

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**ON**

### **VIOLENCE IN THE PIETERMARITZBURG AND VULINDLELA AREAS (10/3/88)**

The clergy of the Archdiocese of Durban discussed the crisis obtaining in the Pietermaritzburg and Vulindlela areas, with particular emphasis on the effect on congregations and those who work in these areas, and stated:

“We abhor the situation of violence, intimidation and terror which currently exists, which is doing great harm to the community as a whole and to our Christian people struggling to live their faith in extremely difficult circumstances. We believe from our experience that no side in this conflict is innocent, and both must bear the blame for allowing it to continue.

“We call on the police and the security forces to conduct themselves in a way which clearly shows their impartiality and their commitment to ending the conflict, and not to ‘fight with the moderates against the radicals’, as said by the Minister of Law and Order in Pietermaritzburg. This is not the police role and will only prolong the conflict.

“We applaud the efforts of the Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Commerce, and Churches and other bodies which have been working painstakingly to bring an end to the fighting.

“We condemn the government’s decision to gag some of the participants in the conflict, which resulted in the collapse of the peace talks.

“We call upon all Christians and people of goodwill to exercise tolerance and restraint to ensure that the vicious cycle of violence ceases.

“We call upon the government to address itself to the main underlying cause of the conflict, apartheid, which is chiefly responsible for the unemployment, poor educational facilities, inadequate housing and overcrowding which exist in the Pietermaritzburg and Vulindlela areas.”

**Archbishop Hurley, Bishop Khumalo and Clergy,  
Archdiocese of Durban**