

198 Broadway • New York, N.Y. 10038 • (212) 962-1210
THE NEW YORK TIMES INTERNATIONAL MONDAY, JULY 27, 1992

Tilden J. LeMelle, Chairman
Jennifer Davis, Executive Director

South Africa Police Said to Kill Captives

By BILL KELLER
Special to The New York Times

JOHANNESBURG, July 26 — South Africa's most prominent independent pathologist charged the South African government with a pattern of torturing and killing prisoners, he said today.

South African security forces are under siege.

A team of British police experts last week released a scathing report charging that the police, by their incompetence, permitted a massacre of more than 40 black township residents to proceed uninterrupted and then bungled the investigation into the crime.

Hernus Kriel, the Minister of Law and Order, issued a statement saying that in response to the charges he had ordered a report on every death in police custody over the last two years. He said the Government would consider setting up an independent judicial commission to examine the deaths.

'A Very Serious Light'

"The Government regards these allegations in a very serious light and will do everything possible to deal with the issue properly," Mr. Kriel said. Gluckman said tonight that he was a supporter of President

Former Ex-Policeman
the Government

September 16, 1992

Dear Friend of The Africa Fund,

Nineteen year old Simon Mthimkulu was arrested at his home in Sebokeng, South Africa. Twelve hours later he was dead, beaten to death by the police.

Now Dr. Jonathan Gluckman, South Africa's most respected independent pathologist, has come forward to say that Simon Mthimkulu was only one of 200 prisoners who were tortured and killed by the police.

Dr. Gluckman presented his evidence to South African President F.W. de Klerk and to several cabinet ministers. They promised investigations and reforms. But the killings never stopped.

These killings are only the latest revelations about the apartheid government's repression against the democratic movement. At the same time:

- * Over two thousand striking hospital workers have been arrested. Their union, the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union, has been forced to spend virtually its entire treasury on bail.

- * More than a year after the South African government promised the release of all political prisoners, over 400 remain behind bars. Some are still on death row.

- * The violence monitoring group Peace Action has documented a campaign of police raids, attacks and intimidation against ANC supporters. Peace action spokesperson Audrey Coleman said that de Klerk has to be held "personally responsible" for these attacks.

When I was in South Africa last June human rights workers told me how urgently they need help from people in America. They said that de Klerk will only respond to pressure from abroad.

Since I returned we have been working around the clock to meet this human rights emergency:

✓ The Africa Fund has raised over \$6,000 for bail to help get striking hospital workers out of jail.

✓ We have mobilized churches and synagogues to protest the continued incarceration of South African political prisoners.

✓ Africa Fund staff members have exposed the continuing repression in newspaper, TV and radio interviews.

✓ Weekly Africa Fund repression alerts have generated timely protests from key human rights organizations.

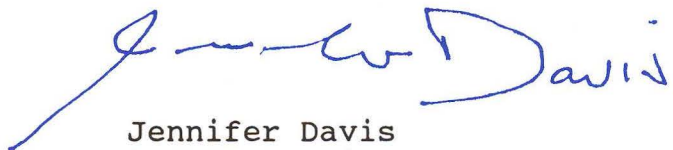
All of this has been made possible by your contributions. Our work goes on because you, and others like you, care so deeply about freedom and human rights.

But I know only too well that we must do even more. We need to alert Americans from coast to coast to the need for action to stop this vicious repression.

We can't succeed without your support. Please give as generously as you can before someone else like Simon Mthimkulu is tortured and killed by the South African police.

Thank you.

For freedom,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Jennifer Davis
Executive Director

P.S. All contributions to the Africa Fund are tax deductible.