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Please find a statement by Mr Dullah Omar re distorted reporting of his speech at yesterday's funeral.

Could you please ensure that the impression created both on TV and radio is corrected as soon as possible.

Thank you.

25 April 1993

PRESS STATEMENT

I am extremely disturbed by the totally erroneous and damaging impression created by the SABC on my speech at Khaya Simane's funeral yesterday. I wish to stress that no-one who listened to my speech could possibly interpret it as a call to arms.

In this speech, I called for people to identify the real enemy and, on a number of occasions, repeated that the apartheid system was responsible for our problems.

I also drew attention to the success of the apartheid system in creating divisions in our communities.

It was in this context that I called for unity and metaphorically - asked people to turn their guns on the real
enemy, apartheid.

It is quite clear from the context of my speech, therefore, that I was calling, not for a return to arms, but a concentration of all efforts to end the apartheid system.

My call on people to join MK occurred in a different section of my speech. Referring to the role of MK, I pointed out that MK was not just a group of people with guns, but had a constructive role to play in the community - training, educating and assisting people.

I therefore wish to make it absolutely clear that I made no call to arms.

Rather I wish to appeal to all South African democrats, particularly the oppressed, to unite to end the apartheid system and build a society based on democracy and peace.

Issued by Dullah Omar, Member of ANC National Executive Committee and ANC Constitutional Committee.

For more information, contact Susan de Villiers 021-448-5651 or 021-689-2373. Or page 021-253844 code 6564.