

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 10/94 (AFR 53/05/94, 13 January 1994) - Legal concern
/ Fear of torture

**SOUTH AFRICA (Bophuthatswana): Johannes SETLAE, aged 26, member of the African
National Congress (ANC)**

On 14 January 1994 Johannes Setlae was formally charged at Mmabatho police station with assaulting a police officer, and was released on bail to appear in Mmabatho magistrate's court on 17 January. At the hearing on 17 January the case was postponed to a date in March 1994. Neither the police investigating officer nor the officer allegedly assaulted by Johannes Setlae were present at the court hearing.

While Johannes Setlae was in custody at Mmabatho police station on 13 January, the police obstructed efforts by his lawyer to visit him, saying that the prisoner had been taken out to assist police in an investigation. Finally his lawyer located him in the police cells. Johannes Setlae complained of pain in his ribs and expressed fears that bones might be broken. He also reported that the police officers who had arrested him had threatened him with death, and as such he had been extremely fearful for his own safety. He was not, however, assaulted while in the police station.

While Johannes Setlae was in police custody he asked repeatedly to be examined by a doctor and to be given medical treatment for the injuries he sustained when assaulted prior to his arrest. The police did not give him access to a doctor, despite undertakings given to his lawyer, and he only received medical care after his release. Amnesty International understands that he has not been kept in hospital but at this stage does not have further details of his injuries.

No further action is requested on this case. Thank you to all who appealed on behalf of Johannes Setlae.