MEDIA RELEASE
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)

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CDP reacts on arrest of right wingers

"We call on government not to present the apprehension of right wingers who allegedly planned the planting of bombs in black townships in such a way, that racial polarisation is not further escalated," says Christian Democratic Party leader, Rev.Theunis Botha. "We are opposed to violence in any form, and our plea must not be interpreted as condoning the alleged plans. We simply evaluate the situation as being too sensitive to be handled in a clumsy manner, in order to score political points."

"In fact, we believe that the Kempton Park agreement has to be renegotiated. Our own stance that the constitution should recognise the supremacy of the Lord is well known, but we also believe that constitutional provisions on matters of reconciliation should be entrenched in such a way that the process will not be under constant threat, such as instigating the shooting of others, nationalisation, and many others."

"One only needs to look at websites this morning to observe with concern the resentment felt by many on the humiliating way, resembling amateurish propaganda, in which the alleged right wing action had been presented. At least some call for reconciliation was needed. Especially in the light of the Police's appeal to a labour court ruling, preventing racial discrimination by police. On the same day the police made the announcement, TAU SA reported that the minister of Agriculture did not pitch up for an arranged meeting. The members who travelled from all over the country for the meeting, only learnt about the minister's unavailability due to a trip abroad, a few hours before the meeting."

"A mind shift in government to avert polarisation must now urgently become a reality, and not remain periodic rhetoric," says Botha, who is also the acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA). We could have followed the 'safe' route as most other parties on this matter and not comment on this issue, but we feel too much is at stake for the country."

CDA reageer op arrestasie van regses

"Ons doen 'n beroep op die regering om die aankeer van regses wat na bewering beplan het om bomme in swart woongebiede te plant, nie so aan te bied dat rassepolarisasie verder eskaleer nie," aldus ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-demokratiese Party.

"Ons is gekant teen gewelddadige protes en ons pleidooi moet nie as steun vir die beweerde planne vertolk word nie. Ons beoordeel gewoon die situasie as te broos om lomp gehanteer te word bloot om politieke punte aan te teken. In werklikheid glo ons die Kempton park-ooreenkeoms moet heronderhandel word. Ons eie mening is dat die grondwet voorsiening behoort te maak dat God as die hoogste gesag erken word, en dié mening is welbekend. Maar ons glo ook die aspekte wat op versoening afgestem is, moet so verskans word dat die proses nie voortdurend gerysmier word soos liedjies oor ander wat geskiet moet word, nasionalisering en vele ander praatjies nie."

"'n Mens hoef bloot vanoggend na die webwerwe te loer om met kommer kennis te neem met hoeveel wrewel baie mense reageer op die vernederende wyse waarop die arrestasies aangekondig is. Die aankondigingswyse herinner aan amateuragtige propaganda. Daar moes ten minste 'n beroep op versoening gewees het, veral teen die agtergrond van die polisie se appél teen 'n arbeidshofbeslissing wat die polisie verbied om op grond van ras teen 'n lid te diskrimineer. Op dieselfde dag as wat die polisie die aankondiging gedoen het, het TLU SA berig dat die minister van landbou nie vir 'n afgespreekte vergadering opgedaag het nie. Van die lede het teen groot koste na Pretoria gereis vir die vergadering voor hulle enkele ure voor die geskeduleerde begin verneem het die minister is oorsee en nie beskikbaar nie."

“’n Ingesteldheid by die regering om polarisasie te voorkom, is nou dringend nodig, en versoeningspraatjies kan nie maar net periodieke retoriek bly nie,” sê Botha, wat ook die waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratiese Alliansie (CDA) is.

“Ons kon soos die meeste ander partye die ‘veilige’ roete gevolg het en nie op die arrestasies gereageer het nie, maar te veel is vir die land op die spel.”