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VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA:  
REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS

THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES  
UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

Note verbale dated 10 February 1988 from the Permanent delegation of the  
Organization of African Unity accredited to the United Nations Office at  
Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

The Permanent Delegation and the other specialized agencies of the Organization of African Unity accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the Chairman of the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights and has the honour to request that the annexed document, namely, the Declaration on southern Africa should be circulated as an official working document to all delegations.

Annex

DECLARATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at our twenty-third ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 27 to 29 July 1987.

Noting with grave concern that the situation in southern Africa continues to deteriorate,

Having reviewed the exceedingly serious and volatile situation in southern Africa resulting from the policies of State terrorism, military occupation, blackmail, and the use of armed bandits by the apartheid regime to destabilize, sabotage and destroy the economic and social infrastructure of the front-line States and other countries neighbouring it with the aim of weakening and subjugating them,

Recognizing more than ever before, the urgent need for concerted international action, both short-term and long-term, and to provide relief to the front-line and other States in the region to enable them to withstand the effects of retaliatory sanctions, aggression and destabilization by the South African regime.

1. Observe with serious concern that the peoples of South Africa and Namibia are subjected to extreme repression and those who fight for liberation become victims of assassination by secret murder squads - tens of thousands are arrested, detained and tortured - and that those South Africans and Namibians granted refuge in the neighbouring States are themselves daily targets of this campaign of terrorism and murder;

2. Note with extreme indignation that during and since the racist whites-only elections of 6 May 1987, the front-line States have been subjected to intensified and wanton acts of aggression and destabilization carried out both by the Pretoria army and by its surrogate bandit forces; and vehemently condemn the barbaric massacre of 400 innocent women, children and elderly at Homoine in Mozambique by the South Africa sponsored and backed armed bandits, which exemplifies the barbaric nature of this criminal policy;

3. Condemn the positioning by the racist regime of thousands of its soldiers and large quantities of war materiel on the border between Angola and the occupied territory of Namibia with the objective of assisting the armed UNITA bandits to carry out acts of terrorism against the Angolan people and to establish a zone of military occupation within the territory of Angola;

4. Express our satisfaction with the important measures taken by the Nordic and some Western countries to come to the assistance of the peoples of southern Africa by imposing sanctions against the Pretoria regime, aiding the liberation movements, and extending economic assistance to the front-line and SADCC countries;

5. Feel extremely perturbed that the major Western Powers continue to aid and abet the Pretoria regime, contrary to the wishes and demands of the people of South Africa, Namibia, the region as a whole, and the international community;

6. Reject the imposition of unacceptable conditions by the Senate of the United States of America on possible aid to the front-line and SADCC countries and strongly abhor the attempt by the Senate of the United States of America to associate SADCC with terrorism;

7. Warmly salute the gallant peoples of southern Africa who, despite all odds, are fighting resolutely to bring about the total liberation of Africa. In this connection, we uphold their right to struggle by all means at their disposal - including armed struggle - to achieve their liberation. We reaffirm the unwavering commitment of OAU to the struggle to eliminate this last vestige of colonialism and white minority domination in our continent;

8. Support the immediate creation of a Pan-African Association of Writers as a valuable contribution to the mobilization of African and world public opinion in the struggle against apartheid;

9. Call upon member States of our Organization which have not yet created national committees against apartheid to do so and encourage the creation of a pan-African association of these national committees;

10. Commit ourselves by common consent to promote specific measures to dismantle apartheid, which is the major cause of violence and instability in the region;

#### Namibia

11. Condemn the so-called provisional government in Namibia and urge the international community to continue to reject it;

12. Reaffirm once again that United Nations Security Council resolution 435 (1978) is the only acceptable basis for the peaceful settlement of the Namibian question. In this connection, we vehemently reject and condemn the so-called linkage as an attempt designed to perpetuate the illegal rule of South Africa over Namibia;

13. Urge the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue his efforts towards the speedy implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 435 (1978);

14. Must in this respect intensify, with immediate effect, our diplomatic efforts with a view to breaking the impasse created by the "linkage" policy;

