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Your EScellency,

Nowhere else in the whole world, but in South Africa, is there a society based in its very constitution on human inequality on grounds of so-called "race", skin-colour or ethnic grouping.

Only in South Africa is racial discrimination written into the laws.

Under these laws numerous leaders of the black people, and a number of white opponents of apartheid, have been jailed, banished, restricted or forced into exile. Thousands of people have been kept for long periods without access to their families or to any juridical help. Many have been subjected to the psychological torture of indefinite detention. Overwhelming evidence in the last decade also tell of brutal torture against many of the detainees Â«

These men and women have been punished for having had the courage in speech and in writing to stand up for the aspirations of their people, an activity in the rest of the Westerns world considered legitimate. Indeed, they have only been defending the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration av Human Bights.

Despite the numerous resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, the South African government continues to keep imprisoned men whose policies are in accordance with the deepest international principles of brotherhood and humanity, men who represent the highest in morality and ethics in the South African political struggle.

Thus the pursuit of these ideals of brotherhood and justice, humanity and reason has in South Africa been made a crime.

Sentenced to life imprisonment, spending their days breaking stones in the bleakness of Robben Island, instead of being engaged in working for their country, are still today men like the lawyer Nelson Mandela, an outstanding leader of his people for three decades. So are his comrades Walter Sisulu and Govan Mkevi, prominent leaders of the African National Congress, also Ahmand Kathrada, the leader of the Indian community, John Pokela.

Eddie Daniels, the coloured photographer, and Neville Alexander, a brilliant scholar, to name but a few.

Among those detained or restricted are, according to press reports, also many journalists, trade union leaders, students and clergymen as well as workers and farmers - no criminals, but men of high ideals.

Mandela, Sisulu, Kathrada, Mkevi sre serving life sentences and since no remission of sentence is ever allowed for political prisoners, these men have nothing to hope for hut a life of stone quarrying in complete isolation until their death.

Imprisoned for life is also the aging, distinguished African Abraham Fischer, who forsook a life of privilege and chose to join in the freedom struggle. Fischer is now 69 years old and is to be kept until his death in Pretoria Prison. Since reading in the press about your country's treatment of these men, their nsmes and their fate keep haunting our minds. Ve feel members of the same sphere of Western Culture as your country of South Africa.

Ve cannot fathom how you can condone such injustice.

Ve therefore beg to join all those all over the world who are appealing to you. Your Sfiellency, to have mercy, and who demand the immediate release of Nelson Mandela, Bram Fischer and the other political prisoners in your country.

PLEASE HAVE MERCY AND EXERT ALL YOUR PERSONAL POWER T
O BRING
ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISO
NERS.