

Sir Geoffrey Howe MP,
Secretary of State
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,
Downing Street,
London SW1

29th Nov 1983

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

I am writing on behalf of the SATIS Committee to draw your attention to the case of Benjamin Moloise whose appeal, according to press reports, was refused by the Appellate Division of the South African Supreme Court on 24th November, and who therefore faces imminent execution.

Mr Moloise was sentenced to death on 6th June for allegedly killing a South African Security Policeman. The conviction was largely dependent on a confession made by Mr Moloise which he stated in court was "something I made up...I had nothing to do with the shooting."

We received the attached statement yesterday from the African National Congress which confirms Benjamin Moloise's denial.

It appears that the South African authorities are seeking to carry out this act of judicial murder in revenge for Moloise's refusal to answer questions during the trial of the three ANC members who were executed on June 9th this year, Mr Moloise was called as a state witness in the trial.

Since we understand that the judicial procedures have now been exhausted in this case we believe that Her Majesty's Government should now intervene urgently to save this young man's life. In particular we would be grateful if you could raise this matter with the South African Foreign Minister when you see him on Friday.

Finally there have been press reports that the South African authorities do not in future intend to disclose when executions are to take place, and that if this execution takes place it will be in secret. We believe that this is one more example of the barbaric and inhumane nature of the system of apartheid, and would urge that the Government, for the sake especially of the families of those under sentence of death, should seek an assurance that the South African authorities abandon their plans for secret executions.

Yours sincerely,

Des Starks, Chairman