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ANC PRESS STATEMENT ABOUT THE RAID ON NATIONAL WORKING

COMMITTEE MEMBER, CDE SYDNEY MUFAMADI'S, HOUSE

The African National Congress is outraged at the raid that the South African police conducted on the house of the Head of the ANC's Peace Desk, comrade Sydney Mufamadi.

Last night at approximately 19:00 heavily armed members of the SAP surrounded cde Mufamadi's house with three caspirs. They held him and his family at gun point, and searched the house on the pretext that they have received a tip-off that arms had just been off loaded there. During the search the police were extremely rude and abusive.

A superficial search. was conducted, and needless to say no arms were found. Cde Mufamadi's house had been petrol bombed twice this year, he has also received numerous death threats. The South African police were supposed to investigate, until now Cde Mufamadi has not received a single report from the police about the progress in their investigations. Instead the police are conducting' a campaign of intimidation and vilification against him and his family.

There is a clear pattern of attacks being directed specifically at the peace makers in our country. During the past few months an increasing number of ANC representatives on local and national peace accord structures have become the victims of attacks and acts of intimidation. Instead of working to bring an end to the terrible violence that is tearing our country apart the South African police deploy their resources to fight those in our communities who put their lives daily on line to work for peace. The ANC is deeply concerned that yesterday evening's police raid on Cde Sydney Mufamadi's house is part of a deliberate strategy to project him in a negative light and create an atmosphere in which potential assassins will see him as a legitimate target.

We note that Col Halgryn was quoted in the Sowetan as having said that police raided the house after receiving information from "a person in the neighbourhood". We call upon him to explain why this "person in the neighbourhood" did not inform the police when people came to attack the same house twice in as many days. Why this selective diligence?

The African National Congress demands an unconditional apology from the SAP, and that those were involved in this entirely vindictive raid should be disciplined. Instead of being used as political tools the SAP must urgently begin to carry out their duties and take effective action against those who are indeed responsible for the terrible violence that is tearing our country apart.

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The People Shall Govern!