



**FREE
OSCAR
MPETHA**

Oscar Mpetha, born in 1909, is probably South Africa's oldest political prisoner. Despite suffering from diabetes and having lost a leg through gangrene, he remains incarcerated in Cape Town's Pollsmoor prison – serving a five year sentence for 'terrorism'.

He was convicted of terrorism after the apartheid court heard how he encouraged youths to sing a song about fetching weapons from Angola. Whilst on bail he was elected President of the United Democratic Front and the Release Mandela Committee. Both are now banned.

Offered release by Pretoria in July, 1988 if he rejected the armed struggle against apartheid, the 79 year old trade unionist refused to compromise. Such 'freedom' would have confined Oscar to a Cape Town magisterial district with 24 hour surveillance and prevented him from attending public meetings or talking to journalists.

Oscar has been involved in the democratic trade union movement since 1925. At the age of 71, he was appointed national organiser of the Food and Canning Workers Union and helped the union re-establish itself nationally until his arrest in 1980.

Oscar's record in the democratic movement in South Africa is second to none. He has fought for a non-racial and democratic South Africa for over 60 yrs. The President of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, Elija Barayi, describes Oscar as the father of South African trade unionism. Your action can help bring about Oscar's release.

★ **Raise this case in your own organisation. Pass resolutions to be sent to the British Government to intervene in this case.**

★ **Lobby your MP and MEP. Order the case briefing from the Joint Campaign.**

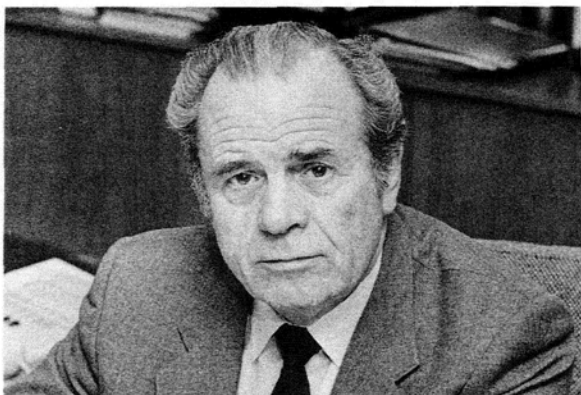
★ **Send protests to the State President, P W Botha, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa 0001.**

★ **Send greetings to Oscar. Letters can be sent to M.1299, Nyanga, Cape Town, 7755, South Africa.**

★ **Raise money for South African political prisoners.**

“Whilst applauding the marvellous demonstrations for the freeing of Nelson Mandela, we must not forget the thousands of other people incarcerated for the ‘crime’ of fighting for freedom and democracy.

Oscar is another who is paying the price for refusing to surrender to the white supremacist regime. I urge you all to support the campaign to obtain his unconditional release.”



RON TODD

If we wish to campaign for the release of Oscar Mpetsha. Please send me:

- _____ Copies of this leaflet.
- Detailed background note on this case.
- A speaker request form from the *Joint Campaign*.
- Details of affiliation rates to the *Anti-Apartheid Movement*.

If/We enclose:

- A £_____ donation to the *Joint Campaign*.
- A £_____ donation for the relief of South African political prisoners.

Name _____

Union and Branch _____

Address _____

Produced by the *Joint Campaign Against the Repression of Trade Unionists in South Africa and Namibia* and the *Transport and General Workers Union* c/o 13 Mandela Street, London NW1 ODW.