

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 328/92 (AFR 53/22/92, 22 October 1992 and AFR 53/29/92, 11 December 1992) - Fear of Extrajudicial Execution

SOUTH AFRICA: Siza RANI, chairperson African National Congress (ANC)
Sharpeville township branch

Amnesty International remains concerned for the safety of Siza Rani who has been the repeated target of harassment by the South African Police.

On 27 January 1993 Siza Rani was severely assaulted by members of the police Internal Stability Unit. At about 10.45 pm he was driving home through Sharpeville township, in the Vaal Triangle area south of Johannesburg, when he saw a large vehicle following him. The vehicle, which was in fact an armoured police vehicle, dazzled him with its headlamps and its occupants reportedly fired some shots at Siza Rani's car. As a result Siza Rani's car collided with a fence. Members of the police Internal Stability Unit, based in the Vaal triangle area, then alighted from their vehicle and allegedly assaulted Siza Rani for some 40 minutes. He was slapped and kicked, and struck on the head with a rifle butt. Eventually a nearby resident turned on a bright outside light at their home. The police then placed Siza Rani inside their vehicle and drove him around the township. They reportedly questioned him about weapons. He had no weapon in his possession and denied any knowledge of weapons. Siza Rani's home has been raided by the police several times during recent months, ostensibly searching for weapons, and none have been found there.

Siza Rani is still forced to live in hiding out of fear for his life, as a result of repeated harassment and surveillance by the police and by unidentified men apparently operating with the acquiescence of the police. His wife has now moved away from Sharpeville with their child out of fear for their safety. One night she was forced out of her bed naked at gunpoint by police officers conducting a raid.

On at least three occasions Siza Rani has laid charges at Sharpeville police station against police officers involved in these incidents of harassment. Two charges were laid in relation to incidents which occurred in December 1991, and a third charge relating to November 1992. The police numbers used to record the laying of these charges are CR 179/12/91; CR 188/12/91; and CR 10/11/92. In spite of the fact that more than a year has passed since the first two of these charges were laid, there appears to have been no progress in the police investigations and no action has been taken against police officers or others allegedly involved.

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

- expressing concern that Siza Rani was assaulted on 27 January 1993 by members of the Internal Stability Unit of the South African Police based in the Vaal triangle area, and required admission to hospital for treatment of his injuries;

- expressing continuing concern for the safety of Siza Rani in view of the on-going pattern of harassment against him by police officers in the Sharpeville area;

- asking to be informed of the progress of police investigations into charges laid at Sharpeville police station by Siza Rani, quoting the following numbers: CR 179/12/91; CR 188/12/91; and CR 10/11/92;

- urging the authorities to implement promptly an independent investigation into the conduct of the police involved in these raids and assaults, to suspend them from duties pending the outcome of the investigation, and to bring to justice those found to have committed human rights abuses.

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APPEALS TO:

1) Mr F W De Klerk
State President
State President's Office
Private Bag X83
Pretoria 0001, South Africa
**Telegrams: State President de Klerk,
Pretoria, South Africa**
**Telexes: 321695 SPLIB SA
321890 PRES SA**
Faxes: + 27 12 323 3982

Salutation: Dear State President

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

Salutation: Dear Minister
PLEASE SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) The Station Commander
Sharpeville Police Station
Sharpeville 1933
South Africa

2) Newspapers:

(a) The Star
PO Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000
South Africa

(b) The New Nation
PO Box 10674, Johannesburg 2000

3) Major-General S J J Smit
Head of Crime Combatting and Investigation
Unit
South African Police
Police Headquarters
Private Bag X94
Pretoria 0001, South Africa
**Telegrams: Head Crime Combatting/Inves-
tigation, Police Headquarters,
Pretoria, South Africa**
**Telexes: 3-20772 SAPQM SA;
3-20838 SAPOB SA**
**Faxes: + 27 12 323 2033;
+ 27 12 326 5162**

Salutation: Dear Major-General

4) Lieutenant-General J F Calitz
Regional Commissioner of Police,
Witwatersrand, Private Bag X5
Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
**Telegrams: Witwatersrand Regional Police
Commissioner, Johannesburg,
South Africa**

Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-General

South Africa

(c) The Sowetan
PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000
South Africa

(d) City Press
PO Box 34313, Johannesburg 2000
South Africa

3) Human Rights Organizations:

(a) The Independent Board of Inquiry into
Informal Repression
PO Box 32293, Braamfontein,
Johannesburg 2017 South Africa

(b) Peace Action
PO Box 45096, Mayfair
Johannesburg 2108, 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 26 March 1993.