

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 76/92 (AFR 53/05/92, 5 March 1992) and follow-up AFR 53/18/92, 28 August 1992 - Fear of extrajudicial execution/Extrajudicial execution

SOUTH AFRICA:

Bheki NTULI - Northern Natal regional chairperson of the Congress of South (new name) Africa Trade unions (COSATU) and a National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa (NUMSA) shop steward  
Willies MCHUNU - Executive member Africa National Congress (ANC) Northern Natal Regional Executive Committee and Regional Education Officer, NUMSA  
Enoch NZUZA - NUMSA regional organizer and ANC member  
Mike MABUYAKHULU - NUMSA Northern Natal Regional Secretary and member of the Esikhawini ANC monitoring committee  
Samuel NYAWO - NUMSA shop steward and ANC member (assassinated 26 August 1992)

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of Bheki Ntuli and other trade union, as well as African National Congress (ANC), officials in the Esikhaweni-Empangeni area in northern Natal who are potential targets of a hitsquad with links to the KwaZulu police. The hitsquad are believed to have carried out the assassination of Samuel Nyawo on 26 August 1992, as well as the attack on the home of Bheki Ntuli, and possibly other attacks and killings on the same night.

In October 1992 three men were arrested and charged with five counts of attempted murder. Forensic evidence linked the men to the attack on Bheki Ntuli's home. Despite the seriousness of the charges against the three accused, the Mtunzini Magistrate's Court granted them bail, on condition that they report every day to the Esikhaweni police station, which is under KwaZulu Police control. While out on bail the three men have allegedly committed other murders and attempted murders, as well as acts of intimidation against potential witnesses in their trial. On 22 January 1993 lawyers representing Bheki Ntuli and other trade unionists from the Esikhaweni area failed to persuade the court to withdraw bail for the three accused, despite the serious allegations that they had committed further acts of violence while out on bail, as well as failing to adhere to the reporting requirement of their bail conditions. However one of the three accused remained in custody pending a bail hearing on 1 February 1993 in connection with a separate charge of attempted murder.

Since the attacks on their homes in 1992 Bheki Ntuli, Willies Mchunu and other trade union officials have been forced to live in hiding out of fear for their lives. Their testimony will be important in the forthcoming trial of the three alleged hitsquad members. Amnesty International has received reports that a member of the KwaZulu Police and at least one of the accused have threatened to kill them.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Bheki Ntuli, Willies Mchunu and other trade union officials in the Esikhaweni area of Northern Natal who have had their homes attacked and their lives threatened by heavily armed gunmen, operating apparently with the acquiescence of the KwaZulu Police;

- expressing concern that the men accused of the attack on the home of Bheki Ntuli on 26 August 1992 and charged with five counts of attempted murder have been released on bail;

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- 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

**Salutation: Dear President**

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

2) Mr H J Kriel  
Minister of Law and Order  
Private Bag X463  
Pretoria 0001, South Africa

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**Telegrams: Minister of Law/Order, Pretoria, South Africa**  
**Telexes: 321353 HABS SA (via Ministry of Home Affairs)**  
**Faxes: + 27 12 322 2559**

3) General During  
Commissioner of Police, KwaZulu  
Department of Police  
Private Bag X14  
Ulundi 3838  
South Africa

**Salutation: Dear Commissioner**

**Telegrams: Police Commissioner During, Ulundi, South Africa**

**SOME COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Colonel Lourens  
Police Liaison Officer  
Police Headquarters  
PO Box 391  
Durban 4000  
South Africa

2) Lt Colonel Mzimela  
Station Commander  
Esikhawini Police Station  
Esikhawini 3887

South Africa

3) The Station Commander  
Empangeni Police Station  
Empangeni 3880  
South Africa

and also to one or more of the following:

- The Editor, Natal Mercury, PO Box 950, Durban 4000, South Africa
- The National Union of Metal Workers, Northern Natal Region, PO Box 1714 Empangeni 3880, South Africa
- Human Rights Commission, Natal Office, 20 St Andrews Street, Durban 4001, South Africa
- Mr Roy Ainslie, Democratic Party, Natal Coastal Region, PO Box 37034, Overport, Durban 4067, 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 12 March 1993.