

MCH 91-27-5-25

Dear Amnesty International,

~~The ~~the~~ relatively large number of letters we have received from members of Amnesty is a tribute to your organizing capacity, but ~~hardly takes~~ if replies are expected to each one, hardly takes account of our capacity.~~

We have ~~the~~ recently received a relatively large number of letters from members of Amnesty.

Since our already strained resources are incapable of responding to each and every one as we would like ^{to do,} we have chosen one letter ~~at random~~

directly addressed to the Minister of Justice,

and send you a copy of our reply so as to ^{see the picture more fully} ~~enable you to hear the other side~~

and get a better ^{idea} picture of the atmosphere that

prevails in Mozambique at the moment.

We feel that had your organization been aware not only of the particular facts of this case, but of the great efforts we are making towards amnesty, ~~at the moment,~~ you would not have lent yourself so readily to the letter-writing campaign.

~~Before concluding,~~ ^{May we} we would like to make some general points in relation to issues raised in Amnesty letters and reports?

In the first place, ^{we wish to state that in general terms} we appreciate the work that Amnesty is doing, ~~and~~ ^{our} only wish ^{is that} we had heard more of you in the bitter years when we were fighting for our independence, and thousands and thousands of Mozambican patriots died victims of massacres or tortured to death in

prison camps such as Ibo and Mbachava. We know that on occasions ~~that~~ ^{some} members did react, but feel sad that your voice was

so muted then ~~and~~ ~~relatively speaking,~~

~~at that~~ ^{achieve} When we were fighting ~~for~~ ^{to} our independence and is, relatively speaking,

so loud now that we are fighting to defend ^{it} ~~our independence~~. We ~~know~~ ^{realise} that

as an Organisation you do not take account of political circumstances, but we for our

part do. ~~that~~ We know that we have

been fighting against tremendous odds to consolidate the rights and liberties which our people won after centuries of humiliation and oppression. We have been struggling against the effects of underdevelopment,

drought, floods and ^{scientifically planned} external aggression,
^{with a view} to building a society without distinctions
of race, sex or origin, in which all our
citizens ^{may} enjoy health, education and
security, and in which all can develop
their talents and creativity in a way
that colonialism never allowed.

~~We are aware that the very ~~old~~ persons whom Amnesty adopts are those who wish to restore the old~~

Anyone who has made a study of our penal system will see that for many years we had no capital punishment, and that this penalty and other severe measures were only introduced at a time when our sovereignty was being directly

and seriously threatened by externally based forces, when murders and massacres in the countryside had become common and a peculiarly ruthless and ferocious type of banditry ^{had been} elevated to a science.

Even as we write to you, we read in the newspaper of the funeral of a Catholic priest murdered when his car was ambushed not far from Naputo, and of the deaths of 7 occupants of a bus, including the conductor, hit by a hail of bullets ~~not far away~~ while travelling peacefully not far away.

We also ^{feel it appropriate} ~~wish~~ to point out, if it is necessary to do so, that we too have our consciences, that we more than anybody are concerned about the rights of our citizens.

~~As our President has pointed out many~~

Our fight, in which so many paid with their lives, was for liberation, not oppression. We are deeply concerned that in many areas of our life we have failed to prevent abuses and illegalities. These are issues that touch us deeply, and we are trying to take concrete steps to deal with them. In the case of our Ministry, we see our contribution towards strengthening ~~the~~ legality or the rule of law in our country ^{as lying in the extension} ~~is extending~~ and strengthening of the network of courts, making them ever more accessible to the people, and creating the means

whereby ~~the~~ citizens are ever more aware of their rights and duties.

Finally, we would like to stress that our country is at present going through a difficult, we might say dramatic, phase of adaptation. Our people long for peace, for an end to the violence which aims to destroy our Independence or deprive it of meaning. Our Government ~~has undertaken~~ has gone to great lengths to create the conditions for peace. We have offered complete amnesty to all those who wish sincerely to be re-integrated into Mozambican life, ~~spurred the~~ ~~bitterness among our people~~ and taken concrete measures to make this a

reality. Already a large number of persons have taken part in this process. We feel that if Amnesty wishes to make a contribution towards peace and justice in our country, it will use its ~~good offices~~ organisational strength and prestige to encourage this process, and thereby avoid any suspicion that it is identifying itself with, or being used by, the representatives in Europe of those forces opposed to ~~our~~ our independence.

Yours sincerely,

10 years - importance - all of S. Africa.

1. Defeat - est.

Pro-Frelimo Rally

2. Victory - Line: ^{democratic} non-racial ^{line} - for the people
supported - progr. of liberat.

Defin. of enemy.

^{Practical}
3. Solidarity given -

Conference.

Lib. zones.

Created

①. In the name of the ANC and of all the struggling people of SA, allow me to express ^{warm} ~~our~~ cordial greetings on the occasion of this week of solidarity preceding the ~~10th~~ celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Independence.

The significance of these ten years to us is clear.

In the first place, they

Peoples war.
Pro-Frelimo rally, expulsion SA troops - Azala -
impulse elements - SOWETO.