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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

1 Easton Street London WC1X BDJ

United Kingdom

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UA 328/88 Fear of Torture/Legal Concern 6 December 1988

SOUTH AFRICA: Misiie STEMELE, male, age unknown, field worker with

(Transkei) the Transkei Council of Churches, Umtata

Miimdele MAJAMA, male, age unknown, works in the

X-Ray department of the General Hospital, Umtata

Twasiie MBANDAZAYO, male, age unknown, high school

teacher in Butterworth (Transkei)

Mr DAYO (first name unknown). age unknown, teacher

at the Technical College, Umtata

Misiie Stemele, Miimdele Majama, Twasiie Mbandazayo and Mr Dayo were

detained between 17 and 18 November 1988 under Section 47 of the Transkei

Public Security Act (TPSA). Section 47 permits indefinite incommunicado

detention without charge or trial for purposes of interrogation by the

security police in the nominally independent Transkei "homeland".

Detainees held under this Act have been interrogated and tortured by

Transkeian and South African security police.

Misiie Stemele is a field worker with the Transkei Council of

Churches, and is responsible for the care of the families of detainees and

political prisoners. He was previously detained between September 1986 and

October 1987. During this period he was assaulted so badly by police that

he required hospital treatment. Before Misiie Stemele was transferred to

hospital, his lawyers had made an urgent application to the Transkei

Supreme Court for an order restraining the police from further assaulting

him. The court application was based on an affidavit from a person who had

seen him in prison with his face swollen, allegedly after having his head

hit against a wall, being beaten, and nearly suffocated and rendered

unconscious by having a bag filled with water put over his head. The court

granted an interim restraining order against the police. Misiie Stemele

was later charged under the TPSA with "Terrorism", but the charges were

subsequently withdrawn and he was released on 6 October 1987.

Following their recent arrest it is not known where Misiie Stemele,

Miimdele Majama, Twasiie Mbandazayo or Mr Dayo are currently being held,

nor have the Transkeian security police issued any statement explaining why

they have been detained. Amnesty International is concerned that all four

may be subjected to ill-treatment or torture.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/Telegrams/Express letters/Airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the detention, reportedly under Section 47 of

the Transkei Public Security Act, of Misiie Stemele, Miimdele Majama,

Twasiie Mbandazayo and Mr Dayo, and asking for reasons for their detention

and details of their whereabouts;

- expressing particular concern about Misiie Stemele who was assaulted

during his previous detention;

Telephone 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

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Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of

rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of "18" beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic

origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed prisoners

' half of such people

of conscience. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works to ensure

detention without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading

treatment or punishment of all prisoners.