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Telephone Number

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HUMEWOOD

DR ALBIE SACHS ANC PRIVATE BAG 13123 SIR LOWRY ROAD CAPE TOWN 7900

21 February 1992

Dear Albie,

HUMAN RIGHTS

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Supplied by
MASON STATIONERY
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After an initial meetin project in August 1991 at Wits University, it was decided that myself, Brian Curren, Geoff Budlender of Legal Resources Centre, Piroshaw Camay and Brother Jude Pieterse of the SACBC would convene a two-day workshop / conference on this project. I enclose for your information a copy of a letter to Geoff Budlender in this regard as well as Notes on a Future Bill of Rights for South Africa which have been circulated to all interested groups and organisations.

I would like to invite your participation in this workshop as a lead-in speaker, and would ask you to put these dates in your diary now. We will communicate with you further as to what we would like from you, once we have some idea as to how many people are able to attend this workshop. Your travel arrangements and accommodation will be covered.

Please contact Amber Cummins or Lesley Frescura at 041-555979 or fax 041-564337 as soon as possible, to let us know whether you can attend. We look forward to seeing you in April!

Yours sincerely,

RORY RIORDAN

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19 CLYDE STREET CENTRAL PORT ELIZABETH 6001

PHONE: (041) 559536, 559537, 555979,

TELEFAX: (041) 564337

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# THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRUST

The Human Rights Trust is a charitable trust set up to redress conditions of deprivation and suffering caused by discrimination by law, regulation, custom or practice.

Die Human Rights Trust is 'n liefdadigheidstrust wat gestig is vir die bekamping van toestande van lyding en ontbering vanweë diskriminasie kragtens wet, regulasie, gebruik of praktyk. Lo mbutho:- "Human Rights Trust" ngumbutho wesisa owasekwa ngenjongo zokuncedana noluntu phantsi kwemeko zonxunguphalo nentsokolo ezibangwa lucalulo olubangwa ngumthetho, nemigaqo, namasiko ne mphatho

P.O. BOX 13197 HUMEWOOD 6013 PORT ELIZABETH SOUTH AFRICA

DR ALBIE SACHS ANC PRIVATE BAG 13123 SIR LOWRY ROAD CAPE TOWN 7900

21 February 1992

Dear Albie,

HUMAN RIGHTS LOBBY GROUP FOR THE NEW CONSTITUTION
9-10 APRIL 1992 - PORT ELIZABETH

In July 1991, Brian Curren of Lawyers for Human Rights, suggested that the broadly defined South African human rights movement should create from within itself a lobby of human rights practitioners that will attempt to ensure the adoption of adequate human rights provisions in the constituttion that many believe we will adopt in the near future in South Africa.

After an initial meeting of interested people in August 1991 at Wits University, it was decided that myself, Brian Curren, Geoff Budlender of Legal Resources Centre, Piroshaw Camay and Brother Jude Pieterse of the SACBC would convene a two-day workshop / conference on this project. I enclose for your information a copy of a letter to Geoff Budlender in this regard as well as Notes on a Future Bill of Rights for South Africa which have been circulated to all interested groups and organisations.

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Yours sincerely,

RORY RIORDAN DIRECTOR Speak on in Lights

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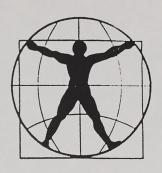
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19 CLYDE STREET CENTRAL PORT ELIZABETH 6001

PHONE: (041) 559536, 559537, 555979,

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P.O. BOX 13197 HUMEWOOD 6013 PORT ELIZABETH SOUTH AFRICA

GEOFF BUDLENDER
LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE
PO BOX 9495
JOHANNESBURG
2000

31 January 1992

Dear Geoff,

Further to our work, on a lobby group on constitutional issues.

We have just circulated about 120 human rights-oriented NGO's with a letter asking them to reserve the dates 9th and 10th April 1992, for a workshop/conference on this project, to be held in Port Elizabeth. Could I ask you also, to reserve these dates in your diary, as your attendance is vital. The dates are a compromise between Ramadan, Pesach, School Holidays and hotel availability! I hope they can suit you.

We have formed a small local committee around this conference, involving Kobus Pienaar of LRC, Susan Zeiss (previously of LHR), Thole Majodina and Nonkosi Mhlantla (attorneys in Port Elizabeth) and Judy Chalmers (of Sash, and everything else that you can think of!), and ourselves, Lesley Frescura, Friday France and Rory Riordan of the Trust. This committee is coming up with ideas around agenda, speakers, involvement, etc.

Our first two meetings have resulted in the following ideas which I would greatly appreciate your comments on :

i) The purpose of the workshop/conference is:

firstly, to bring together good people from good organisations who have not come together before, for a creative purpose;

secondly, to try to create a feeling that there could be a national human rights movement, operating where working together will have added results to individual organisational effort;

thirdly, to come together to discuss issues around the topics we discussed previously (I include, to jog your memory, a copy of the summary made of our October meeting conclusions);

and fourthly, and where possible, to construct consensus motions that all of us (ideally) can live with, that express the principles that we would

wish to see a future Bill of Rights conform to in the eleven areas of controversy as outlined. (In some cases this will be impossible - like, say, the issue of abortion where the Catholic Bishops Conference will predictably differ from some other organisations. In that case, possibly two different positions of principle could be drawn up, to satisfy both sides of the debate).

ii) After the workshop has constructed these motions, we would ideally like to see firstly, all organisations take these motions "home", and consult in-house for acceptance;

secondly, we then, as some sort of central secretariat, ask the major political parties for their draft Bills of Rights and proposed Constitutions for South Africa;

thirdly, ask a legal committee to consider these bills, etc, and compare them to the motions of principle adopted by the human rights forum;

fourthly, inform all organisations of the results of this comparison;

fifthly, encourage them individually to take the issues up;

and sixthly, where it is possible and sensible, to, as a human rights movement, to jointly take up the issues with the political parties concerned.

As you can see, this is an elaborate and ongoing set of procedures. I, we, would greatly enjoy your comments thereon.

With regard to the agenda of the workshop/conference, we have thought of the following as a possibility (comments, please!)

- DAY 1 Early morning General welcome, statement of intent.
  - Later morning First 4 workshops, operating simultaneously, on four of the areas of controversy.
  - Afternoon Second set of 4 workshops.
  - Evening Plenary session on the topic "Should there be post-apartheid trials in South Africa some preliminary
    - thoughts".

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DAY 2 - Morning - Afternoon

- Third set of 4 workshops.

- Plenary, all consensus (and other) motions from the workshops put to the full plenary for final discussion and, where possible, consensus, and where consensus is not possible, a formulation of opposing viewpoints approved.

It was our feeling that only the evening plenary session should be public - all workshop sessions would only be attended by delegates from organisations.

Workshops would have lead-in speakers, delivering hopefully well thought out motivations. We would encourage a number of different speakers, hopefully taking challenging positions, in any one topic.

Sorry this is such a long note, but I hope it makes sense to you. I would obviously welcome your comments and help, which you have been so generous with to date.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Very best wishes,

RORY KIORDAN

#### NOTES ON A FUTURE BILL OF RIGHTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The first meeting of the proposed lobby group on human rights provisions for the future South African Constitution and Bill of Rights requested a set of principles that would underpin the lobby group's detailed proposals.

A meeting of an invited committee came up with the following quidelines:

- 1. The future South African Constitution and Bill of Rights should in all ways be consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- 2. The issues on which controversy and disagreement can be expected include the following:
  - i) Second and Third Generation Rights whether they should be constitutionalised and, if yes, how;
  - ii) Affirmative Action whether it should be constitutionalised and, if yes, how;
  - - iv) Capital Punishment should it be prohibited?
      - v) Abortion should abortion on request be allowed?
  - vi) Property rights and land rights should they be constitutionalised, and, if yes, how;
  - vii) Minority and group rights what is meant by them, what
    is legitimately to be constitutionalised and, if so,
    how;
  - viii) Should rights issues be heard by ordinary courts;
    - a special division of the Appeal Court;
    - a Constitutional
      Court;
    - other mechanisms, and if so, what; and how?
    - ix) Gay rights and rights to privacy are they separate from other personal rights?
    - x) Freedom to dissociate separate from the right to privacy?
    - xi) Anti-discrimination measures, including hate speech.