

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 03/91 (AFR 53/01/91, 9 January 1991) - Legal/Health Concern

SOUTH AFRICA:George MOLAIOA
Henry MOLEME
Tsidiso NTAOPANE
Solomon RASMENI (please note correct spelling)

George Molaioa, Henry Moleme, Tsidiso Ntaopane and Solomon Rasmeni were released unconditionally on 11 January 1991. They had been arrested on 30 December 1990 and detained under the terms of Section 50 of the Internal Security Act. They went on hunger-strike the same day in protest against their detention and George Molaioa, Henry Moleme and Solomon Rasmeni remained on hunger-strike until they were released. Tsidiso Ntaopane suspended his hunger-strike on its fourth day on the advice of the other three, who were concerned for his health. Their health is now being monitored by a doctor and they are receiving dietary advice to assist their recovery.

The police eventually informed the lawyers that they had detained the men in connection with the organizing of rent boycotts and campaigns against local government councillors in Jouberton, but they were released uncharged.

Reports issued by the South African Press Association on 9 and 10 January referred to appeals by Amnesty International to the government to charge or release the four men. Thank you to all who appealed.

No further appeals are required.