

CROCKETT JR
FI-13

October 11, 1984

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to use your good offices and the influence of the United States to work for the release of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, two black South African political prisoners who have been subjected to imprisonment and detention for more than twenty years for their active opposition to the brutal policy of apartheid.

As you know, the House, on September 18, 1984 and the Senate, on October 10, 1984 overwhelmingly approved bipartisan Resolutions calling upon the Government of South Africa to immediately release the Mandelas. The Resolution was cosponsored in the House by Members from both sides of the aisle. It drew similar bipartisan support in the Senate. A copy of the House Resolution, H. Res. 430, has been forwarded to the White House.

With these actions, the Congress of the United States has joined with the United Nations, the European Community and governments around the world in condemning the apartheid regime in South Africa and calling for the Mandelas' freedom. Members of the Congress strongly believe that the release of the Mandelas is a precondition for a national dialogue of reconciliation between black and white South Africans for the Mandelas are widely acknowledged as principal leaders of the nationalist movement in South Africa.

Mr. President, I urge you to initiate an official American inquiry into the situation of the Mandelas and to take whatever action is necessary to raise the issue of political prisoners in South Africa and the case of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, specifically, with the appropriate authorities in South Africa and to register the U.S. Congress' strong contempt and disapproval for the apartheid system of government.

The people of the United States look for your leadership on this critically important matter. Your timely assistance and support might prevent further bloodshed and violence in that most troubled nation.

Sincerely,

MANDELA FILE

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Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.
Member of Congress