

Statement by the united Democratic Front issued by
AZHAR CACHALIA, (National Treasurer) on 8th October 1986
at KHOTSO HOUSE, JOHANNESBURG, in response to the
Proclamation declaring the UDF an Affected Organisation

The decision to declare the United Democratic Front an
Affected Organisation is part of a long history of
concerted attacks and harrassment of the UDF by the
South African Government

700 bodies and over Two million persons are affected
by this declaration.

The Activities of the UDF have always been peaceful, legal
and open. Its principal objective remains the attainment
of a non racial democracy in an unitary South Africa,
and it is recognised worldwide as a major force for the
achievement of fundamental change.

The UDF has always enjoyed a warm and close relationship
with democratic bodies and churches outside South Africa
and because its ability to raise funds within South
Africa had been hampered by severe repression, long
trials, jailings, bannings and detentions of its members,
it is no secret that assistance was received from countries
outside South Africa.

This morning proclamation will certainly hurt the UDF
but not to such an extent that it will be crippled.
The South African Government will discover this soon,
and we do have grave fears that the next steps to ban
the UDF thus silencing a major force which has, in its
short life pleaded for no more than what the rest of
the world enjoys as fundamental rights.

This action also confirms that the South African Government not hesitate to use draconian sanctions to attempt to destroy any effective opposition to its policies.

Notwithstanding this blow, we remain steadfast in our beliefs. We will not despair. We are determined to press ahead relentlessly in our efforts to remove this undemocratic, unjust, minority regime and replace it with a government which will truly represent the aspirations of the majority of the people in South Africa.