

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 468/90 (AFR 55/05/90, 16 November, and follow-ups AFR 55/06/90, 23 November, AFR 55/07/90, 11 December 1990, and AFR 55/01/91, 18 January 1991) - Legal/Health Concern

SWAZILAND: Sabelo DLAMINI
Boy MAGAGULU
Dominic MNGOMEZULU
Ray RUSSON
Mphandlana SHONGWE

The five men named above are still detained without charge under administrative detention orders imposed in November 1990 and renewed on 11 January 1991. These detention orders are valid for 60 days and the current orders will expire in the week ending 9 March. It is feared that they may again be renewed. The period of detention can be renewed repeatedly at the Prime Minister's discretion, providing for indefinite detention without charge.

All five went on hunger-strike on 11 January 1991 in protest against the renewal of their detention orders, but suspended their hunger-strike on 29 January, apparently after the government gave indications that the detainees' cases were under consideration and that they would be released within 14 days.

More than three weeks later, however, they remain in detention and the government has given no firm undertaking that their release is imminent.

Amnesty International considers all five men to be prisoners of conscience and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release. In addition Amnesty International is concerned that their physical health will suffer from prolonged periods of refusing to take food, and that they will suffer psychologically from their lengthy detention without charge, not knowing if and when they will be released. They are currently in prison, not in hospital, and have regular access to visits from their lawyer and relatives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sabelo Dlamini, Dominic Mngomezulu, Ray Russon and Mphandlana Shongwe were convicted in October 1990 of contravening a 1973 decree which prohibits people from organizing or attending any meetings of a political nature. Boy Magagula was also previously detained and was charged in connection with the same trial, but was not brought to trial with the other accused. There is an appeal pending against the convictions of Dominic Mngomezulu, Ray Russon, Sabelo Dlamini, Mphandlana Shongwe and two other accused. (Please see UA 308/90, AFR 55/01/90, 24 July, and follow-ups AFR 55/03/90, 31 October and AFR 55/04/90, 6 November, for further information).

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

- expressing concern that Sabelo Dlamini, Boy Magagulu, Dominic Mngomezulu, Ray Russon and Mphandlana Shongwe are still detained under provisions which permit their indefinite imprisonment, incommunicado and without charge or trial;

- stressing that indefinite detention without charge and without reference to the courts violates their basic human rights and is in conflict with internationally accepted human rights standards;

- expressing concern that the conditions of indefinite detention without charge are likely to have a damaging effect on their physical and psychological well-being;

- stating that Amnesty International regards them as prisoners of conscience, imprisoned on account of their non-violent political activities, urging that their detention orders should not be renewed when their current period expires, and calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

APPEALS TO:

His Majesty King Mswati III
PO Box 1
Lobamba
Swaziland

Telegrams: HM King Mswati, Swaziland
Telexes: 2276 WD (via Prime Minister's Office)

The Right Hon. Obed Dlamini
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
PO Box 395
Mbabane, Swaziland

Telegrams: Prime, Mbabane, Swaziland
Telexes: 2276 WD
Faxes: + 268 43943

COPIES TO:

- Mr Zonke Khumalo, Minister of Justice, PO Box 924, Mbabane, Swaziland
- Mr Sandile Mdziniso, Commissioner of Police, c/o Office of the Prime Minister, PO Box 395, Mbabane, Swaziland
- Attorney General, Attorney General's Chambers, PO Box 578, Mbabane, Swaziland
- President, Swaziland Law Society, PO Box 24, Mbabane, Swaziland
- The Times of Swaziland, PO Box 156, Lansdown House, Post St, Mbabane, Swaziland

and to diplomatic representatives of Swaziland in your country.

Please organize some appeals from lawyers, academics or students.

Please also encourage your local member of parliament to send appeals on behalf of these prisoners of conscience.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 April 1991.