

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ATROCITIES STILL A PART OF
SOUTH AFRICA

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 1989

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the Members the continuing atrocities being committed in South Africa.

September 13, 1989, marked the 10th anniversary of the independence of Venda, which is a so called homeland in South Africa. This anniversary is not one of celebration, it is one that commemorates 10 years of brutality and corruption.

The people of Venda have been forced into the homeland policy of South Africa which is part of the Governments restricted Group Areas Act. This act separates the people of South Africa according to race as to where they may live.

Some of the people of Venda have been detained. While in detention, they are beaten and tortured. Some have been so severely beaten that they have been, secretly, transferred to hospitals. Also, children have been forcibly taken to camps to ensure their participation in the celebration activities.

Four ministers who were recently released from detention were rearrested, immediately after their release. The request for their new release is presently in the court, waiting for judgment.

These actions are abhorrent. They are clear violations of international human rights law. They are violations of our beliefs in the freedom from oppression that we adhere to in a democracy. Clearly, they are violations to the conscience of any person concerned with the mistreatment of any human being.

In closing, I am entering into the RECORD a news release from Africa Watch, a well respected human rights organization, which will give a concise view of the problems in Venda:

MASS ARRESTS IN VENDA: CHURCH ACTIVISTS
UNDER FIRE

Security forces in Venda, an "independent" homeland in the far northern Transvaal, in late July arrested more than 200 people, including students, and at least 17 pastors and community activists associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Ecumenical Confessing Fellowship, and the Mulweli Counseling Center.

Tension in the homeland, usually characterized by a fearfully acquiescent population, has been building since 1983 in response to various factors. These include resentment over the corrupt and harsh rule of traditional chiefs and headmen, and disquiet over a spate of mysterious "ritual" murders. There are allegations that government officials may have been involved in these murders and in August last year, students spearheaded a widespread "stay away" to protest the apparent reluctance of the police to investigate the killings.

On July 17 this year, students called an other meeting to protest the mysterious murder of a schoolteacher, Mukosi Mav-

hina. The meeting, attended by about 10,000 people, also protested homeland rule and the upcoming "independence" anniversary celebrations. On July 10, students marching down the road after a commemoration service for Mr. Mavhina, were attacked by police and whipped with sjamboks (ox-hide whips). Some of the students were badly injured; others were detained.

Faced with the rising tensions, church and community leaders in late July formed the Northern Transvaal Church Workers Conference and at a meeting, decided to petition senior government officials to consult with the residents of Venda, to properly investigate the murders and to call off the "independence" anniversary celebrations.

The next day, police rounded up most of those associated with the petition, including members of the organizing committee of the Confessing Fellowship, an ecumenical organization of Christians opposed to apartheid. Those detained are being held incommunicado in unknown locations. Among the 17 people detained were:

Reverend O'Brien T. Malindi, a Church of Christ Pastor who is organizer of the Confessing Fellowship and is also UDF Northern Transvaal Vice President;

Reverend Phineas Phosiwa, a Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who is a member of the Organizing Committee of the Confessing Fellowship. Since his detention, it was reported that Phosiwa had been taken to hospital under police guard. In 1981, Phosiwa was detained and severely tortured;

George Phadagi, an anti-apartheid activist who had been detained previously several times;

Reverend Nkhangweleni Ranzwa, a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and a member of the organizing committee of the Confessing Fellowship;

Aifheli Mukwevho, a member of the Confessing Fellowship and a member of the editorial committee of the group's magazine;

Justice Gundo Lidovho, public education director of the Mulweli Counseling Center, a recently-founded legal aid organization;

Tshifhiwa Maumele, a member of organizing committee of the Confessing Fellowship and a member of the editorial committee of the group's magazine;

William Sihlangu, a Lutheran pastor who is director of Beuster Church Center; and

Solomon Tshitangano, treasurer of the Confessing Fellowship, and a leader of several Lutheran Church youth groups.

Several days after the police swoop, two of those held were reported to have been hospitalized in police custody. They are the Reverend Phineas Phosiwa and Gundo Lidovho.

The Mulweli legal aid center has only been in operation for several months. In April 1989, shots were fired through the windows of the center, which members interpreted as a warning. There have also been several break-ins, although nothing has been taken.

Members of the security forces went to the home of Phanel Mpaphuli, the secretary of the Confessing Fellowship, who is also the Dependant's Conference field worker for the Northern Transvaal Council of Churches, and waited all night for him to return. He was alerted, stayed away, and continues to be in hiding. Police also at-

tempted to arrest Lutheran pastor Zwo Nevhutalu, who was away from home at the time, and are keeping a 24-hour watch on his home. Tshitangano, who is among those detained, is youth director of Nevhutalu's parish. The pastor's brother, Lusani Nevhutalu, who is director of the Thusanani Christian Center for the handicapped, has received several anonymous threatening telephone calls. In late July 1989, at the time of the police swoops, gasoline was poured on the doors and window sills of his home. Nevhutalu was not at home at the time.

