

## **SACBC STATEMENT ON THE TRAIN MASSACRE (24/10/91)**

The SACBC is absolutely outraged by the latest act of savagery, which left dozens of innocent people dead, maimed or wounded on the Soweto train routes this morning.

We repeat the call on the Government, and especially the South African Police, to take effective action to eradicate this cancer, which is rapidly killing off any chances of a reasonably peaceful transition to a just and peaceful society.

We believe that this is just another attempt to sabotage an initiative by non-governmental bodies to lay the foundation for peace and promote the process of negotiations. We therefore urge the security forces to be extra vigilant at all known flashpoints.

Further, we consider that it is absolutely essential that the security forces totally disarm all occupants and residents of known trouble spots, particularly those hostels with a history of violence.

The time of squabbling about what is or is not a weapon is past. Now is the time for decisive action on the part of the authorities. Our appeal is that not another life be lost. The tally was already unacceptably high when the first person died violently.

We sympathise with the injured and their families, with the families of the deceased and with all who have been traumatised by this horrible act of inhumanity.

May the love and goodness of the Lord be a comfort and a consolation.

*Issued by Bishop Wilfred Napier, OFM  
President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.*