

international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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United Kingdom

EXTERNAL (for general distribution) AI Index: AFR 53/45/88

Distr: UA/SC

6 December 1988

Further information on UA 390/86 (please note year)(AFR 53/146/86,
23 December) - Legal concern

SOUTH AFRICA: Zwelakhe SISULU, aged 36, Editor of "New Nation" newspaper
Zwelakhe Sisulu was detained without charge between 12 December 1986 and 2
. December 1988 under the State of Emergency regulations, which were
reimposed in 1987 and June 1988. He was released from prison on 2 December
1988 under an extremely severe restriction order which curtails his freedom
of expression, movement and association.

Under these restrictions imposed on him, Zweiakhe Sisuiu is prohibited
from any involvement with a number of the 17 organizations banned on 24
February 1988 by the Minister of Law and Order from carrying on any
activities whatsoever: the United Democratic Front (UDF), National
Education Crisis Committee (NECC), Detainees Parents' Support Committee
(DPSC), Detainees Support Committee (DESCOM), Soweto Civic Association and
National Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA). He is also banned from
any involvement with the People's Education Commission, South African
Council of Churches (SACC), Soweto Parents Crisis Committee, and the
Education Policy Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand. He is
restricted to the magisterial district of Johannesburg, and is under house
arrest between 1800 and 0600. He may not attend any meeting of 10 or more
persons, and may not attend any meeting at which government policy is
criticized. He may not participate in any way in the compilation or
preparation of any publication. He is prohibited from being interviewed. He
may not enter any educational premises. In addition, he must report twice
. daily to the 10c31 charge officer at Orlando Police Station in Johannesburg
between 0600 and 0900 and again between 1400 and 1700. The terms of
Zwelakhe Sisuiu's restriction order were set by the Minister of Law and
Order, who is empowered under Section 3 of the State of Emergency
regulations to release a detainee under whatever conditions he prescribes.
Zwelakhe Sisulu's restriction order is valid indefinitely as long as the
State of Emergency remains in force.

The terms of his restriction order will effectively prevent Zweiakhe
Sisulu from resuming his job as editor of the weekly New Nation newspaper.
In March 1988 New Nation, which is published by the Southern African
Catholic Bishops Conference, was ordered by the government using its powers
under the State of Emergency to suspend publishing for three months.
Zwelakhe Sisuiu has been detained previously, from July 1981 to
February 1982, and again in June and July 1986. He was also restricted
under a banning order from 1980 to 1983.

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 or punishment of all prisoners.

During his most recent detention at Johannesburg Prison, Tawyers acting on his behalf brought an application in the Rand Supreme Court in November 1987 to try to secure his release. Although the police claimed his detention was related to his activities as a journalist, the Minister of Law and Order stated that he was currently being held because he was an executive member of NECC, and as such actively supported campaigns and boycotts which endangered public order. In a statement filed with the court application, ZweTakhe Sisutu denied that he was an executive member but stressed the positive role which the NECC had played in attempting to end the serious crisis in black education. ZweTakhe Sisutu also appealed against his continued detention on the grounds that the State of Emergency was invalid. The application was rejected by the court.

The effects of prolonged detention without charge or trial resulted in ZweTakhe Sisutu's requiring treatment in hospital for a short time in July 1988 for treatment of depression.

His father Waiter Sisutu, a leading member of the African National Congress, has been serving a life sentence since 1964, and his mother Albertina Sisutu is herself living under a restriction order.

Amnesty International continues to regard ZweTakhe Sisutu as a prisoner of conscience who has been restricted as a consequence of the non-violent expression of his political views and his work on behalf of the human rights of others.

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

- welcoming ZweTakhe Sisutu's release from detention, but expressing concern that he was detained for almost two years without charge or trial, apparently because of the non-violent expression of his political views and his work on behalf of the human rights of others;
- expressing concern at the severe restriction order imposed on ZweTakhe Sisutu on 2 December 1988 and inquiring why his freedom of expression, movement and association have been curtailed in this way;
- calling for the immediate and total lifting of the restriction order imposed on him which is a violation of his basic rights to freedom of expression, of freedom of movement and of freedom of association, and appears to have been imposed on him solely because of his work on behalf of the human rights of others and his non-violent opposition to government policies.

APPEALS TO:

President P w Botha
State President's Office
Private Bag X213
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

Telegrams: President Botha,
Pretoria, South Africa

Telexes: 3-21695 sa; 3-21890 sa;
3-22158 sa

Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 - "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 - "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 - "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile"

Mr Adriaan Vlok
Minister of Law and Order
Private Bag X463
Pretoria 0001
South Africa
Adriaan Vlok, Pretoria
South Africa
3-21353 sa

The name of Amnesty International may be used, although

letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

In Urgent Action cases. Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.