Shortly after the detentions, a planned meeting in Tshakhuma village was violently broken up by security forces. According to witnesses, soldiers randomly assaulted those attending the meeting, including old women and children. A second planned meeting at Mbilwi Lutheran Church was preempted by the police, who sealed off the church.

Africa Watch is deeply concerned about these detentions, as the Venda Security Forces, which cooperate closely with the South African security forces, have a disturbing record of brutality. In October 1981, two policemen were killed in an African National Congress guerrilla attack on a local police station. Following the attack, the Venda National Force detained at least 21 people, including ministers and laymen associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. One of those detained was Isaac Tshifhiwa Muofhe, a young salesman and lay preacher. Two days after his detention, Muofhe was found dead in his Venda prison cell. According to post mortem findings, he had died of blood loss as a result of widespread bruising and hemorrhage. An official inquest found two Venda security policemen, Captain Muthuphei Ludwig Ramaligela and Sergeant Phumula Josias Mangaga, responsible for Muofhe's death. In late 1982, the two were charged with murder, but were acquitted for lack of evidence.

Three Lutheran pastors were detained shortly after Muofhe, including the Lutheran Dean of Venda, Simon Tshenuwani Farisani. The dean was subjected to such severe torture, including beatings and electric shock treatment, that he nearly died.

According to a memo prepared by the Detainees Parents Support Committee, an additional two Lutheran Ministers, the Rev. Phosiwa and the Rev. Petrus Phaswane, were similarly treated. The Rev. Phosiwa alleged that on or about January 7, 1982, members of the Venda National Force compelled him to undress and then assaulted him, suffocated him with a wet khaki bag, and administered electric shocks to his head and genitals. The Rev. Phaswane additionally alleged that he was forced to do arduous physical exercises.

Dean Farisani was again detained in November 1986 and held until January 1987. In February 1987, he was served with an order restricting him to Venda. The homeland is scattered in three pieces across the Northern Transvaal, and the order effectively cuts the Dean off from the most of his parishes. He left South Africa for medical treatment and is presently living in the United States.

The Lutheran church has deep roots in the area, and a long history of opposition to apartheid, which has earned it the antago-

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

nism of the Venda authorities. Although they have not banned the church outright, the government has resorted to indirect attacks.

One tactic, as elsewhere in the country, has been to encourage defections to conservative churches and to nurture the formation of right wing local groupings. One such church, Lutheran ministers say, trains pastors and then sends them back into the area, where they operate independently and are a divisive force. Another tactic, initiated by a group of Venda government officials in 1986, was to try to found a Venda Lutheran Church, controlled by the homeland government. Calling themselves "members of the Lutheran Church in Venda," the officials wrote to Bishop Solomon Serote of the Northern Diocese, demanding that Dean Farisani, Nevhutalu and Phosiwa be transferred out of Venda. Among other allegations, the letter accused the three church leaders of terrorism.

Serote refused to transfer the pastors and several government officials quietly removed their names from the letter. The pastors also threatened a defamation suit. Shortly afterwards, the government backed down, but the harassment continues.

In March 1989, the authorities evicted a Lutheran congregation in Nevhutalu's parish from the school where they had been meeting for many years. In another area, in early 1989, the Lutherans approached the local headman for permission to build a church. He refused, saying "the Lutheran church is no good." After discussions, it emerged the headman feared the Lutherans would steal the local land. He had been told by government agents that this was the case.

Also in March 1989, following a church youth conference, local officials approached the members of a congregation Nevhutalu works with, and told them they must go apologize to the headman, because the young people were singing songs against the government. When Nevhutalu first began work in his parish, all the young people who grew close to him were visited by the police and told to stay away.

Despite the repression, Lutheran and, increasingly, clergy and church workers from other denominations, continue to play an active part in the human rights struggle in Venda. Nevhutalu, who has been a Lutheran pastor in the area for five years, is also chairperson of the Northern Transvaal Eumenical Confessing Fellowship, and edits the fellowship's magazine *The Voice of the Confession*. The fellowship is also a government target; meetings are frequently disrupted by police and pastors associated with the group interrogated. Mphaphuli, the Fellowship secretary, is frequently threatened and harassed by the police.

The Voice of the Confession is circulated throughout South Africa, and provides a hard-hitting record of repression in the Venda area. The December 1988 issue of the magazine, which investigated the operations of right wing "cultural" organizations in the Northern Transvaal, was banned several weeks after publication. The magazine described the Mphaphu Youth Center, named for the homeland's deceased first chief minister, and alleged its purpose is to indoctrinate the local youth. Among other reports was one that revealed indications of police links with Inkatha, the Natal-based Zulu "cultural" organization. Nevhutalu believes that this was particularly threatening.

Nevhutalu is also the youth pastor for the church circuit. In August 1988, students in Venda spearheaded a successful stayaway; the authorities responded by beating, detaining, and torturing those suspected of involvement. Students who were injured were

afraid to go to the local hospital for treatment, fearing that the police would search for them there. Nevhutalu persuaded the students to seek medical help by protecting them with his presence and by bringing a photographer to the hospital to document their wounds.

