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internationale Gesellschaft für Menschenrechte - International Society for
Human Rights - Société Internationale pour les Droits de l'Homme - Sociedad Internacional para

Mexican Human Rights Association

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"(IGEM - international Secretariat - 0-6000 Frankfurt/Main - since 1972 Germany *

For the attention of the
Daily Management Committee
Convention for a Democratic
South Africa

60-6000 Frankfurt/Main - G
Kalserstraße 72

Telephone: 069 - 2369 71/72 |
Telex: 4 185181 igtm d
Telefax: 069 - 23.4100

Bank Account

Mr. R. Meyer, Dr. F. T. Mdlalose, etc.
Mr. P. Gordham, Mr. J. Zuma, IGF has consultative status
Mr. Z. de Beer, Professor Ripinga with the Council of Europe

Mr. P. Hendrickse

By Fax No. 00 27 11 397 2211

Frankfurt

Dear Sirs

Re: South Africa's Political Prisoners

We are pleased to have learnt that Subgroup 1 of the work
of CODESA will be considering the question of alleged South
African political prisoners.

There are allegations that both the South African Government
African National Congress, and other South African organs
may still be holding political prisoners in South Africa
foreign prisons and camps.

It is very important that South Africa is honestly attempt
to heal this long festering sore so that it can go forward

peaceful democratic future. We fail to understand why the
question of these political prisoners is being initially

a bilateral issue between the South African Government and the
African National Congress. We think that this important
also relates to other South Africans.

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We would therefore appreciate advice on the working terms of
reference of the CODESA work group for this:-

1. Will oral evidence be heard from former political detainees ?
We believe that this could make an important contribution to un-
derstanding the current situation.

international

Honorary President Council 2. Vice-President, David Atkinson MA National Sections:
Ludwig Martin, Germany President Oy. Reinhard Gnauck, Germany Great Britain Canada, CSF
R, Ecuador,
State Attorney General, ret. 1. Vice-President, Katerina Griab, Secretary General, Robert
Chambers

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International Secretariat

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2. How is it proposed that it will be determined whether

the ANC

or other political organisations are still holding prisoners in

Other African countries 7

3. We understand from a CODESA delegate that both the Ret
Exiles Co-ordinating Committee and the Ex ANC Detainees C
have applied to the management committee of CODESA to give
evidence. We understand that so far work group 1 has not
taken this evidence.

that the hearing of this evidence would be wholly appropriate
this time.

4, Will the question of the possibility of reparations to
to former political prisoners be dealt with by this Work

5 We understand that the lack of progress of Work Group
delaying the CODESA process. If this is so we suggest the
appointment of an impartial, independent Judicial enquiry
could report back to CODESA at a later date could be a useful
course of action. Evidence could be heard from both groups
individuals inside South Africa and from witnesses still

the country. We expect that the United Nations Organisation
could assist in obtaining access to other African states
it is alleged that prisoners are held under the jurisdiction
African organisations,

6. Will there be any investigation carried out to attempt

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Is there any reason for this ? We strongly feel

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ascertain whether there has been any misconduct by indivi

7. We have been told that there is a strong desire among the
relatives of ex ANC prisoners, allegedly killed in foreign
to have the bodies returned to South Africa for burial.
CODESA address this issue ?

We take this opportunity to assure you of our very best to
assist in this matter. We admire South Africa's attempts;
its problems in an honest and forthright manner. We wish
every success in your endeavours.

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Yours sincerely

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Robert Chambers
Secretary General

Dr. Reinhard Gnauck
President

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