

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 53/79/90
Distr: UA/SC

3 December 1990

Further information on UA 456/90 (AFR 53/75/90, 12 November 1990) - Fear of Torture/Legal Concern

SOUTH AFRICA (Bophuthatswana):

Dr Thabo RANGAKA, hospital superintendent, member of the Mafikeng Branch of the African National Congress (ANC), of the National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA), and of the Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum (MAREF)

Nomvula HLONGWANE (f), secretary, member of the Mafikeng branch of the ANC and of MAREF

Dr Thabo Rangaka and Nomvula Hlongwane have both been released from emergency detention in the nominally independent "homeland" of Bophuthatswana. Dr Rangaka was released on 22 November 1990 and Nomvula Hlongwane during the same week. They had been detained on 12 November amid a wave of arrests of political activists in an apparent attempt by the Bophuthatswana authorities to obstruct free political activity in the "homeland".

A meeting between the "homeland" authorities and representatives of the African National Congress (ANC) on the weekend of 17 and 18 November resulted in the release of detainees during the following week. All detainees in the Mafikeng area of Bophuthatswana have now been released. Before being released, however, some were reportedly transferred from emergency detention to detention under the terms of section 25 of the Bophuthatswana Internal Security Act, which like section 29 of South Africa's Internal Security Act provides for indefinite incommunicado detention without charge. They were released soon afterwards.

No further appeals are requested. Thank you to all who sent appeals.