

# NEWS

# Geo. Crockett, Jr. CONGRESSMAN

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## CONGRESSMAN CROCKETT ADOPTS SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNION LEADER

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman George W. Crockett, Jr. of Michigan today announced he has "adopted" Mr. Dumile Makanda, a black trade union leader in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The adoption, arranged in cooperation with the Ad Hoc Monitoring Group on Southern Africa, will involve Congressman Crockett's continuing interest and involvement in Mr. Makanda's situation.

Makanda, who is Chairman of the Macwusa Trade Union in South Africa, was in the process of negotiating for thousands of black workers employed by Ford, Firestone and General Motors in their South African plants when he was arrested by South African Police under the "Internal Security Act." Mr. Makanda, according to the South African Police, was travelling within South Africa, although not in his "homeland", and had no "passport." Three other members of Macwusa were also arrested with Mr. Makanda. South African Police claim that Mr. Makanda's arrest is unrelated to his union activities.

Congressman Crockett, who is now travelling with a Congressional delegation in Africa, visited South Africa last week. He requested a meeting with Mr. Makanda during his visit; it is unclear whether he was able to meet with him. The Congressman did, however, attempt to visit a settlement of "squatters" -- homeless black workers -- outside Cape Town, South Africa. He, and the other Members of Congress with him, were turned back by South African Police, who then burned the settlement to the ground.

Before this incident, Congressman Crockett had stated that: "The arrest and detainment of Mr. Makanda and his associates are intolerable. I am personally concerned for Mr. Makanda's safety and the elimination of the racist detainment procedures of South African Police; I am also concerned that U.S. corporations adhere to decent standards of employment. I know many of my constituents in Detroit share this concern. We live in the area where many of these American companies have substantial interests, and my constituents are actively concerned about social and political conditions in South Africa and the role of U.S. corporations in those conditions. Through this adoption, I will help focus attention on the plight of Mr. Makanda, and will express my concern, and that of my constituents, for his well-being, and that of his family."

The Ad Hoc Monitoring Group on Southern Africa, which is sponsoring the "adoption," is a bipartisan group of Members of Congress who are concerned about U.S. policy in southern Africa. Last year the Group initiated a Political Prisoner Project in response to South Africa's ongoing policy of harassment of blacks who are opposed to the apartheid system of government. To date, over fifty Members of Congress have agreed to lend their services to political prisoners, dissidents, and banned persons in South Africa.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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