

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 55/02/97

10 February 1997

Further information on UA 41/97 (AFR 55/01/97, 5 February 1997) - Fear for safety / Legal concern / Prisoners of conscience

SWAZILAND-Simon Noge, Secretary, Human Rights Association of Swaziland (HUMARAS) and Chair, Swaziland Democratic Alliance (SDA)
-Jan Sithole, Secretary General of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU)
-Jabulani Nxumalo, SFTU Deputy Secretary General
-Richard Nxumalo, SFTU President
-Themba Msibi, SFTU Vice-President
-and other SFTU officials and members

Simon Noge was released from police custody on the afternoon of 6 February without charge. He was not ill-treated during his detention at Manzini police station, although he was held overnight in poor conditions in a crowded cell.

Jan Sithole and his three colleagues remain in prison awaiting trial.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express or airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- welcoming the release of Simon Noge from police custody, but expressing concern at the conduct of the police who had arrested him without warrant or charge in the early hours of 5 February;
- expressing concern that Jan Sithole, Richard Nxumalo, Jabulani Nxumalo and Themba Msibi, all senior officials of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, are being held at Matsapha Prison after being charged with a non-bailable offence, apparently for the sole purpose of preventing them from conducting their trade union activities, and calling for their immediate and unconditional release;
- calling for a full investigation into allegations that police and military officers allegedly assaulted 23 or more trade unionists as they left a meeting on 3 February, and held them illegally for interrogation for several hours;
- urging that internationally accepted rights of non-violent freedom of expression and assembly are fully respected.

APPEALS TO:

His Majesty King Mswati III
King of Swaziland
P O Box 1
Lobamba SWAZILAND
Fax: +268 84468
Telegrams: H.M.King Mswati, Lobamba, Swaziland
Salutation: Your Majesty

Dr B S Dlamini
Prime Minister of Swaziland
Prime Minister's Office
P O Box 395
Mbabane, SWAZILAND
Fax: +268 43943
Telegrams: Prime Minister Dlamini, Mbabane, Swaziland
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

COPIES TO:

- Human Rights Association of Swaziland, PO Box 1546, Mbabane, Swaziland
- Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, Headquarters, PO Box 1158, Manzini, Swaziland
- The Editor, *Times of Swaziland*, PO Box 156, Mbabane, Swaziland

and to diplomatic representatives of Swaziland accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 March 1997.