

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 53/22/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 328/92 Fear of Extrajudicial Execution

22 October 1992

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

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Siza Rani, who appears to be the target of systematic harassment by members of the South African Police based in the Vaal Triangle area south of Johannesburg. Siza Rani is chairperson of the Sharpeville township branch of the ANC. The victim of police raids and a hand-grenade attack on his home 10 months ago, Siza Rani has been forced to go into hiding again, following renewed police raids on his home. According to eye-witness accounts, the police broke into and ransacked Siza Rani's home on 7 October 1992 and again during the night of 8 October. Siza Rani and his family were not in the house when these raids occurred. On the second occasion, the police reportedly went to a neighbour's house and demanded details of Siza Rani's whereabouts. The neighbour was then assaulted for failing to be able to answer the police. The police involved in these raids are reportedly members of the Internal Stability Unit (ISU) and other police based at Sharpeville, Vereeniging and Sebokeng police stations.

In late December 1991 police had forcibly entered Siza Rani's Sharpeville township home and searched it. In the process they virtually ransacked the house and defaced a picture of the ANC President, Nelson Mandela, with the words "Dead in 1992" and other abusive graffiti. Siza Rani reported the matter and laid charges of housebreaking, theft and damage to property against the police at Sharpeville Police Station. Despite being under investigation, the police returned to search Siza Rani's house again on 31 December. On 11 January 1992 unidentified attackers threw a hand-grenade at the house. There were no fatalities as the family were not in the house at the time. Amnesty International publicized his case in its June 1992 report, South Africa State of Fear: Security force complicity in torture and political killings, 1990-1992.

To Amnesty International's knowledge the police have made no progress in their investigations into the charges laid against the police at Sharpeville Police Station nearly 10 months ago. The police have not revealed the reasons for their latest raids on Siza Rani's home. He and his family have gone into hiding out of fear of further harassment from the police.

Although the South African Government unbanned the ANC in 1990, elements within the security forces have continued to target ANC members and supporters for harassment, arbitrary detention and extrajudicial execution. In some cases individuals who have been subjected to harassment and surveillance by the police have subsequently been murdered by unidentified assailants. In one such case, a member of the ANC's military wing, Rangoane Lefhiedi, was arrested and shot dead by the police in Sharpeville township on 24 January 1992. Six members of his family, who had been the target of police harassment since Rangoane had returned from exile, were murdered in their Sharpeville home on the night of 19 April 1992 by five unidentified men armed with

automatic weapons.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Siza Rani whose home in Sharpeville township has been raided and ransacked by the police in December 1991 and October 1992, as well as being the target of a hand-grenade attack in January 1992, and urging the authorities to take steps, in accordance with Siza Rani's wishes, to safeguard him against further harassment and attack;

Page 2 of UA 328/92

- expressing concern about the lack of progress in the investigations into the charges laid against the police by Siza Rani at Sharpeville police station in December 1991;

- expressing concern about the conduct of the police involved in these raids on Siza Rani's home, including the reported assault of Siza Rani's neighbour questioned by the police regarding his whereabouts, and urging the authorities to order a halt to the searches of Siza Rani's residence if these are not part of a bona fide criminal investigation;

- 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.

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,
322158 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

3) Maj-Gen 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/
Investigation, 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) Lt-Gen J F Calitz
Regional Commissioner, Witwatersrand
Private Bag X5
Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
**Telegrams: Witwatersrand Regional
Police Commissioner,
Johannesburg, South Africa**

Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: one or more of the following:

Newspapers:

- The Star, PO Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
- The New Nation, PO Box 10674, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
- The Sowetan, PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
- City Press, PO Box 34313, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa

and Human rights organizations:

- The Independent Board of Inquiry, PO Box 32293, Braamfontein, Johannesburg 2017, South Africa
- 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 3 December 1992.