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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION  
OF AFRICAN UNITY

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 26 November 1991 from the Permanent  
Representative of the Netherlands to the United  
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Kenya issued on 21 November 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 30 and 98.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAIK  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement on Kenya issued at The Hague and Brussels on  
21 November 1991 by the European Community

The Community and its member States note with concern the present restraints on freedom of expression in Kenya and that critics of the political establishment have been consistently denied the opportunity to exercise their right of freedom of assembly. Those who have attempted to do so have been systematically arrested, most recently on 15 and 16 November last in relation to a rally of the opposition.

The Community and its member States, being collectively the most important partner in trade and aid of Kenya, are concerned at these developments and urge the Government of Kenya to take urgent steps to release those still detained and to press ahead with further political reforms to reflect the global trend towards multi-party democracy and respect for human rights.

They note the ideas, which were lately expressed in this respect by the President on several occasions, most recently in his speech held in Kiambu district on 14 November last, where he stated that he was willing to accept a possible change to a multi-party system and added a timetable (two to three years) for the implementation of such a change. They encourage President Moi to take action along these lines.

The Community and its member States call on the Government of Kenya and all interested groups in Kenya to work for a dialogue in the interest of greater participation, pluralism and accountability in the political and economic decision-making process.

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