

LMN/009/0004/11

# International Defence and Aid Fund

14/05/69

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In reply please quote.....

14 May 1969

Your Excellency

I write to draw your urgent attention to the position of citizens of Namibia who are held in Pretoria Central Prison, South Africa. Information has been obtained from a detainee who spent over a year in that prison and who has advised us as follows:

The following 8 men have been awaiting trial for more than 14 months:

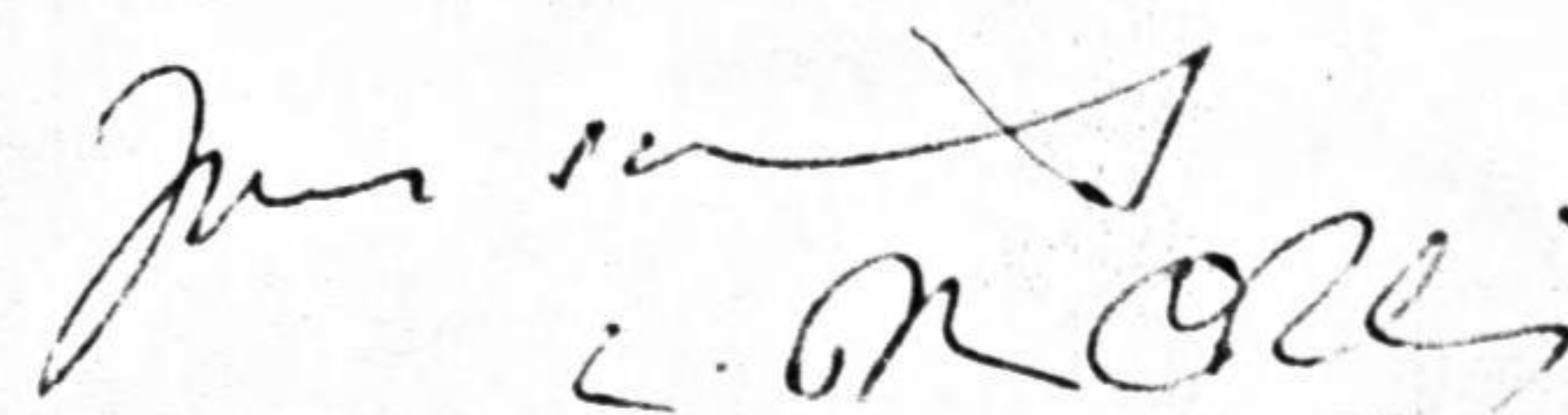
MESAH VICTORY  
JONAS SHISHIVENI  
ALFRED SHIJANDJA  
AHILUS IPANGELUA  
YOUTUS FESTUS HAITA  
SAIMON FESTUS HAITA  
JOSEPH IPANGELUA  
IGAUS SHIKOMBA

According to our informant, on 22 February 1968 the Minister of Justice signed a notice charging them but this notice was handed to them only two weeks later and there had been no trial. One of the men, Mr Shishiveni, was arrested on 29 March 1966. It appears that, apart from this inhuman and cruel delay in bringing them to trial, they are not afforded any of the facilities to which awaiting trial prisoners are entitled in terms of South Africa's own prison regulations, namely visits from their families, letters, food, tobacco etc.

Our informant states that there are other Namibian citizens who have been in jail as long as the men mentioned above, and have not even been informed that they are being tried. They too have no awaiting trial or other privileges. We appeal to your Committee to make urgent representations to the South African Government to release these men as they are citizens of Namibia over which the Republic of South Africa has no jurisdiction.

Received  
May 19, 1969  
J

His Excellency the Chairman  
United Nations Special Committee on  
the Policies of Apartheid  
United Nations, New York

  
L. John Collins  
President