



Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/16752  
20 September 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

LETTER DATED 20 SEPTEMBER 1984 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL  
COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL

The Special Committee against Apartheid is most anxious about the safety of the six South African leaders who have sought refuge in the British Consulate-General in Durban.

Mr. Archie Gumede, Mr. M. J. Naidoo, Mr. George Sewpershad, Mr. Mewa Ramgobin, Mr. Billy Nair and Mr. Paul Joseph, are respected leaders of the United Democratic Front and the Natal Indian Congress. Five of them were arbitrarily detained for opposing the new racist "constitution", which was rejected by the overwhelming majority of the black people of South Africa and denounced by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. The Pretoria régime, however, has sought to detain them again, even after its court ruled the detention order invalid.

It may be recalled that the Security Council declared that the "constitution" was contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and "null and void". It urged all Governments and organizations not to accord recognition to the results of the so-called "elections" under the "constitution" and to assist the oppressed people of South Africa in their legitimate struggle for a non-racial, democratic society.

The six leaders have made a great contribution to the purposes of the United Nations by opposing the new racist "constitution" and, indeed, by their life-long struggle and sacrifice for a non-racial society. They are sought by a régime which has lost any legitimacy in the pursuit of its criminal policy. The international community, therefore, has an inescapable obligation to protect the six leaders and all other opponents of apartheid.

On behalf of the Special Committee, I appeal to you for your good offices in securing the safety and freedom of the six leaders.

(Signed) J. N. GARBA  
Chairman  
Special Committee against Apartheid