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

Cable dated 25 February 1982 from the Secretary-General of the  
African National Congress of South Africa addressed to the Chairman  
of the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-eighth session

QUOTE AS THE MURDER OF DR NEIL AGGETT HAS ONCE MORE SHOWN, THE CRIMINAL APARTHEID REGIME IS DETERMINED TO ASSASSINATE, MAIM AND OTHERWISE INCAPACITATE AS MANY OPPONENTS OF RACIAL OPPRESSION AS POSSIBLE STOP ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION AT HAND, YET MORE PEOPLE CURRENTLY IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE, ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE IMMEDIATE POSSIBILITY OF ASSASSINATION BY THESE LICENSED KILLERS STOP THOZAMILE GOWETHA, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ALLIED WORKERS UNION, DETAINED SINCE DECEMBER 8, 1981, RANKS HIGH IN THE LIST OF POSSIBLE IMMEDIATE VICTIMS STOP LAST WEEK, HE WAS SECRETLY ADMITTED TO THE PSYCHIATRIC WARD OF THE JOHANNESBURG HOSPITAL STOP HIS BROTHER, ROBERT, WHO SUBSEQUENTLY SAW HIM, DESCRIBED HIM AS UNRECOGNIZABLE STOP HE WAS SUFFERING FROM SEVERE HEADACHES AT THE BACK OF THE HEAD, ACUTE DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY, A DRAMATIC LOSS OF WEIGHT, DIFFICULTY IN SPEAKING AND PARTIAL LOSS OF MEMORY STOP ALL THIS IS A RESULT OF THE SYSTEMATIC PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE TO WHICH HE HAS BEEN SUBJECTED BY HIS RACIST JAILERS STOP RECENT REPORTS FURTHER INDICATE THAT YUNUS MOHAMED, A LAWYER NORMALLY BASED IN DURBAN AND IN DETENTION SINCE NOVEMBER 27, 1981, IS ALSO IN A BAD PHYSICAL STATE, THERE IS ALSO INFORMATION THAT LUYANDA MPHAPHLWA, ALSO DETAINED LAST YEAR, HAS SIMILARLY BEEN SAVAGELY TREATED STOP WHILE FRESH INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER DETAINEES IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE, IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY TOO ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO THE SAME BRUTALITY THAT RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF DR AGGETT STOP UNLESS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RAISES ITS VOICE AND DEMANDS THE CESSATION OF THE TORTURE AND THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL DETAINEES IN SOUTH AFRICA, YET MORE OPPONENTS OF THE APARTHEID REGIME WILL BE MURDERED IN THE SECRECY OF PRETORIA'S DUNGEONS, ON BEHALF OF ALL WHO ARE DETAINED AND IN THE NAME OF THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, WE REQUEST THAT YOU USE YOUR GOOD OFFICES TO MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION TO SAVE THE LIVES AND SECURE THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL SOUTH AFRICAN DETAINEES

(Signed) Alfred NZO  
Secretary-General  
African National Congress  
of South Africa