

SECURITY AND LEGAL REPORT1. State Action

Following the stand of the 143 and the pronouncements by Magnus Malan, a number of potential courses of action by the state were envisaged:-

(a) an immediate restriction of ECC and/or its activists, accompanied by detention of certain activists.

(b) a restriction of ECC following the interdict, during which time the state would hope to prove that ECC is an enemy organisation.

(c) a more long term approach in which the state takes ECC on in the courts, hoping to establish a number of significant convictions, and finally being in a position to restrict or ban us.

Having survived the immediate period intact, it is in terms of the latter two options that we are anticipating action.

2. Security Grading

As a response to this period of heightened 'threat' against ECC, we have placed the organisation on an 'AMBER' security grading. This is in contrast to our preceding security grading which was 'GREEN'. We are currently planning to return to 'green' one week following the interdict hearing.

('GREEN' - fully open operation, but with normal caution and watchfulness. We may use the telephone for political work, meet in each other's houses, and announce openly final meeting points).

('AMBER' - operation designed to prevent detention of activists and seizure of information. No use of telephones; meeting points and safe venues; hiding is optional; activists forums and GB's still go ahead).

('RED' - maximum threat against organisation. Hiding obligatory for central activists. Immediate meetings at pre-arranged points for executive and sub-committees. Organisation does not meet as an entire body, ie. no

3. Security Group

The Cape Town security group consists of three persons mandated by the executive to investigate any security matters that they deem necessary. The group may not, however, act on any issue without the executive's approval. They report directly to the executive and make recommendations for action.

Our work has involved:-

1. Monitoring of harassment in the organisation.
2. Making assessment of the security situation.
3. Recommending security grading for the organisation.
4. Investigating all security matters, in particular spies, referred to the group.

We have acted on two specific security incidents this year. The last one involved a certain activist known as Mike Emmerich, who was asked to leave the organisation because of very strong suspicions concerning his behaviour. We will communicate the details of this incident in a separate report.

We have found the security group to be a tight and efficient structure, that decreases rumour mongering amongst activists, and has greatly streamlined the process of investigating security breaches.

4. Interdict

We see the interdict proceedings against the SADF as an enormously important area of work. The outcome of the interdict will have very important consequences for the organisation.

Following the submission of our founding affidavit, in which we laid out the basis for our seeking an order restraining the SADF from unlawfully acting against ECC and its members, we have received replying papers from the SADF. Their argument is that ECC is an enemy organisation, that their actions against us are justified by legislation, and necessary, given the war situation and our ultimately revolutionary aims.

We have now lodged our replying papers, which set out a very detailed and excellent statement of ECC's aims, activities,

legitimacy, and give good evidence countering the SADF's submissions. The matter will be heard on 31 August and 1 and 2 September. Estimates of our chances range from good (60%) by an advocate to poor (25%) by our lawyer. The problem is that we are taking essentially a political matter to court, to be heard by a fairly conservative bench.

The implications of losing the interdict could be serious, as the state may be able to win a judgement that labels us as an 'enemy' organisation. It will also be giving license to state organisations to act in this way against a whole range of opposition groupings.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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