

Cam/043/0022/14

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN :



"FREE
SOUTH
AFRICAN
POLITICAL
PRISONERS"



Canadians Concerned about Southern Africa
Box 545, Adelaide Street Station
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 2J6



PRISON - SOUTH AFRICA STYLE

In Pretoria , nine white political prisoners - Dennis Goldberg(life imprisonment), Dave Kitson(20 years), John Mathews(15 years), Alex Mombarris(12 years), John Hosey (5 years), Raymond Suttner (7½ years), David Rabkin(10 years) Jeremy Cronin(7 years), Tony Holiday(6 years) - were refused an application for an order allowing (a) access to newspapers; (b) a reduction in the present excessive censorship of magazines and letters; (c) unrestricted conversations with visitors bounded only by considerations of prison security.

The prisoners contend that these are rights to which they are legally entitled but which are being illegally withheld, contrary to law.

The state called no witnesses ,maintaining that all matters were at the discretion of the Minister of Prisons. The judge, Justice Curlewis, concurred and, among other things, remarked that the prisoners were very well off and fortunate to be imprisoned in South Africa.

An appeal has been lodged against the judgement. The hearing is expected during the February/April session.

We want this right or privilege extended to all political prisoners - those on Robben Island and in every jail where political prisoners are held. If the case is won this will happen. Why should these prisoners ,all politically concious, be subjected to the additional punishment of having no access to the news of the day?

Before the appeal is heard , please inundate the office of the Minister of Prisons, Vermeulen Street, Pretoria with letters, demanding that political prisoners be given the same privileges as all other prisoners.

THE PRETORIA TWELVE

Following the notorious trial proceedings, the final judgements have not yet been handed down. The need for international pressure is urgent to prevent a judgement of death from being handed down.

MORE DEATHS IN DETENTION

STEVE BIKO : Aged 30, 25th death in detention since March 1976 . Alleged to have died after one week of going on a hunger strike.

PHAKAMILE HARRY MABIJA: Aged 27, Alleged to have died after falling from a sixth floor window.

ELIJAH NKWENKWE LOZA: Aged 59 . Former trade union leader and member of the African National Congress. Detained May 27 died August 2 . Alleged cause of death - a stroke!

DR. HOUSEN HAFTEJEE : Aged 27. Detained August 3 and died 3 hours after being detained. According to the police, Dr. Haffjee was found dead in his cell at 4 a.m. One leg of his trousers was looped round the bars of the cell doors and the other leg was round his neck.

BAYEMPIN MZIZI : Aged 62. Found hanged in his cell. Detained under Terrorism Act.

HIMATHAL JAMNADAS : Aged 30 . Found dead at Point prison. He is said to have committed suicide by drowning.

RED CROSS REQUEST REFUSED

Minister of Prisons Kruger has refused a request by the International Committee of the Red Cross for their representative to be allowed to visit detainees held under the Terrorism Act. We can see why. But we should campaign for for this request to be granted to the Red Cross because it is among this group of detainees that the greatest abuses take place - resulting in 25 deaths since March 1976 and a total of over 50 since detention without trial was first introduced.

THE MARITZBURG TEN

Judgement was given on July 25, 1977. Nine of the accused were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from seven years to life after a trial which lasted over a year. Of the accused five were given life sentences. Two of the Ten were kidnapped from Swaziland and one the kidnapped, Joseph Mdluli died while in detention; another "suicide".

INTERNATIONAL PETITION :

An international petition on the question of political prisoners ,detainees and trials is due to be launched on October 11 - political prisoners day in the United Nations calendar. The petition is addressed to the United Nations and the governments of the world and states ;

"We the undersigned urge you to act immediately in order that the South African Apartheid regime

- 1) frees the Pretoria Twelve
- 2) halts all political trials
- 3) stops the torture and murder of detainees
- 4) releases all political prisoners and detainees . "

Signatures for this petition are being collected from all over world. Forms should be printed in your country and signatures collected which should be returned to your organization by 1st December,1977 so that the petition can be presented to the United Nations on Human Rights Day - 10th December 1977.

Please ensure that this petition has the maximum support in your country. Only pressure of the greatest measure can halt the activities of the Apartheid regime.

PETITION FORMS CAN ALSO BE RETURNED DIRECT TO :

Special Committee on Apartheid
United Nations
New York , N.Y.
U.S.A.

PLEASE START TO PRINT FORMS OR WRITE TO THE CCSA FOR FORMS AND BEGIN COLLECTING THE SIGNATURES.

WRITE TO : Canadians Concerned About Southern Africa
P.O.BOX 545,
Adelaide Postal Station,
Toronto, Ontario.
M5C 2J6.