

**SACBC ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD SECRETARY GENERAL'S  
TORTURERS TO BE PROSECUTED (28/8/87)**

Lawyers for father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, secretary general of the Southern African catholic Bishops' Conference may institute private prosecution of six people who tortured the priest while in state of emergency detention.

This follows the "strange procedure" of the attorney general that if one of the six paid an admission of guilt fine of R200 for *crimen injuria* – not assault – the other five would be absolved.

In August 1986 Father Mkhathshwa was subjected to interrogation and torture. He was taken blindfolded from a police cell with his hands manacled behind his back and returned 32 hours later after continual questioning. He was kept standing throughout the interrogation, blindfolded and manacled. He was insulted, stripped of his lower clothing and subjected in a humiliating and indecent manner to electric shock treatment and to the intimidation of gunshot noises near his head.

Mr. Peter Harris, Father Mkhathshwa's legal advisor, said he was "astonished that one accused can pay R200, and the other accused are absolved. I have never heard such a strange concept.

"Father Mkhathshwa was never subpoenaed for trial (set for 26/8/87) and which never took place. This shows the state did not intend to have a proper court hearing". He said the issue of "the six charged only with *crimen injuria* and not a number of accounts of assault" had been taken up with the attorney general's office.

Signed by Wilfrid Napier, president of the Southern African Bishops' Conference, on behalf of the Conference Administrative Board.