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PRESS STATEMENT

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) has learnt with dismay, the attempts to link it with the recent attacks in King Williams Town and Queenstown against defenceless civilians which left 4 people dead and scores injured. The Secretary General wishes to inform the people of South Africa and the International community that even though it was a historical reality that the OAU had over the years supported the Liberation struggle in different parts of Africa, such support had been for the Political Organizations, in the case of South Africa, the ANC and the PAC, and had never implied supporting attacks on innocent people and soft civilian targets as occurred last week. For the avoidance of doubt, the OAU unconditionally and categorically condemns all Violence against civilians be they black or white and will never condone or endorse such attacks.

The OAU supports unreservedly the quest for a peaceful and negotiated settlement in South Africa, which is why it sought the involvement of the International community to end the tragic violence and deployed a team of Observers under a Special Representative to strengthen the hands of those who seek a peaceful end to the complex problems of south Africa. Actions such as those at King Williams Town and Queenstown cannot promote peace and therefore regrettably, are at variance with the publicly stated goals of the OAU. The OAU rejects the provocative linkage which gives the impression that it is involved in financing any acts of terror against innocent civilians in South Africa and insists that Liberation Movements alone must take ultimate responsibility for their day to day activities and those of their structures.

Finally, the OAU extends its sincere sympathies to the families of victims of violence in South Africa.jai

New York, December 9,