

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AFR 53/02/94  
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**5 January 1994**

**Further information on UA 442/93 (AFR 53/46/93, 31 December 1993) - and follow-up: AFR 53/01/94, 4 January 1994 - Legal concern/Fear of torture/Possible prisoners of conscience**

**SOUTH AFRICA (BOPHUTHATSWANA):**

**Nathaniel NGAKANTSI, Executive member, African National Congress, Mafikeng Branch**

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Nathaniel Ngakantsi, who failed to appear at his home on 4 January 1994 after the police said they had released him from custody.

The police had apparently told Joseph Molefe, Nathaniel Ngakantsi's fellow detainee, at the time of his release that Nathaniel Ngakantsi would be taken home after the police had taken him to visit a doctor. His family contacted lawyers late on 4 January when Nathaniel Ngakantsi failed to come home. After visiting various police stations, his legal representatives located him at Mmabatho Police Station. The police informed the lawyer that the detainee would appear in the magistrates' court on the morning of 5 January.

When his lawyers went to the magistrates' court on 5 January, they failed to find Nathaniel Ngakantsi. However, they were informed by the prosecutor that the police had brought the detainee to court the previous day to make a "confession" to the magistrate. The police apparently left the court shortly thereafter with Nathaniel Ngakantsi, who apparently did not make a statement to the magistrate.

As of midday on 5 January Nathaniel Ngakantsi's lawyers have still been unable to locate the detainee. They have been informed by a State legal officer that the police are still investigating their case against the detainee.

There are fears for Nathaniel Ngakantsi's safety, as the police appear to be pressuring him into making a "confession" in connection with the publication of a pamphlet alleging corruption among Bophuthatswana Government officials. Amnesty International has no information as to the offences which Nathaniel Ngakantsi has allegedly committed.

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

- expressing concern at the continued detention of Nathaniel Ngakantsi and the failure of the police to fulfil the assurances they had given to the detainee's lawyers that they would bring him to court on 5 January 1994;
- seeking assurances that he will not be subjected to threats, assaults or torture while in the custody of the Bophuthatswana Police;
- calling for him to be released immediately if he are not be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to court;
- expressing concern at the pattern of arbitrary detentions and other human rights violations committed against non-violent political activists in Bophuthatswana apparently because of their involvement in activities related to the 1994 South African elections.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Chief L M Mangope  
President  
Government Offices  
Mmabatho  
Bophuthatswana, South Africa  
**Telegrams: President Mangope, Bophuthatswana, South Africa**  
**Telefax: 937 3008 BOP**  
**Fax: + 27 140 842626**  
**Salutation: Dear President Mangope**

2) Mr Rowan Cronje  
Minister of Defence  
Department of Defence  
Private Bag X2003  
Mmabatho 8681  
South Africa  
**Telegrams: Defence Minister, Mmabatho, Bophuthatswana, South Africa**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) Major-General P J Seloke  
Commissioner of Police  
Private Bag X2006  
Mmabatho 8681  
South Africa  
**Telegrams: Police Commissioner, Mmabatho, Bophuthatswana, South Africa**  
**Salutation: Dear Commissioner**

4) Mr R F Botha  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Private Bag X152  
Pretoria 0001, South Africa  
**Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Pretoria, South Africa**  
**Telefax: 0959 350060 EXTERNAL TTX SA**  
**Fax: +27 12 325 8669**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

- Col D A George, Private Bag X2004, Mmabatho 8681, South Africa;
- Lawyers for Human Rights, Mafikeng Regional Office, PO Box 945, Mafikeng 8670, South Africa;
- Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum (MARCF), PO Box 158, Ratshidi 8681, South Africa;
- The Editor, Sowetan, PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa.

and to diplomatic representatives of South Africa (Bophuthatswana) accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16th February 1994.