

## STATEMENTS ON MR. M. RODGERS AND OTHERS

1 June 1978

**At the occasion of the new wave of arrests and detentions in South Africa the President of the Conference of Bishops has sent the following telegram to the Minister Of Justice, Mr. J. Kruger, in Cape Town:**

THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, MR. JAMES KRUGER, HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT, CAPE TOWN.

Protest in strongest possible terms detention under Section 10 Internal Security Act of Marcus Rodgers, Maureen Gaobepe, National and Regional Secretaries Young Christian Workers, Joyce Mokhesi of Young Christian Students, Members of Executive South African Council of Catholic Laity. Particularly denounce callous manner and circumstances of arrests of Maureen Gaobepe on eve of her Church wedding and of Joyce Mokhesi through despicable lying trap. Urgently request you as Minister directly responsible to charge these people before the courts or release them in the name of Christian justice.

Archbishop Fitzgerald, President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

One of the persons detained, Miss Joyce Mokhesi, has sent the following telegram to the President from her place of detention:

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM MISS JOYCE MOKHESI, 30.V.1978  
BISHOP FITZGERALD, CATHEDRAL PLACE, CHRIST THE KING, SARATOGA AVENUE,  
DOORNFONTEIN.

Detained Section 10 at Fort. Allowed visits Tuesdays, Thursdays. Get permission Security John Voster Square. Clothing, Food, Money allowed. Keep courage. – Joyce Mokhesi.

The President of the Conference replied as follows:  
REPLY: 30<sup>th</sup> May 1978.

MISS JOYCE MOKHESI DETAINEE SECTION INTERNAL SECURITY ACT THE FORT  
JOHANNESBURG>

Delighted to receive your telegram. All friends relieved to know you are well. Arranging to visit you. Greetings to Maureen Gaobepe. Praying with you. Your brother in Christ in whom we all find strength, courage and true peace.  
Archbishop Fitzgerald.