



Andreas Heita showing the results of torture by the Security Police in Namibia

STOP THIS TRIAL

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Defend the Namibian 8!

The eight men — **Andreas Heita (22), Salomo Paulus (27), Andreas Tongeni (23), Martin Akweenda (23), Gabriel Matheus (23), Johannes Nangolo (33), Petrus Nangombe (23), and Sagaria Namwandi (18)** — face charges under the South African Terrorism Act and a number of common laws. Earlier trials have seen SWAPO supporters convicted on the basis of 'evidence' extorted by torture and assault on the accused, or those held as state witnesses. **On Wednesday 20 May 1987 judgment is due to be delivered in a major trial in Windhoek, Namibia. Eight men face a total of over 100 charges, including being involved with SWAPO's armed struggle against the occupying South African army.**

Yes, we torture detainees, say police

Torture has usually been denied by the authorities. In this case, however, members of the Security Branch and the notorious police unit Koevoet (now known as COIN) admitted in court that it was customary for captured combatants and detainees to be assaulted to make them 'confess'. A policeman admitted repeatedly flogging Andreas Heita with a hosepipe after ripping a medical drip out of his arm. He described this as a 'good hiding'. Heita displayed his permanently disfigured back to the court. The state withdrew written admissions in the light of police admissions as to how they were obtained.

You thrash a prisoner till he cracks

No conviction based on such a trial can be fair or just, and it is essential that there is international pressure before 20 May to terminate this trial and to call for the unconditional release of the accused.

The British government does not recognise the South African occupation of Namibia or their puppet regime in the territory. However, it has failed to take effective steps to secure the release of the accused in this trial, despite HMG's stated position:

"...As regards allegations of torture and mistreatment of persons detained by the authorities, where practical, we endeavour to establish whether there is any justification in such allegations. Where they can be substantiated we are prepared to consider taking up the cases with the appropriate authorities..."

— *Letter from Minister of State Lynda Chalker, 20 February 1986, to Namibia Support Committee*

The circumstances of this trial are such that the British government should intervene with the South African authorities as a matter of urgency to terminate the trial. **Your help is vital.**

- Please send the slip below to: Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Downing Street, London SW1.
- Ask your MP to support action in Parliament. Contact SATIS for details.

I/we express grave concern over the current trial of eight Namibians and urge that the British government act now to stop this illegal trial.

Name Organisation

Address

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