

RECEIVED 18 APR 1979

IMPORTANT

THE BLACK SASH
JOHANNESBURG ADVICE OFFICE.

CORRECTION TO THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1ST FEBRUARY 1978 TO 31ST JANUARY 1977.

Unfortunately the figures given in lines 4 - 9 on Page 2 had to be taken from press reports our annual report had to be finalised before we received a copy of Hansard for the week 26th February to 2nd March 1978. Due to confusion in the press over the figures for arrests in the main urban centres and the figures for arrests in the whole Republic the comparisons made were incorrect.

Please delete lines 4 - 9 and substitute the following :

"In 1978 272 887 people were arrested for offences relating to influx control and reference books compared to 224 308 in 1977.

Arrests of women increased from 32 970 in 1977 to 47 977 in 1978.

In Johannesburg alone arrests of men and women increased from 46 030 in 1977 to 55 124 in 1978.

The national increase in such arrests was 48 579."

We apologise for any inconvenience we may have caused you and feel it is important to set the record straight. There were many press reports at the beginning of March which headlined an increase of 100 000 in pass law arrests. These all arose because the figure for arrests in the main urban centres for 1977 was compared with the figure for total arrests in the Republic for 1978. The confusion is understandable because reporters cannot always follow the intricate complexities of Parliamentary questions relating to the very complicated pass law system. An increase of over 48 000 is significant in itself and the lower figure in no way invalidates any comment we or the press have made about the increasing rigidity with which the pass laws are being applied.

SHEENA DUNCAN
ADVICE OFFICE DIRECTOR.

10th APRIL, 1979.