

ARCHBISHOP HURLEY STANDS BY NAMIBIA STATEMENT

“On February 3 1983, I, (Denis Hurley, Archbishop of Durban), made a press statement concerning alleged atrocities committed by South African Forces in Northern Namibia. In July I was informed that the Transvaal attorney general viewed possible prosecution in terms of the Police Act.

“I was invited to make a statement pertaining to the incident but on legal advice I refused to do so.” Archbishop Hurley said on August 29.

“In view of a possible charge I instructed my legal advisers to investigate the matter further. This they did. They had a number of consultations in Windhoek with parties who have firsthand knowledge of incidents pertaining to my previous statement. They also perused official court documents such as inquests and summonses issued against the authorities for damages resulting from unlawful actions by the South African Forces.

“Upon careful consideration of all the facts presented to me I am satisfied that I complied with my duties and that I certainly had grounds for believing that my previous statement was well founded.”