

SACBC STATEMENT ON THE ATTACKS AT POLICE AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS (6/1/92)

The recent attacks on the police and public institutions are to be condemned in the strongest possible terms. They are clearly intended to derail the peace process, at precisely the time when it is offering hope where only a short while ago, there was despair.

The majority of South Africans have begun to assert their choice for peace through negotiations. There can be no doubt that CODESA enjoys their support. As such, CODESA has the greatest moral claim to legitimacy in the country. It must be given every possible chance to transform South Africa from an apartheid state to a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist country with justice for all.

It is quite clear that for the process of negotiations to succeed there must be stability and tolerance during the time of transition. Radicals, both to the left and to the right, are preventing this by their acts of violence. Every group has the right to promote its own interests and ideology but not at the expense of the common good.

In the quest of democracy, democratic processes must be followed. Therefore, all organisations wishing to shape the future must heed the interests or common good of all South Africans. They must mandate their leadership to engage in the peace process by implementing the National Peace Accord and participating in CODESA without further delay.

The National Peace Accord provides the necessary channels for addressing whatever grievances there may be against the police force. Recourse to action outside of this is totally reprehensible.

We offer our condolences to the families of those police who have been attacked, injured or killed on duty in recent weeks. We also regret the loss to people of facilities intended for service in the new South Africa.