

## **SACBC STATEMENT**

### **ON**

### **ABDUCTION (13/5/86)**

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference condemned in the strongest possible terms the abduction from the foyer of the Johannesburg City Hall of Mr. Philip Wilkinson of Port Elizabeth.

“The Catholic conscientious objector was about to address a peace rally organised by the End Conscription Campaign when he was arrested, allegedly by the military police. They were not in uniform, showed no identification on request, had no warrant for his arrest, and drove away in an unmarked car with a Sasolburg registration.

“If it was in fact military police who arrested Mr. Wilkinson, as one eye-witness alleged, we (the bishops) call on the Minister of Defence to take action against the men involved.

“We also demand the unconditional release of Mr. Wilkinson and that he be allowed to exercise his right to refuse to do military duty because of his conscientious objection to it.”