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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

DF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



NATIONAL OFFICE

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30 August 1984

Honourable Patron

Eight days ago the United Democratic Front celebrated her first anniversary. This anniversary is marked by two important factors:-

1. a track record of proud victories against the Sebe repression, Local Authorities, Coloured Management Committees and now the Tri-cameral Parliament.
2. growing state repression of the UDF and her affiliates, triggered off by a massive boycott campaign spearheaded by the Front resulting in the detention of eight officials and a Patron. Amongst those detained in terms of Section 28 of the Internal Security Act are President Archie Gumede, Mosiuoa Lekota (National Publicity Secretary) Mewa Ramgobin (National Treasurer) George Sewpersadh (National vice President) Aubrey Mokoena (Member N.E.C) Curtis Nkondo (Tvl vice President) Moses Chikane (member of National Secretariat) RAshe Saloojee (member of N.E.C) Essop Jassat (Patron) Billy Nair and M J Naidoo both of the Natal Indian Congress.

Harassment of activists and the search for the remaining officials of the Front continues.

We believe that what we are having now is now just a glimpse of more brutal forms of repression which are likely to accompany the imposition of the already discredited new constitution. Many more UDF leaders are destined for detention and even bannings. It is not unexpected that in their panic and desperation the government will not hesitate to ban the United Democratic Front and certain of her key affiliates.

It is in this mind that we take the liberty, even at this seemingly late hour to write to you, asking you to intervene. Although what we are up against is a stubborn and incorrigible government, it is however our sincere belief that with a little more effort by all of us to mobilise public opinion nationally and internationally drastic action against the leadership of the UDF can be postponed. We therefore ask you to do all in your power to intervene.

Intervention may take the form of protest letters to the government, Embassies, Church organisations as well as the Commissioner of police. Embassies and churches could be urged to put pressure on the government to release those detained. There are various other ways of intervening - which we have not mentioned here.

What we wish to impress upon you is the centrality of your role as a patron in this respect.

Yours in struggle,

POPO MOLEFE
GENERAL SECRETARY

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