

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 97/94 Attempted extrajudicial executions /  
fear of further extrajudicial executions

10 March 1994

SOUTH AFRICA (Bophuthatswana)

Gladys Mokgoro (f)  
Jacob Mabona  
Mr Roberts (first name not known)  
Mr Matuse (first name not known)

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Gladys Mokgoro, Jacob Mabona and two other residents of Mogogoe village near Mafikeng were shot and injured on 10 March 1994 by unidentified white men in a moving vehicle. According to eye-witnesses the men shot indiscriminately as the car moved through Mogogoe. Gladys Mokgoro was shot in her hip while she was inside her house. Jacob Mabona was shot in the left side of his jaw and the blast destroyed his tongue. He has been transferred to a Bloemfontein hospital for treatment. Mr Roberts received gunshot wounds in his back and neck, and Mr Matuse was shot in one arm.

These shootings followed reports that Bophuthatswana's President Mangope indicated he intended to ask supporters of the right-wing Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB), through their leader Eugene Terreblanche, to support the Bophuthatswana government in resisting pressures to participate in South Africa's April elections. The shootings also followed reports that white men were seen driving around the streets of Mafikeng in a menacing manner during the night of 9-10 March. During the past week anonymous telephone callers claiming to be AWB members have made death threats against staff at the ANC's Mafikeng office. In the early morning hours of 7 March the ANC's office was damaged by an exploding petrol-bomb. No-one has been arrested so far in connection with these incidents.

Later on the afternoon of 10 March, Amnesty International received reports that the right-wing Radio Pretoria issued a call for AWB members and other right-wing supporters to gather at Ventersdorp, and other reports that these men have been moving into Mmabatho with the explicit intention of supporting President Mangope's government. White men were moving about Mmabatho's streets shooting indiscriminately. Residents, including human rights workers, were beginning to flee from their homes with their families, out of fear for their lives.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Bophuthatswana authorities are members of the Freedom Alliance coalition, which includes members of white right-wing extremist parties, all of whom are opposing participation in South Africa's elections scheduled for 26-28 April 1994. Over recent days there has been an intense wave of opposition to President Mangope's administration by civil servants, teachers, health workers as well as ANC supporters, officials, and others. There has been a wave of strikes and protests on the streets, which have been violently suppressed by the police. On 10 March, however, some 400 police officers publicly joined the protests. Tension has been increased by rumours on 10 March that AWB members were planning to carry out some kind of attack on Mafikeng, possibly at night. As this text was issued to Amnesty International members there were reports of Bophuthatswana Defence Force officers and white men shooting at people on the streets of Mmabatho.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail

**letters either in English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern that Gladys Mokgoro, Jacob Mabona, and two other villagers known to Amnesty International only as Mr Roberts and Mr Matuse, were injured on 10 March when unidentified white men in a moving vehicle fired shots indiscriminately at residents in Mogogoe village near Mafikeng;
- expressing concern at reports that the Bophuthatswana authorities are using AWB members to suppress protests against the "homeland's" policies;
- calling upon the authorities to conduct a prompt and independent investigation into these reports of indiscriminate shootings and to promptly arrest and bring to justice those responsible;
- calling upon the authorities to protect residents of Mafikeng and surrounding villages from further attacks by armed men acting in collusion with Bophuthatswana security forces;
- expressing concern that these shootings appear to be part of an ongoing pattern of human rights violations against Bophuthatswana residents who wish to participate in South Africa's April elections, and calling on the authorities to end the current restrictions in force in Bophuthatswana on the universally recognized rights to freedom of assembly and expression.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Mr F W de Klerk

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, - numbers not working 11/93)**

**Faxes: + 27 12 323 3982**

**Salutation: Dear President**

2) Mr R F Botha

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Department of Foreign Affairs

Private Bag X152

Pretoria 0001, South Africa

**Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Pretoria, South Africa**

**Telexes: 0959 350060 EXTERN TTX SA**

**Faxes: + 27 12 325 8669 or + 27 12 323 0183**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) R P Meyer

Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

Private Bag X804

Pretoria 0001, South Africa

**Telegrams: Minister Constitutional Development and Planning, Pretoria, South Africa**

**Faxes: + 27 12 323 3304 / 3305**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

- Dr D J De Villiers, National Party Chief Representative
- Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, ANC Chief Representative

**BOTH AT**

Transitional Executive Council, Saambou Building, 227 Andries Street, Pretoria 0001 **Faxes: +27 12 328 6646**

**and**

- Lawyers for Human Rights, Mafikeng Regional Office, POB 945, Mafikeng 8670, South Africa

- Lawyers for Human Rights, 713 Van Erkom Building, Pretorius St, Pretoria 0002, South Africa;

- The Editor, Sowetan, POB 6663, Johannesburg 2000, 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 21 April 1994.