15. Commit ourselves to continue our assistance to SWAPO, the sole and authentic representative of the people of Namibia;

#### South Africa

16. Reaffirm our decision and conviction that the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations remains the only peaceful option for abolishing the apartheid system in its entirety. We call for the early convening of the United Nations Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations;

17. Urge, bearing in mind the special problems of front-line States in this regard, all member States of our Organization to set an example to the rest of the world by strictly applying sanctions against South Africa;

18. Commend, in the meantime, for urgent implementation by those who have not already done so, the following measures:

(a) Imposition of trade sanctions;

(b) Prohibition of transfer of technology to South Africa;

(c) Cessation of export, sale or transport of oil and oil products to South Africa and of any co-operation with South Africa's oil industry;

(d) Cessation of further investments in and financial loans to South Africa or Namibia and of any governmental insurance guarantee of credits to the racist regime;

(e) An end to all promotion of or support for trade with South Africa, including governmental assistance of trade missions;

(f) Prohibition of the sale of krugerrands and any other coins minted in South Africa;

(g) Prohibition of imports from South Africa of agricultural products, coal, uranium, iron and steel;

(h) Enactment of legislation or adoption of other measures to comply with United Nations Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia, enacted by the United Nations Council for Namibia in 1974;

(i) Termination of any visa-free entry privileges and the promotion of tourism to South Africa;

fj) Termination of air and shipping links with South Africa;

(k) Cessation of all academic, cultural, scientific and sports relations with South Africa and of relations with individuals, institutions and other bodies endorsing or based on apartheid;

(l) Suspension or abrogation of agreements with South Africa, such as agreements on cultural and scientific co-operation;

(m) The termination of double-taxation agreements with South Africa;

(n) A ban on government contracts with majority-owned South African companies;

19. Reaffirm our conviction that peaceful negotiations can only succeed when the Pretoria regime has convincingly and in practice demonstrated its acceptance of both the principle and the inevitability of majority rule;

20. Recognize the right of the struggling people of South Africa to decide when and under what conditions to enter into such negotiations;

21. Remain convinced that no meaningful negotiations can take place until all political prisoners are released and bans on all organizations are lifted to enable them to consult their people freely;

22. Further urge all non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the information campaign to sensitize international public opinion to the realities of apartheid;

23. Commit ourselves to increasing material and financial assistance to the oppressed and struggling people of South Africa through their national liberation movements to enable them to step up their struggle against apartheid and for the establishment of non-racial and representative government in South Africa;

#### Front-line States

24. Appreciate the efforts and sacrifices of the front-line States in the liberation struggle. In this regard, we commit ourselves to:

(a) Provision of necessary resources to front-line States to enhance their defence capacity;

(b) Mobilization of assistance for the front-line and other neighbouring States to enhance their capacity;

(c) Mobilization of assistance for the front-line and other neighbouring States to enhance their capacity to withstand the effects of sanctions;

25. Condemn all manoeuvres from any quarter aimed at legitimizing terrorist groups established and led by the racist regime, which are responsible for massacres, assassinations and other acts of violence perpetrated against defenceless people in Angola and Mozambique;

26. Urge all countries, particularly African countries, to deny the armed bandits in the pay of apartheid South Africa all logistics, accommodation, movement and other facilities on their territories;

27. Congratulate the members of the mission to Lisbon undertaken jointly by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe on their efforts made to convince the Portuguese authorities of the need not to allow the armed bandits to use their territory as a launching pad for attacks against Angola and Mozambique, and takes note of the encouraging reaction of the Portuguese authorities;

28. Call upon all African member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure their active participation in the General Conference due to take place at Vienna in September 1987, with a view to ratifying the decision<sup>1</sup> taken by the Board of Governors aimed at depriving South Africa of its rights and privileges as a member of the Agency;

29. Note with satisfaction the establishment of the Solidarity Fund AFRICA of the Non-Aligned Movement and renew our call to member States of our Organization and to the international community to contribute generously to the Fund.