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PRESS RELEASE BY THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE R J GOLDSTONE, CHAIRMAN
OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC
VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION

1. In the Weekly Mail of 3 January 1992 allegations were made concerning alleged funding by the South African Defence Force of "front organisations", the purpose of which, *inter alia*, was to sponsor violence in black townships. It was alleged further that -

"most of these organisations are still in place, with the same individuals - all of whom have extensive military connections - running them."

2. On 4 January 1992 I requested one of the co-editors of the Weekly Mail to furnish the Commission with evidence or information concerning current operations of the "front organisations" relating to violence or intimidation. On 7 January 1992 I was informed by the Weekly Mail that a submission to the Commission was being prepared by its legal advisers. The Commission is still awaiting this submission.

3. On 13 January 1992 the Minister of Defence, Mr R P Meyer, MP, requested the Commission to inquire into the allegations that the South African Defence Force was currently involved in violence and to establish whether there are any facts to support such allegations. On the same day a similar request was received from the African National Congress with regard to the above allegations.

4. Having regard to the allegations that the "front organisations" are currently in operation and sponsoring violence, the Commission has resolved to investigate them immediately.

5. I would stress that the Commission is empowered to investigate matters which are directly related to current violence and intimidation so that it may identify the persons involved therein and make recommendations on steps which may be taken to prevent the further occurrence thereof. The Commission cannot therefore inquire into matters which do not fall within these terms of reference.

6. Any person who has information concerning these allegations is requested to furnish it to the Commission at Private Bag X858, Pretoria, 0001 on or before 25 January 1992..

7. The Commission will begin to hear evidence on Monday, 4 February 1992 at its Cape Town offices, 14th Floor, Reserve Bank Building, Cape Town.

8. Unless special circumstances dictate otherwise the hearings will be held in public.

CAPE TOWN

14 JANUARY 1992

PERSVERKLARING DEUR SY EDELE REGTER R J GOLDSTONE, VOORSITTER VAN DIE KOMMISSIE VAN ONDERSOEK INSAKE DIE VOORKOMING VAN OPENBARE GEWELD EN INTIMIDASIE

1. In die Weekly Mail van 3 Januarie 1992 is bewerings gemaak betreffende beweerde befondsing deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag van "frontorganisasies", met die doel om, onder andere, geweld in Swart woongebiede te bevorder. Daar is verder beweer dat -
"most of these organisations are still in place, with the same individuals - all of whom have extensive military connections - running them."
2. Op 4 Januarie 1992 het ek een van die mede-redakteurs van die Weekly Mail versoek om die Kommissie van getuienis of inligting te voorsien in verband met die heersende bedrywighede van die "frontorganisasies" met betrekking tot geweld en intimidasie. Op 7 Januarie 1992 is ek deur die Weekly Mail ingelig dat 'n voorlegging aan die Kommissie deur sy regsadviseur voorberei word. Dié voorlegging word steeds deur die Kommissie afgewag.
3. Op 13 Januarie 1992 het die Minister van Verdediging, Mnr R P Meyer, LP, die Kommissie versoek om die bewerings dat die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag tans by geweld betrokke is, te ondersoek en om vas te stel of daar enige feite is wat die bewerings staaf. Op dieselfde dag is 'n soortgelyke versoek van die African National Congress met betrekking tot die bovermelde bewerings ontvang.

4. Inaggenome die bewerings dat die "frontorganisasies" tans bedrywig is en geweld bevorder, het die Kommissie besluit om die bewerings onmiddellik te ondersoek.

5. Ek wil beklemtoon dat die Kommissie bevoeg is om aangeleenthede te ondersoek wat direk betrekking het op heersende geweld en intimidasie sodat hy die persone wat daarby betrokke is kan identifiseer en aanbevelings kan maak ten opsigte van stappe wat gedoen kan word ten einde die verdere voorkoms daarvan te voorkom. Die Kommissie kan dus nie ondersoek instel na aangeleenthede wat nie binne hierdie opdrag val nie.

6. Enige persoon wat inligting het betreffende hierdie bewerings word versoek om dit voor of op 25 Januarie 1992 aan die Kommissie by Privaatsak X858, Pretoria, 0001, te verskaf.

7. Die Kommissie sal op Maandag, 4 Februarie 1992, begin om getuienis aan te hoor by sy kantoor op die 14de vloer van die Suid-Afrikaanse Reserwe Bank-gebou, te Kaapstad.

8. Tensy spesiale omstandighede anders aandui, sal die verrigtinge in die openbaar gehou word.

KAAPSTAD

14 JANUARIE 1992