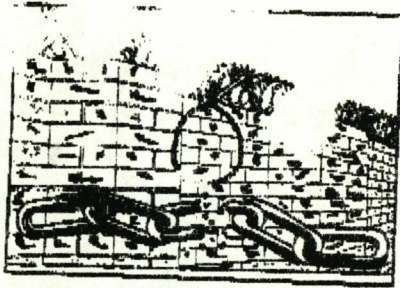


FAX NO: 397-2211
ATTENTION: MR. PRAVIN GORDHAM
SENT TO: CONESA
No. PAGE : Five (5)
From : SAPO (hr.)
DATE : 92.06.10.

A.



SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONERS ORGANISATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

1st Floor, Darragh House, Wanderers Street, Johannesburg, 2000
P.O. Box 260700, Excom 2023, Tel: 333 - 6638/9, Fax: 333 - 4527

Dear Pravin Gordanham

Subject: Prisoners Rights Coalition.

"Where are all the prisoners - political and criminal as Codesa moves to a New-South Africa?"

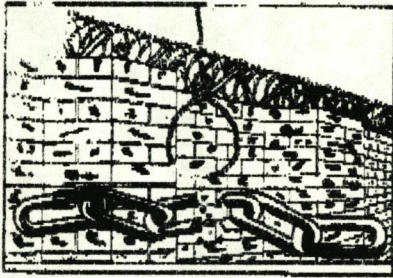
The formation of a National Prisoners Rights Coalition to draw up a Charter of Prisoners will give inmates the opportunity to express their views and share their ideas about the sort of reintegration and re-education they would like and in particular how offenders society should view inmates.

The Coalition should cross all party political lines, social and humanitarian so, for the first time in S.A.'s history, all offenders will have the opportunity and the responsibility to take time out to strive to reintegration so that they can re-enter society as good and loyal citizens, capable of supporting themselves and their families.

We are living in historic times, GREAT Changes are taking place in our society, causing much, questioning, much hardship and many doubts. If we are to build a just and equitable society, in which prisoners - men & women's rights will be advanced

Human Rights abuse is a universal crime! P.T.O. - (2)

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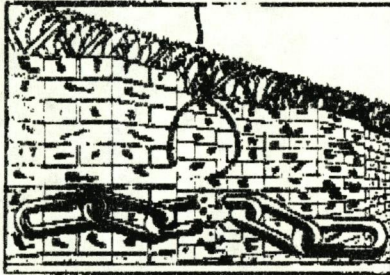
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prisoners should be involved in the process.
The majority of prisoners - that is African prisoners suffered more than any other group under Apartheid. They were and are still treated as creatures - which they aren't. To meet Blacks in the R.S.A. - sanctions against law breakers consist only of the incarceration of the offender - Black women are treated as minors regardless of age or health, denied the security of a family and often had to raise children single handed.
Vast numbers of prisoners were relegated to barren rural slums. They were denied even the most basic services let alone access to proper education, training and jobs. Let us be very clear. Calling for the prisoners rights in S.A. or women's emancipation or whatever you like to title it, is not some sort of foreign aberration. Any human rights programme which fails to address prisoners rights will have failed to address the injustice of APARTHEID.
So the setting up of a gender advisory Committee by CODESA is to be welcomed and those who pressed for it are to be congratulated.
P.T.O. 00063

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(3)



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Yet what is of concern is the apathy of many inmates. Is this because S. African prisoners (men & women) are content with their present position, are unconcerned about having a poorer chance of an education or a job after re-entering society, being paid less than others who never experience logistical headaches with the "law" - when are in work, or having fewer prospects of promotion?

Don't prisoners mind that they are virtually part and parcel of the society - that they are the product of society and that society has breed them? Society breeds criminality.

"Are S. African prisoners satisfied with slavery and 'HUMAN EXPLOITATION' e.g. forced labour, forceful stitching of post bags, polishing of wardens' boots and shoes, domestic work in houses of the SAP's prison authorities and of the members of SADF?"

"Satisfied of being assaulted by authorities for no apparent reason - and assaulted by fellow inmates orchestrated by prison-guards?"

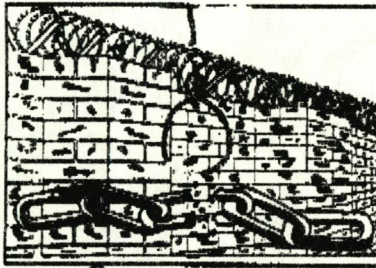
"Satisfied of being victims of mal-nutrition ill."

- ... victims of human rights violation, III -
- Conditions, mal-administration, outdated techniques, feasible - planning, medical negligence, personal problems and other calamities.

Human Rights abuse is a universal crime!

P.T.O. 0064

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"Satisfied with the excessive zeal in the application of internal disciplinary procedures - deaths and disappearance of inmates in detention and in prison at large - Severe abuse, racist, taunting and the many more other forms of mental and physical carnage."

"Are they?"

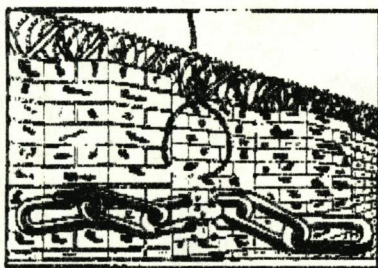
"Do their horizons stop at the boundary of the bob-wire security fence or sky high concrete walls surrounding their IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENT in a maximum security jail(s). or do they dream, as temporary incarcerated individuals of wider opportunities for themselves when deserved or undeserved time is done?"

In the past and present S.A. we see and saw mighty and militant demonstrations even uproar and riots by offenders. Thousands of inmates demonstrated peacefully in prisons countrywide last year Aug. 91 in protest of the 1/3 one-third amnesty granted to first-time offenders by the State Pres. Prison authorities turned that occasion into a devastating practice, - by randomly and deliberately attacking inmates with batons, pike-steele, blood hounds, tear gas and even with live ammunition. Six inmates at Barberton were brutally murdered - and with the assistance of the media - they mention to misinform

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the public - by giving absolute devoid statements about the events. "SUFFOCATED" they said, "How so?" You see Barberton's reputation has gone so-way ahead of them that no-one in his right mind will and shall ever believe that smoke fumes was the cause of death. Zonderwater, Jeeuwkop, Rillsmoor, Bariaanspoort followed suit. - Jodanterbee and others was also high on the Agenda during these times.

Parties to Colesa may express fine sentiment may claim to be striving to a just society, and may even agree to redress injustices to prisoners, but unless they know that the demands of the majority of inmates have the backing of liberation movements, Unions, Civics, social workers, human right org.s around the country such agreements will never be more than paper agreements.

Nowhere in the world have inmates rights handed on a golden plate, everywhere they have had to fight for it, S. Africa will be no exception - in-stead in S.A. it is a matter of absolute necessity. We do not want our people to turn on us in the years to come and ask "Where were you when the 'Bill of Rights' were being drafted?" Hope to hear from you in due course.
Golden Miles Bhunu - Gen. Secretary.

Human Rights abuse is a universal crime!