

**PRIORITY**

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AFR 53/32/91**

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**27 September 1991**

**Further information on UA 221/91 (AFR 53/23/91, 28 June 1991) and follow-ups AFR 53/24/91 (4 July), AFR 53/26/91 (18 July) and AFR 53/31/91 (17 September) - Hunger-Strike/Medical Concern/Ill-treatment**

**SOUTH AFRICA (Bophuthatswana):**

**Former hunger-strikers from Rooigrond Prison including:**

**Johannes SIMELANE  
Johannes "Bushy" MOLEFE  
Sando BANDA (new name)  
Simon KEEBINE (new name)**

**currently on hunger-strike**

**Patrick CEBISA  
Simon LEFAKANE  
Frans MOKOMANE  
Patrick MONGAKE**

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**Timothy PHIRI  
Michael RANKU**

**and 54 other prisoners no longer on  
hunger-strike but still receiving hospital  
treatment**

Amnesty International is concerned about the deteriorating state of health of Johannes Simelane, who has been on hunger-strike in the nominally-independent "homeland" of Bophuthatswana since 19 August 1991.

He is today (27 September) on the 40th day of his hunger-strike, having previously been on hunger-strike in June and July for 29 days. He is reported to be very weak and has great difficulty speaking, but he has indicated that his fast should be allowed to continue if he lapses into unconsciousness and that he should not be revived unless he has been released. He has agreed to be given an intravenous drip to maintain the fluid and electrolyte balance in his body but has refused any form of nutrition. On both 24 and 25 September he was visited by the Bophuthatswana Minister of Justice and by South Africa's official representative in Bophuthatswana, who reportedly tried to persuade him to end his hunger-strike by saying that his release would then be considered, and by offering him food, but he refused to suspend his fast.

Human rights workers monitoring his situation have expressed concern that his health cannot be monitored satisfactorily at Bophelong Hospital because it does not have the appropriate equipment and expertise, and have urged that he be transferred to GaRankuwa hospital near Pretoria which has more sophisticated facilities. Concern has also been expressed that the health

of approximately 60 prisoners still in Thusong and Bophelong hospitals receiving post-hunger-strike treatment is not receiving sufficiently close monitoring and adequate treatment.

Sando Banda, Johannes "Bushy" Molefe and Simon Keebine renewed on 23 September the hunger-strike they had suspended on 13 September following the release of 19 other political prisoners. Sando Banda and Johannes "Bushy" Molefe are in Bophelong hospital but Simon Keebine is still being held in prison.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

**Participants who have also received the last follow-up to UA 221/91, AFR 53/31/91 dated 17 September, are requested to continue raise the concerns expressed in that action and in addition:**

- emphasising Amnesty International's concern at reports of the serious deterioration in Johannes Simelane's state of health, which gives particular urgency to his case;
- expressing concern that three other prisoners, Sando Banda, Johannes "Bushy" Molefe and Simon Keebine, have renewed the hunger-strike which they suspended on 13 September 1991;
- seeking assurances that all prisoners on hunger-strike, and those who have recently suspended their hunger-strike, will be granted full access to a medical doctor of their choice and to the treatment prescribed by that doctor, as well as regular access to their families and lawyers;
- urging that the South African government speedily complete its review of the cases of all political prisoners, and that the Bophuthatswana authorities urgently complete their own review of the case of Johannes Simelane and all other political prisoners in Bophuthatswana, in order to avoid further suffering to the prisoners and their families.

**APPEALS TO:**

1.

Mr F W De Klerk

**Dear President**

State President

State President's Office

Private Bag X83

Pretoria 0001, South Africa

**Telegrams: President De Klerk, Pretoria, South Africa**

**Telexes: 321695 SPLIB SA, 321890 PRES SA**

**or 322158 PRES SA**

**Faxes: +27 12 323 3982**

2.

Mr R F Botha

**Dear Minister**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Department of Foreign Affairs

Private Bag X152

Pretoria 0001, South Africa

**Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Pretoria, S. Africa**

**Telexes:** 0959 350060 EXTERN TTX SA  
**Faxes:** +27 12 323 1664

3.

Dr E H Venter **Dear Minister**  
 Minister of National Health  
 Department of National Health  
 Private Bag X399  
 Pretoria 0001, South Africa  
**Telegrams: Health Minister, Pretoria, South Africa**  
**Telexes: 321320 SA or 321366 SA**  
**Faxes: +27 12 323 0093**

4.

Chief L M Mangope **Dear President**  
 President  
 Government Offices  
 Mmabatho  
 Bophuthatswana, South Africa  
**Telegrams: President Mangope, Bophuthatswana, South Africa**  
**Telexes: 937 3008 BOP**  
**Faxes: +27 140 842626**

5.

Dr D N C O B Khaole **Dear Minister**  
 Minister of Health and Social Services  
 Department of Health and Social Services  
 Government Offices  
 Mmabatho  
 Bophuthatswana, South Africa  
**Telegrams: Health Minister Khaole, Mmabatho, Bophuthatswana, South Africa**  
**Faxes: (+27) 140 23846 Marked: Please forward to the Ministry of Health**  
**(this is the fax number for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health has recently moved.)**

6.

Mr S G Mothibe **Dear Minister**  
 Minister of Justice  
 Department of Justics  
 Private Bag X2033  
 Mmabatho 8681  
 Bophuthatswana, South Africa  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Bophuthatswana, South Africa**

**COPIES TO:**

- The Editor, The Star, PO Box 1014 Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
- The Editor, New Nation, PO Box 10674, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
- Human Rights Commission, PO Box 32723, Braamfontein 2017, South Africa
- Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum (MAREF), PO Box 158, Ratshidi 8681, South Africa
- African National Congress, Legal and Constitutional Affairs Department, PO Box 61884 Marshalltown 2307, Johannesburg, South Africa
- National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA), PO Box 2346, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
- Medical Association of South Africa (MASA), PO Box 20272, Alkantrant,

Pretoria 0005, South Africa

and to diplomatic representatives of South Africa in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 7 November 1991.