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COUNCIL



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LETTER DATED 28 NOVEMBER 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF SENEGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on behalf of the African Group, to forward herewith for necessary action, copy of a letter dated 28 November 1980, addressed to me by the representative of the African National Congress in respect of death sentences passed by the South African Supreme Court on three members of the African National Congress.

I would appreciate if you could circulate the text of this letter and its enclosure as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Massamba SARRE  
Permanent Representative of  
Senegal to the United Nations  
Chairman of the African Group  
for the month of November

Annex

Letter dated 28 November 1980 from Mr. Johnstone Makatini addressed  
to the Chairman of the African Group

I am instructed to convey to the African Group through you, Sir, our people's and organization's grave concern over the intended hanging of Messrs Ncimbithi Johnson Lubisi, 28, Petrus Tsepo Mashigo, 20 and Naphthli Manana, 24, the three ANC freedom fighters who were recently sentenced to death by the South African Supreme Court for their part in the fight against apartheid.

It will be recalled that the three, together with six others, were accused of having conspired with the ANC membership in the planning of the attack on a bank in the white Pretoria suburb of Silverton last January and conspired or took part in a grenade raid on a police station in Northern Transvaal.

We are convinced that this trial, verdict and sentence, have the potential of seriously aggravating the already explosive situation prevailing in South Africa. Through its judiciary, the apartheid régime has used this case in order to pursue its attempts toward creating a legal precedent enabling it to impose capital punishment on any opponent of apartheid including those who may not have been directly involved in the commission of any violent action. For example some of the convicted were not in South Africa when the Silverton bank seige where three ANC freedom fighters, who demanded the release of Nelson Mandela were, together with two white female hostages killed by the racist police.

It is therefore clear that the régime is bent on the indiscriminate use of the death sentence in its vain attempt to stem the tide of revolt in South Africa. We are convinced that only swift action can halt this trend which is already characterized by 67 hangings in 1977, and 131 in 1978, all of whom were black excepting 1 white.

It is for this reason that we request you, on behalf of the ANC and the entire oppressed and struggling people of South Africa to draw the attention of the Security Council to this grave situation which can only further aggravate the threat to international peace and security.

It will be recalled that the Security Council has in the face of a similar case, held consultations and mandated the President to use his good offices to alert world opinion and to save the life of a patriot who was facing a death sentence.

We humbly request the same in the case of the above-mentioned.

(Signed) Johnstone MAKATINI  
Chief Representative

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