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Our ref: L15
 Your ref:
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LAWYERS
for
 HUMAN
 RIGHTS

Transitional Executive Council
 World Trade Centre
 KEMPTON PARK.

Attention: Mr Cyril Ramaphosa
 Mr Roelf Meyer
 Mr Pravin Goden

FAX: [011] 397-2211

Dear Sirs,

RE: VIOLENCE IN KATLEHONG:

The media this weekend covered various aspects of the violence that is currently plaguing the East Rand. There were two reports in particular that we found extremely disturbing and we believe that the Transitional Executive Council should take them up as a matter of urgency:

1. On Saturday night the SADF were fired upon by residents of Buyafuthi Hostel with automatic weapons. We heard later on Radio 702 that the SADF and the SAP were unable to search the Hostel as the residents were too heavily armed. A figure of at least 100 machine guns within the Hostel was mentioned.
2. The press also this weekend confirmed that 150 Inkatha members who had been trained by Phillip Powell and the KZP have now been deployed on the East Rand.

The Transitional Executive Council Act states quite clearly that "the deployment of troops in peace-keeping and prevention of crime operations may only take place with the concurrence of the Transitional Executive Council". The situation on the East Rand is extremely serious and the two reports detailed above are alarming to say the least.

In the light of the Goldstone revelations regarding the existence of hit-squads within the Kwa Zulu Police and the totally unco-operative attitude displayed by the Kwa Zulu Government with regard to the requests by the TEC for further information, we would like to propose the following:

1. That the TEC authorizes the immediate deployment of troops in Katlehong to surround the aforementioned Hostel [and others where the presence of arms is

- suspected] to conduct a search of premises, confiscation of weapons and to arrest where necessary.
2. That the TEC recommends that the Goldstone Investigative team conducts an urgent on-site investigation into the presence of the 150 trained and armed Inkatha members who have allegedly been deployed on the East Rand. This investigation is especially urgent in the light of the Commission's recent findings regarding hit-squads operating within the Kwa Zulu Police.

If it is correct that the Security Forces have refrained from searching Buyafuthi Hostel because the residents are "too well armed", then we find this utterly unacceptable. This excuse could be used in the future when Security Forces are confronted by heavily armed Right-wingers storming the TEC and it reflects an extraordinary attitude towards law and order.

As one of the major functions of the Transitional Executive Council is to level the playing fields prior to the election, central to this will be its contribution towards ending the violence. We believe that there is going to be an escalation of the violence particularly on the East Rand during this month and that this will in the main be caused by the deployment of heavily armed and trained vigilantes such as those currently in Buyafuthi Hostel.

We look forward to your urgent response.

Yours sincerely,



BRIAN CURRIN
NATIONAL DIRECTOR
LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.