

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 326/91 Extrajudicial Execution/Fear of Extrajudicial Execution

**SOUTH AFRICA: Sam NTULI, general secretary, Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (CAST), member of National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa (NUMSA)
Louis SIBEKO, general secretary Thokoza Civic Association**

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of a community activist, Louis Sibeko, general secretary of the Thokoza Civic Association, as well as for other civic association leaders, following the murder of Sam Ntuli in Thokoza township on 29 September 1991. Thokoza is about 30 kilometres east of Johannesburg.

Sam Ntuli, a prominent local community leader, was ambushed in his car and shot dead by a group of heavily armed men, four of whom had arrived at his house in two cars shortly before the killing. Soon after this incident Louis Sibeko, a close colleague of Sam Ntuli's, was warned to stay away from his home because it was apparently under surveillance. Neighbours had seen strangers in a car driving in and out of his driveway. The same car has been seen waiting outside the homes of other Thokoza Civic Association leaders during the past few days.

The car is reputedly used by members of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), who are known to have carried out attacks, with active police assistance, against residents in the township and the neighbouring squatter camp in late 1990.

Prior to his murder, Sam Ntuli was prominently involved in the activities of CAST, which represents a range of civic organizations in the southern Transvaal, including the greater Johannesburg area. The civic organizations have campaigned on predominantly local issues such as the lack of adequate housing and services in the black townships. Many of the civic associations' leaders, including Sam Ntuli, were detained without charge or trial under the terms of the State of Emergency regulations during the 1980s. More recently they have been involved in discussions with government departments and city councils over the restructuring and desegregation of local government. In this respect, the civic organizations, such as CAST, have come into conflict with the township councils established under the terms of the 1982 Black Local Authorities Act. During 1991 the councils, particularly in the southern Transvaal area, have come increasingly under the control of the IFP. Although this conflict has at times and in certain areas become violent, in the Thokoza area Sam Ntuli and Louis Sibeko were, at the time of Sam Ntuli's murder, involved in arranging peace talks with the IFP and other parties.

Despite major incidents of political violence in Thokoza township during 1990 and early 1991, the township had been relatively peaceful this year. However, on 8 September 1991 23 IFP supporters were killed when gunmen opened fire on some 300 people marching to an IFP rally.

The massacre led to further killings in Thokoza and precipitated a wave of apparent "reprisal" attacks in Soweto and other townships around Johannesburg, as well as apparently random attacks on commuters in trains and taxis. The highly professional nature of the gunmen's attack on 8 September and the wave of violence it unleashed, just prior to the signing of the multilateral, national Peace Accord on 14 September, suggests that

the attack was carried out by forces determined to undermine efforts at political reconciliation in South Africa. Human rights monitors fear that the murder of Sam Ntuli on 29 September is the first of a wave of planned assassinations of community leaders in Thokoza. They have also expressed concern that the police have not provided protection for eyewitnesses to Sam Ntuli's murder or taken other vigorous steps to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Amnesty International is urging the South African government to take prompt and appropriate measures to guarantee the safety of Louis Sibeko and other Thokoza Civic Association

members who appear to be potential victims of assassination. It is also urging the government to ensure that, in view of the frequent instances in which the police have acted in a biased manner, failing to protect the lives of or investigate attacks against perceived opponents of the IFP, they make every attempt to bring to justice those responsible for the murder of Sam Ntuli and the threats against Louis Sibeko and other members of the Thokoza Civic Association.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Louis Sibeko and other officials of the Thokoza Civic Association in view of threats against them following the assassination of Sam Ntuli on 29 September;
- expressing particular concern that Louis Sibeko appears to be under threat by a group of men who are keeping him under surveillance and, although this has been reported to the police, no action appears to have been taken to stop their activities;
- urging that the authorities fully investigate the murder of Sam Ntuli, who was shot dead by gunmen on 29 September, and bring to justice those responsible for the killing.

APPEALS TO:

Mr F W De Klerk
State President
State President's Office
Private Bag X83
Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Dear President

Telegrams: President De Klerk, Pretoria, South Africa
Telexes: 321695 SPLIB SA, 321890 PRES SA or 322158 PRES SA
Faxes: +27 12 323 3982

Mr H J Kriel
Minister of Law and Order
Private Bag X463
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

Dear Minister

Telegrams: Minister Law/Order, Pretoria, South Africa
Telexes: 321353/321358 HABS SA (via Ministry of Home Affairs)
Faxes: +27 12 322 2559

Lt-Gen Van Der Merwe
Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
Private Bag X94
Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Dear Commissioner

Telegrams: Police Commissioner Van de Merwe, Pretoria, South Africa
Telexes: 3-20772 SAPQM SA; 3-20838 SAPOB SA
Faxes: + 27 12 323 2033

Major-Gen G N Erasmus
Regional Commissioner, Witwatersrand
Private Bag 5
Johannesburg 2000
SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Regional Commissioner

Telegrams: Witwatersrand Regional Police Commissioner, Johannesburg, South Africa

COPIES TO:

- The Star, POB 1014, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
 - The New Nation, PO Box 10674, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa
 - The Weekly Mail, PO Box 260425, Excom 2023, South Africa
 - The Independent Board of Inquiry into Informal Repression (IBIIR), PO Box 32293, Braamfontein, Johannesburg 2017, South Africa
 - Human Rights Commission, PO Box 32723, Braamfontein 2017, South Africa
 - African National Congress, Legal and Constitutional Affairs Department, PO Box 61884, Marshalltown 2307, Johannesburg, 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 14 November 1991.