

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**29 November 1990**

**Further information on UA 326/90 (AFR 53/58/90, 9 August 1990) - Fear of Ill-treatment/Legal Concern**

**SOUTH AFRICA: Cassel MATHALE, aged 28, general secretary of the Northern Transvaal Youth Congress**

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Cassel Mathale has now been detained for over four months without charge under section 29 of the Internal Security Act. He was arrested in the Northern Transvaal town of Tzaneen on 18 July 1990 and has been held since then in Pietersburg Prison, reportedly in solitary confinement. However, in the past month relatives have been allowed to visit him on several occasions.

The authorities stated early in his detention that he was being held in connection with police investigations into terrorist activities. However, no charges have been brought against him despite the lengthy period he has spent in detention. Amnesty International is concerned that, as during previous periods he has spent in prison, he may be a prisoner of conscience once again detained on account of his involvement in non-violent opposition to the government, and is appealing to the authorities to release him immediately unless there is substantial evidence that he has committed a recognizably criminal offence and he is to be charged and referred to the courts in the near future.

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

- expressing concern that Cassel Mathale has been detained for over four months without charge under section 29 of the Internal Security Act and has spent most of that time in solitary confinement;
- welcoming the fact that Cassel Mathale has been permitted visits from relatives, but urging that he immediately be given access to his lawyer;
- seeking assurances that he will not be subjected to torture, ill-treatment or other forms of duress while in custody;
- calling for him to be released without delay unless there is substantial evidence that he has committed a recognizably criminal offence and is to be charged and referred to the courts in the near future.

**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; 322158 PRES SA  
Faxes: +27 12 323 3982

Page 2, FU 326/90...

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; 321358 HABS SA  
(via Ministry of Home Affairs)  
Faxes: +27 12 322 2559

Major-General S J J Smit  
Head of Security Police  
Police Headquarters  
Private Bag X94  
Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Telegrams: Head Security Police, Pretoria, South Africa  
Telexes: 095 320772 SAPQM SA or 095 320838 SAPOB SA  
Faxes: + 27 12 323 2033

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

Telegrams: Divisional Police Commissioner, Pietersburg,  
South Africa

**COPIES TO: One or more of the following:**

- The Star, POB 1014, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
- The Sowetan, POB 6663, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
- Northern Review and Lebowa Times, PO Box 45, Pietersburg 0700, South Africa
- Human Rights Commission, PO Box 32723, Braamfontein, South Africa
- Northern Transvaal Council of Churches, PO Box 2039, Pietersburg 0700, 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 10 January 1991.