

STATEMENT BY COSATU AND UDF ON BEHALF OF THE MASS DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

10/10/89

RELEASES A VICTORY FOR THE PEOPLE

The unconditional release of these stalwarts of our struggle against apartheid is first and foremost a massive victory for the people of South Africa. Our leaders will be reunited with their people and their families after a long and painful separation.

Their release is also a victory for the international solidarity movement, the sanctions campaign, and the campaign to isolate the regime.

These are tried and tested leaders of our people. Through many long and lonely years they have remained unflinching in their refusal to be separated from the liberation movement and the masses of our country.

These comrades will now take their rightful place at the head of their organisation and their people.

Whilst Comrade Mandela says that his release is not on the agenda, and that he cannot plead for his own release, this has to be ensured by increased pressure from the mass of our people.

Local and international pressure must be rapidly accelerated to secure the release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners and detainees, the unbanning of the African National Congress and all other organisations, the lifting of the state of emergency and the repeal of all repressive laws, and the return of all exiles.

Once this climate of free political activity has been created, Comrades Sisulu, Mandela, Tambo and others will be able to play their rightful role in leading the process of bringing about a democratic transformation in our country.