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LETTER DATED 29 AUGUST 1969 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the United Nations Council for Namibia, I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolutions 245 (1968) and 246 (1968), in which the Council unanimously condemned the illegal trial and conviction of a group of Namibians under the 1967 Terrorism Act of South Africa, which had been applied to Namibia retroactively and unlawfully after the termination of the Mandate, and called upon the Government of South Africa to release and repatriate forthwith the Namibians concerned.

The United Nations Council for Namibia has noted with grave concern that the Government of South Africa not only has failed to comply with these resolutions but has recently tried another group of eight Namibians on similar charges under the same retroactive legislation. This trial, which was held in the Supreme Court of Windhoek, resulted in the conviction of six of the defendants on 20 August 1969. Subsequently, five of them were sentenced to life imprisonment and one to eighteen years in prison. Another Namibian, an official of the South West African People's Organization, to which all the defendants belonged, died of unspecified causes after being interrogated by the police.

The United Nations Council for Namibia wishes to express its deep indignation at this latest outrage committed by the South African authorities in open defiance of the authority of the United Nations and in direct contravention not only of General Assembly resolution 2324 (XXII) but also of the above-mentioned Security Council resolutions, in which the Council reaffirmed that the continued detention and trial and subsequent sentencing of Namibians constituted an illegal act and a flagrant violation of the rights of the Namibians concerned, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the international status of the Territory, which is now under direct United Nations responsibility.

The United Nations Council for Namibia has decided unanimously, in conformity with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966 and 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967, of Security Council resolution 246 (1968) of 14 March 1968 and of the subsequent resolutions in which the Security Council recognized its special responsibility with regard to the people and territory of Namibia, to draw the Security Council's attention to the grave situation which has arisen as a result of the continued illegal trials of Namibians and other arbitrary actions by the South African authorities in Namibia.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Samar SEN  
President  
United Nations Council for Namibia

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