42637, Fordsburg 2033, S.Africa
- Northern Transvaal Council of Churches, POB 2039, Pietersburg, S.Africa
- Human Rights Commission, POB 32723, Braamfontein 2017, Johannesburg, S. Africa
- African National Congress, Legal & Constitutional Affairs Dept, POB 61884, Marshalltown 2307, Johannesburg, S.Africa
- All Africa Conferences of Churches, Waiyaki Way, POB 14205, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya

and to diplomatic representatives of South Africa in your country.

PLEASE ORGANIZE SOME APPEALS FROM CHURCH GROUPS AND TEACHERS/COLLEGE GROUPS.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 July.