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For the attention of the
 Daily Management Committee
 Convention for A Democratic
 South Africa

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Dear Sirs

Re: South Africa's Political Prisoners

We are pleased to have learnt that Subgroup 1 of the work group 1 of CODESA will be considering the question of alleged South African political prisoners.

There are allegations that both the South African Government, the African National Congress, and other South African organisations may still be holding political prisoners in South African or foreign prisons and camps.

It is very important that South Africa is honestly attempting to heal this long festering sore so that it can go forward to a peaceful democratic future. We fail to understand why the question of these political prisoners is being initially handled as a bilateral issue between the South African Government and the African National Congress. We think that this important matter also relates to other South Africans.

We would therefore appreciate advice on the working terms of reference of the CODESA work group for this:-

1. Will oral evidence be heard from former political prisoners? We believe that this could make an important contribution to understanding the current situation.

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2. How is it proposed that it will be determined whether the ANC or other political organisations are still holding prisoners in other African countries ?

3. We understand from a CODESA delegate that both the Returned Exiles Co-ordinating Committee and the Ex ANC Detainees Committee, have applied to the management committee of CODESA to give evidence. We understand that so far work group 1 has not heard this evidence. Is there any reason for this ? We strongly feel that the hearing of this evidence would be wholly appropriate at this time.

4. Will the question of the possibility of reparations to be paid to former political prisoners be dealt with by this Work Group ?

5. We understand that the lack of progress of Work Group 1 is delaying the CODESA process. If this is so we suggest that the appointment of an impartial, independent Judicial enquiry which could report back to CODESA at a later date could be a useful course of action. Evidence could be heard from both groups and individuals inside South Africa and from witnesses still outside the country. We expect that the United Nations Organisation could assist in obtaining access to other African states where it is alleged that prisoners are held under the jurisdiction of South African organisations.

6. Will there be any investigation carried out to attempt to ascertain whether there has been any misconduct by individuals ?

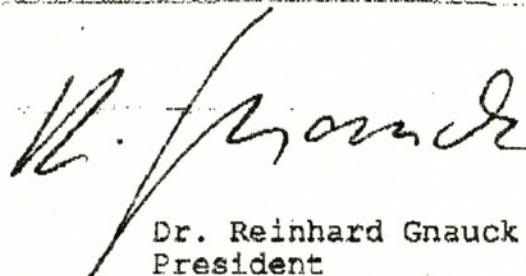
7. We have been told that there is a strong desire among the relatives of ex ANC prisoners, allegedly killed in foreign lands, to have the bodies returned to South Africa for burial. Will CODESA address this issue ?

We take this opportunity to assure you of our very best wishes to assist in this matter. We admire South Africa's attempts to solve its problems in an honest and forthright manner. We wish you every success in your endeavours.

Yours sincerely



Robert Chambers
Secretary General
International Secretariat



Dr. Reinhard Gnauck
President
International Secretariat