

SACBC STATEMENT

ON

BLACK SASH BAN (24/7/89)

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference condemns the order banning the Black Sash and its sub-committee TRAC from operating in Bophuthatswana.

This high-handed action is an attempt to cover up the opposition of the Leeuwfontein and Braklaagte communities to incorporation into Bophuthatswana. The banning order on the Black Sash will not mean that opposition to the incorporation by these communities will cease to exist. The people of Leeuwfontein and Braklaagte's grievances are real and will not disappear as long as the homeland system and enforced incorporation are allowed to continue.

The Black Sash is a respected human rights organisation. We pay tribute to the Black Sash in its work of supporting people and communities suffering in a pervasive climate of oppression and enforced incorporation into the homeland system. The banning of the Black Sash is an indictment on the Bophuthatswana government not the Black Sash.