

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**UA 181/93      Fear of extrajudicial execution**

**4 June 1993**

**SOUTH AFRICA (Bophuthatswana):      Malose LEHOBYE, African National Congress  
(ANC) official and community activist**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Malose Lehobye, ANC branch chairperson in Mabopane, Bophuthatswana, on account of an armed attack on him in which he was wounded. This attack occurred after suspicious incidents including anonymous phone calls to his home and close surveillance of his movements.

On 18 May 1993 unidentified armed men attacked Malose Lehobye as he returned to his home in Mabopane at about 8.45 pm. Mabopane is to the north of Pretoria in territory which falls under the jurisdiction of the nominally independent "homeland" of Bophuthatswana. Malose Lehobye had just stopped his car and got out to open the gate when two men wearing civilian clothes, one armed, accosted him and shot at him. The first shot grazed his chest, another hit him in the arm, and he fell down. When his wife opened the door to try to help him, shots were fired at her, but hit the door. The attackers then fled on foot to vehicles waiting nearby, at least one of which local eye-witnesses believe is used by the local security forces. Malose Lehobye's wife phoned the Bophuthatswana police at the local Mabopane police station for help. Despite her appeals and despite visits to the police station by concerned friends, the Mabopane police refused to send officers promptly to protect the family and investigate the incident. Police officers eventually arrived at the Lehobye home at about 2.30 am.

After the attack Malose Lehobye was taken to hospital in Pretoria and admitted for treatment. He was discharged after about a week and is now back at home. On 19 May 1993 police took statements about the incident from Malose Lehobye in hospital and from his wife but do not appear to be actively investigating it. On the night of 25-26 May the family were disturbed in the early hours of the morning by footsteps in their yard, and were unable to call for help as their phone line was dead. Next morning they found that electrical parts and wires in their car had been damaged or stolen. Amnesty International is concerned that Malose Lehobye is still at risk of further attacks.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Over a number of years Malose Lehobye has been involved in community organizations and the ANC in his home area. He has actively campaigned on community issues, and for greater freedom of assembly and political expression in the Bophuthatswana "homeland". In 1990 and 1991 he was detained without charge on a number of occasions. During recent months his home has been regularly under surveillance by men in cars parked in the vicinity. At times these men have been recognized by the local community as members of the Bophuthatswana security forces. Police have visited and searched the Lehobye home on several occasions, ostensibly looking for firearms, while in

fact he does not possess a firearm and is still waiting for a response from the authorities to a firearm licence application lodged in April 1992. The Lehobye family have also received phone calls from unknown callers, one on 18 May prior to the shooting incident in which the caller asked whether or not Malose Lehobye was at home.

The Bophuthatswana authorities maintain repressive legislation that restricts freedom of assembly and association, and in recent years ANC activists have frequently been the target of arbitrary detentions and other forms of harassment by the Bophuthatswana security forces.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Malose Lehobye, in view of the attack on him in Mabopane on 18 May 1993 in which he was shot and wounded, and the fact that his home has been kept under surveillance by men who appear to have links with the Bophuthatswana security forces;

- calling upon the authorities to urgently investigate this attack and harassment, and bring the perpetrators to justice;

- urging the authorities to ensure the effective protection of Malose Lehobye and his family against any further attacks;

- urging the authorities to exercise their responsibility to protect the lives of all residents of Mabopane by ensuring that the local police force behaves impartially and responds promptly to calls for assistance and is willing to investigate and arrest the perpetrators of attacks, irrespective of the political affiliation of the victim.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Chief L M Mangope  
President  
Government Offices  
Mmabatho 8681

Bophuthatswana, South Africa

**Telegrams: President Mangope,  
Bophuthatswana, South Africa**

**Telexes: 937 3008 BOP**

**Faxes: + 27 140 842626**

**Salutation: Dear Commissioner**

**Salutation: Dear President Mangope**

2) Major General P J Seleke  
Commissioner of Police  
Private Bag X2006  
Mmabatho 8681

Bophuthatswana, South Africa

**Telegrams: Police Commissioner,  
Mmabatho, Bophuthatswana,  
South Africa**

3) Colonel J Mokubiyane  
Divisional Commissioner of Police  
Private Bag X1003  
GaRankuwa 0208  
Bophuthatswana, South Africa  
**Telegrams: Divisional Commissioner of  
Police, GaRankuwa,  
Bophuthatswana, South  
Africa**

**Salutation: Dear Commissioner**

4) 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**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**  
**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

The Station Commander  
Bophuthatswana Police  
Mabopane Police Station  
Mabopane 0100  
Bophuthatswana, South Africa

Lawyers for Human Rights  
Pretoria Regional Office  
713 Van Erkom Building  
Pretorius St, Pretoria 0002  
South Africa

and the following newspapers:

Sowetan  
POB 6663  
Johannesburg 2000  
South Africa

City Press  
POB 3413  
Johannesburg  
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 16 July 1993.