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LAWYERS
for
HUMAN
RIGHTS

10th June 1992

PRESS RELEASE

CALL FOR A MORATORIUM ON NEW LEGISLATION

ARTICLE 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his or her country, directly or through freely elected representatives. That right, in theory, has been recognised by the present government and it is towards this end that negotiations are currently underway.

In flagrant disregard of this during the past few weeks, the Nationalist government, acting with indecent haste, has introduced into Parliament a number of Bills dealing with issues as wide ranging as the electoral process, conscription and phone tapping.

They have done this while claiming to be fully involved in and supportive of the negotiations process underway at CODESA, where discussions around the issue of an Interim Government have reached an advanced phase. In our view the establishment of such an authority is now a foregone conclusion - more a question of when rather than if.

In the light of this and the recent exposures documenting wholesale corruption and abuse of tax payers money, we call on the government to institute an immediate moratorium on the unilateral introduction of new legislation. We would further urge the CODESA management committee and all participants at this forum to ensure that no further legislation is pushed through the current parliamentary session. Failure to do so reduces the CODESA process to nothing more than an absurd side-show to the Nationalists' performance of "business as usual".


BRIAN CURRIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR