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Your Ref.

Our Ref: NM/E4/86/mj

14 July 1986

End Conscription Campaign  
c/o Khotso House  
De Villiers Street  
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Sir,

Re: PRESS STATEMENT/'WE CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT  
TO RECOGNISE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE'

We have perused the statement which is attached hereto, on your instructions, for the purposes of seeing whether they contravene the Emergency Regulations or any other legal provisions.

We are of the view that this statement does not contravene the provisions of the Emergency Regulations and are further of the view that should the statement be published as intended and endorsed by individuals that this would also not constitute a contravention.

We are also satisfied that the statement and publication thereof with endorsees, would not constitute a contravention of any other legal provisions.

Yours faithfully  
CHEADLE THOMPSON & HAYSOM

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WE CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

We note with grave concern that the emergency regulations prohibit the expression of opposition to conscription. This not only bars the End Conscription Campaign from voicing one of its central concerns, but also silences thousands of South Africans who are struggling daily with their consciences.

As this is a matter of crucial importance and drastic consequence to many citizens of this country, especially in these strife-torn times, the manner in which they are prevented from expressing their feelings is a serious violation of the fundamental right to freedom of speech.

It is of special concern that the End Conscription Campaign in the Western Cape has suffered the further prohibition of not being permitted to make any utterance. A further denial of free expression is the ban on ECC meetings in the Eastern Cape.

We call on the government to recognise the right of all South Africans to express their opinion on military conscription. We call for an end to the restrictions placed on the End Conscription Campaign by the government.

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## **END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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