

CIRCULAR NO. 46.

Estella House,  
47a, Main Road,  
CLAREMONT, Cape.

TO ALL REGIONS.

23rd May, 1960.

The C.E. consider that pressure should be brought to bear on the Minister of Justice, to make immediate arrangements either to release the women detained under the emergency regulations, or to bring them to trial.

The Opposition in Parliament has been unable to persuade the Minister to do this either by appeals or reasoned discussion. We, the voters, feel that every voter who agrees should urge that it is wrong that mothers of families should be detained without being given a chance to prove their innocence and that they should be asked to lodge an appeal with the Minister of Justice.

We suggest, therefore, that each member or sympathiser is asked to approach 10 people and to ask them to write letters and to see that the letters they write are posted. These letters should preferably be written in the handwriting of the sender, the first paragraph of the suggested letter, is the minimum that should be sent. Each writer in turn is asked to see that a further 10 people are approached and that their letters are also posted on or by the 31st May. These ten would approach a further 10 people and so on, on the snowball system.

SUGGESTED FORM OF LETTER.

Sir,

In common humanity, I appeal to you either to release the mothers of families detained under the emergency regulations, or to bring them to trial forthwith. I believe that it is wrong to arrest people without having first obtained substantial evidence that they have committed a crime.

It is unjust to keep people in prison who may well be innocent, without taking steps to establish their guilt and giving them a chance to prove their innocence. The mere fact that these women have been kept so long in detention without being charged, creates the impression that the Government has no real case against them.

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(Sgd.) M.C. PETERSEN.  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT.