

**SACBC STATEMENT
ON VIOLENCE AND THE CHURCH STREET TRAGEDY (25/5/83)**

“The bomb outrage in Pretoria on Friday evening inspire the feelings of utmost horror and revulsion,” Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban said.

“People were killed and maimed without pity. One cannot but deplore such indiscriminate slaughter. Our hearts go out in sympathy to the bereaved and injured.

“The question arises: Is the strategy of sabotage being escalated into unlimited terrorism or is this the act of a group of hot-heads taking matters into their own hands?

It is a horrible and detestable kind of violence. Warnings have been uttered for years that violence would increase. The reason for threatened increase is always there staring us in the face.

“The blame is usually attributed to Moscow, and the total onslaught mounted by international communism. Moscow and international communism may have a hand in the pie but essentially the escalation of violence is a response by desperate people to the built-in violence in an apartheid society.

“Until our rulers realise that and draw the correct conclusion, reactive violence like the Church Street tragedy will continue.

“May we open our eyes to the value of Christian civilization we are supposed to be defending and see the conflict between those values and the South African political system that has a built-in capacity for generating violence.”