



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
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LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1974 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the United Nations Council for Namibia considered the current situation inside the Territory of Namibia at its 194th meeting on 7 February 1974 and decided to issue a statement on the events in Namibia, a copy of which is attached herewith.

The United Nations Council for Namibia is very much concerned about and strongly condemns the intensification of mass repression, arrests, trials and other acts of intimidation by the South African régime against the Namibian people and their leaders aiming to suppress their struggle for freedom and independence.

The Council wishes you to be fully informed about what is happening in a Territory for which the United Nations has assumed responsibility, so that the appropriate measures may be taken to put an end to the illegal policies and practices of the South African authorities which deny independence, human rights and dignity to the people of Namibia.

(Signed) Rashleigh E. JACKSON  
President  
United Nations Council for Namibia

Statement on the situation in Namibia adopted by the United Nations  
Council for Namibia at its 194th meeting on 7 February 1974

1. The United Nations Council for Namibia has received the news of mass repression, arrests, trials and other acts of intimidation against the people of Namibia with a sense of shock.
2. On 13 January 1974, a massive force of South African police armed with automatic weapons arrested a large group of Africans at a road block 30 miles south of Windhoek. The Africans, who had been proceeding in a peaceful manner to a political rally which had been announced beforehand, were arrested on the trumped-up charge of being without their identification books and failing to produce travel documents when asked to do so. Armed police escorted all those arrested to the Central Police Station in Windhoek where police used their dogs to force the arrested Africans, among whom were some dozens of women and school children, to the detention cells. In this manner 127 people were detained. The Council does not have any definite information as to the number of people still being held in the Windhoek prison.
3. The Council notes specifically that during the month of January, a number of trials of politically active Namibians were going on in the Territory and considers it a manifestation of the South African resort to the weapon of mass intimidation and brute force, which for them has become the only support for their illegal presence in Namibia.
4. The repressive police operation did not end with the incarceration of the 127 Africans; a defamation campaign then began, in which the representatives of the illegal régime in Namibia alleged that the aim of the operation was not to persecute the SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) Youth League, but simply to punish them for not observing the pass laws. Such statements are belied by the fact of the situation in the Territory.
5. Ever since the South African forces placed themselves in the illegal occupation of the Territory, they have never ceased to indulge in acts of terrorism and intimidation. The South African régime is now using new methods of mass intimidation. Reports have appeared in the press that the police have been inducing employers in Windhoek to deny jobs to the arrested Africans and those who are politically active, and a number of SWAPO members have been dismissed by certain Windhoek firms.
6. During the month of January, the police were involved in continuous round-ups in the African quarters of Windhoek. Scores of Africans were arrested. Although the announced aim of these actions was to search for "Blacks suspected of certain contraventions" the true purpose of these operations was clear from the fact that SWAPO Youth League members were the main category being detained.
7. The police stopped providing any information on their activities to the press so that they could proceed unimpeded with their policy of repression.

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8. The Council for Namibia condemns these unlawful acts in the increasing campaign of mass intimidation and terror against the people of Namibia. The Council demands that this campaign must be stopped and all those detained must be unconditionally released.

9. The illegal régime has been condemned by the international community, which supports the struggle of the Namibian people for freedom and independence and unity and is sure that their will and determination will not be deterred by the latest acts of unlawfulness on the part of the South African régime.

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