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PRESS STATEMENT ON THE

CAMPAIGN FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

The past weeks have seen widespread actions, in different forms. throughout the country. Many

have passed un-recorded as they have been actions taken by local communities about issues that

affect their daily lives.

We are convinced that there is massive support for the campaign for peace and democracy including the two-day stayaway and the regional and local initiatives planned in the days thereafter.

On the eve of the stayaway let us once more underline the basic issues and what we hope to

achieve.

The campaign is to give expression to the demand for an end to violence and to reinforce the

urgency of meaningful negotiations that will lead to the holding of free and fair elections for a

democratic constituent assembly.

The urgent steps to create a climate in which such negotiations can take place is for the regime

to meet the 14 demands placed before it by the ANC on 23 June, 1992. These are demands that

have wide endorsement across the political spectrum. Failure to address them indicates a lack of

seriousness on the part of De Klerkâ\200\230s .:\_,:>vemrnt about both negotiations and the need to address ,

the grave crisis facing this country. 3

When De Klerk so dangerously engineered the deadlock at Codesa, the intention was to provoke

mass action from the democratic movement, and then blame such actions as the cause of escalating violence. This reckless gamble has not paid off. â\200\230

The ultimate responsibility for the continued violence lies squarely with the regime. The Waddington Fleport on Boipatong: the recommendations of the various Goldstone Commissions on reports and the courageous stand taken by Dr Jonathan Gluckman have all underlined the lawlessness of the police and the failure of the South African regime to take serious steps to

control its security. It is the responsibility of the government to protect all citizens and â\200\230

their right of peaceful protest. â\200\230 â\200\230

This strategy is still in place. as evidenced by the heightened tensions resulting from the

massive police and army deployment in the townships on the eve of the stayaway. Such deployment in itself constitutes an act of provocation. The call-up of the army on the eve of the

June 16 commemorations, and the ensuing Boipatong Massacre, must not be repeated.

We call on all South Africans who cherish peace, justice and democracy to fully participate in

the national two-day stayaway of 3 and 4 August, 1992, and the programme of events on the following days.

Our participation should reflect the values and principles we are striving for - peaceful

disciplined and with respect for the right of free choice. There should be no carrying of weapons

in public â\200\230nor intimidation of others. Every assistance should be given to all media workers to

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enable them to fulfil their tasks.

The focus of our attention must be the regime. Symbolic occupations of government buildings are

designed not to destroy property but to underline the illegitimacy of the regime and its bankrupt

policies. Everything we do should reflect the justness of our cause.

We are seriously committed to ensuring ongoing education. Extensive consultations were held

with student and teacher organisations around their continuing problems. We accept their decision to participate in the two-day stayaway. Their activities for the remainder of the week,

during school hours, will revolve around awareness programmes. Other scheduled activities will take place after school hours.

Following the collapse of the Saccola/Cosatu initiative. the statements and actions of big

business have been singularly unhelpful. Threats of written warnings, dismissals and retrenchments are unwarranted. Coupled with the security force deployment, these are acts of

blatant intimidation infringing on the right of all South Africans to engage in peaceful protest.

Such antagonism to the right of peaceful protest is short-sighted. ill-considered. and is likely

to soar our society for a long time to come.

We are convinced that the commitment to peace and democracy that millions of our people will

be demonstrating in the coming week will help move the process forward so that South Africa is

pulled back from the brink of the abyss the regime seems determined to plunge us into. The only

solution lies with a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa in which we can all feel at

home. '

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