After this, Nevhutalu himself was detained for a day, interrogated, "called names," and released. Although the police did not harm him physically, Nevhutalu has received several indirect death threats. Former detainees have told him the police have said they will not bother to detain him: The next time they would just kill him, reportedly "by separating his head from his body."

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Write letters urging the immediate and unconditional release or dropping of criminal charges against any of the individuals whose cases are described in the papers and who are still detained or charged.

Please send politely worded appeals to:

State President P.W. Botha, State President's Office, Private Bag x213, Pretoria 0001, South Africa, (Telegrams: President Botha, Pretoria, South Africa), (Telexes: 3-21695 SA 3-21890 SA: 3-22158 SA).

Mr. H.J. Coetsee, Minister of Justice, Private Bag x81, Pretoria 0001, South Africa, (Telegrams: Justice Minister, Pretoria, South Africa), (Telexes: 3-20678 SA:3-21347 SA: 3-22139 SA), (Faxes: "12212206).

President Ravele, Government Office, Sibasa, Venda, South Africa.

Copies to:

South African Press Association, PO Box 7766, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa.

Ambassador Piet G.J. Koornhof, Embassy of South Africa, 3051 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

News from Africa Watch is a publication of Africa Watch, a non-governmental organization created in May 1988 to monitor human rights practices in Africa and to promote respect for internationally recognized standards. Its Executive Director is Rakliya Omaar; its Research Director is Richard Carver and its Washington Representative is Joyce Mends-Cole.

Africa Watch is part of Human Rights Watch, an organization that also comprises Americas Watch, Asia Watch, Helsinki Watch and Middle East Watch. The Chairman of Human Rights Watch is Robert L. Bernstein and the Vice-Chairman is Adrian De Wind. Aryeh Neier is Executive Director of Human Rights Watch and Kenneth Roth is Deputy Director.

WATER POLICY REFORMS OVERDUE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 1989

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, water policy is increasingly, and appropriately, viewed as a critical component of national resource management.

Decades ago, when many of our water projects were authorized and when many water contracts were signed, there was little competition for the water resource and little concern about inflation or the national debt. Today, all of those issues have changed radically, and so, too, should our thinking about the appropriation management of Federal water resources.

In California, agriculture uses 85 percent of all our water, and project beneficiaries receive

lavish Federal taxpayer subsidies, far beyond the benefits enjoyed by farmers who do not receive Federal water. Those subsidies are paid by their agricultural competitors, by power users, and by the general taxpayers who underwrite the subsidies which are not infrequently 90 percent or more of the true cost of the water.

And many of these agricultural users also generate significant problems in the area of environmental quality and resource management by destroying wetlands, depriving fish and wildlife of needed in-stream flows, and contamination from waste water.

In the meantime, urban areas—which have the bulk of the State's population and generate most of the State's economic growth and wealth—are facing imminent water shortages. And while we could address much of the urban shortfall through a reasonable reallocation of agricultural and unallocated water resources, areas, cities also must improve their management practices.

As Robert Gottlieb, a former member of the Metropolitan Water District of Los Angeles, describes in the following article from the Los Angeles Times, we can no longer afford the traditional attitude that the only solution to water supply concerns is to build, divert and mine more water. As with any other resource, responsible management is cheaper and more appropriate than merely generating greater quantities and greater waste.

The article follows:

OUR WATER AGENCIES' HISTORIC GROWTH AGENDA NEEDS A NEW MISSION

(By Robert Gottlieb)

The Southern California water agencies see trouble ahead with both the supply and quality of their product. Consider the following:

- The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has lost another battle in its long-standing conflict with the defenders of Mono Lake over how much water it may divert from this environmentally besieged water system. Although fretful over the higher costs involved, the DWP has increased its requests for water from the Metropolitan Water District, the major wholesaler of "imported" water in the region, to meet anticipated growth.

- The MWD, facing its own court-directed proceedings to review the export of Sacramento River water through the Sacramento Bay Delta to Central and Southern California, can take only momentary consolation from its successful lobbying campaign for the withdrawal of a State Water Resources Control Board staff draft report. The report had called for a new "water ethic" and controls on future exports to protect the Delta and the Bay. Despite the big push from MWD and its agricultural allies in the Central Valley, the likelihood of reduced exports from the North seems greater than ever.

- More ground-water wells have become contaminated throughout Southern California—in the Inland Empire, Orange County, the San Fernando Valley, the San Gabriel Valley and the Burbank/North Hollywood area. The costs of cleanup are astronomical—and increasing—for both public agencies and the private companies liable for a share of the costs.

- The imported water has its own problems. When chlorinated, it produces a range of "disinfection byproducts," some of which are potentially carcinogenic. The Environmental Protection Agency will put more stringent standards on one of those byprod-