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SOUTH AFRICA: Janet Cherry, female, aged 26, community worker

Janet Cherry was detained on 23 September 1988 in Port Elizabeth. She is currently held at North End Prison under Regulation 3 of the State of Emergency which was reimposed on 10 June 1988. The regulations allow the police to detain a person for an initial period of 30 days, and thereafter . indefinitely at the discretion of the Minister of Law and Order. As the only white female detainee at North End Prison, Janet Cherry is segregated from other political detainees who are considered by the authorities to belong to different racial groups and are held separately. Her virtual isolation is relieved only by weekly visits, permitted by the police. by a member of her family and her legal representative.

Janet Cherry has been detained on two previous occasions. She was detained for three weeks in mid-1985 under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act (No. 74 of 1982) which permits indefinite incommunicado detention for the purposes of interrogation, and was released uncharged on 15 July 1985. She was again detained on 22 August 1986 under Regulation 3 of the State of Emergency declared on 12 June 1986. When she was released uncharged on 30 July 1987, she was placed under a restriction order which prohibited her from participating in the activities of the End Conscription Campaign (ECC), the East Cape Adult Literacy Project, the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) and the Port Elizabeth Crisis Information Centre; all were organizations in which Janet Cherry had played a leading role in the Port Elizabeth area.

At the time of Janet Cherry's detention on 23 September 1988, she was employed as a researcher and conference organizer with the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (IDASA). In particular she was . involved in organizing a conference to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, on the effect of war on women's lives in South Africa and Zimbabwe. She was on her way to Harare when she was detained by the police at Port Elizabeth airport on 23 September.

Amnesty International regards Janet Cherry as a prisoner of conscience detained solely because of the non-violent expression of her political views and her work on behalf of the human rights of others and is calling for her immediate and unconditional release.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express letters/airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the continued detention of Janet Cherry without charge or trial under the State of Emergency regulations of June 1988;
- seeking assurances that her basic human rights will be protected in custody and that she will be permitted continued access to her legal representatives and relatives; '

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

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

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

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

of conscience. it works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people

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

treatment.