MEDIA RELEASE
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)

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CDP reacts to Reitz 4-trial

The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) welcomes the conclusion to the criminal aspects of the so-called Reitz-4 incident. "The attention drawn by the incident probably caused much more damage to the country than the ill considered act of the students. It even necessitated the magistrate to issue a formal warning to some politicians and media, not to convict the four, before they were found guilty in a court of law," says CDP leader and acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance, Rev. Theunis Botha.

"We also did not find the actions of the Bloemfontein based office of the Human Rights Commission – with several complaints outstanding for years, helpful in coming to a solution based on forgiveness. We note with interest the legal principle on which the four were found guilty (*dolus eventualis)* – possible consciousness. This means that there was no direct intent (*dolus directus)*, but deduced intent. This could have serious implications should it ever be proved that a farm murderer was motivated in some way by the government's reluctance to ban songs such as "Shoot the Boers".

"The heavy fines of R20 000 each, despite the diminished grounds of guilt, should send out a message that the courts are sensitive to issues that could cause inter racial friction, and that government cronies stirring racial tension must take note. They also pleaded guilty on these grounds, and asked forgiveness. We are aware that the damages suffered by the four in terms of finances and esteem, by far outweigh the fines. They also now face another trial in the equality court, thus further dragging out their ordeal. We trust that not only the four, but the entire country, will emerge from the incident much wiser – that we will also no longer hear inciting songs such as "Kill the Boer, kill the farmer" or "Shoot the Boers".

CDP reageer op Reitz-4 se verhoor

Die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) verwelkom die afhandeling van die strafregtelike aspek van die sogenaamde Reitz-vier. "Die aandag wat die insident getrek het, het waarskynlik veel meer skade aan die land aangerig as die swak oordeel wat die studente aan die dag gelê het. Dit het selfs 'n landdros genoodsaak om 'n formele waarskuwing aan politici en die media te rig om nie die uitslag van die verhoor vooruit te loop voor hulle nie regtens skuldig bevind is nie," aldus ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die CDP en waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratiese Alliansie.

"Ons vind ook die optrede van die Bloemfonteinse kantoor van die Menseregtekommissie onbevredigend om tot 'n oplossing gebaseer op vergifnis te kom – terwyl verskeie klagtes voor die kommissie al jare lank sloer. Ons neem met belangstelling kennis van die regsbeginsel waarop die skuldigbevinding gebaseer is, (*dolus eventualis)* – moontlike bewustheid. Dit beteken kernagtig dat daar geen regstreekse bedoeling was nie (*dolus directus),* maar afgeleide bedoeling. Dit kan ingrypende implikasies inhou, sou ooit bewys kan word dat 'n plaasmoord gemotiveer is deur liedjies soos "Skiet die Boere" te midde van die regering se onwilligheid om dit te verbied."

"Ons vertrou dat diegene wat onverskillig met aksies omgaan wat rassespanning kan aanblaas, ook regeringslakeie wat rassekonflik aanblaas, kennis neem van die swaar vonnisse van R20 000 elk wat opgelê is, en dat die howe dit ernstig opneem ten spyte van die grondslag van verminderde bedoeling. Hulle het ook skuldig gepleit op hierdie gronde, en om verskoning gevra. Ons neem ook kennis daarvan dat die skade wat die vier finansieel en aan hul waardigheid gely het, veel groter was as die boetes wat hulle opgelê is. Hulle staar ook nou nog 'n verhoor voor die gelykheidshof in die gesig, wat die trauma verder uitrek.

"Ons vertrou dat nie net die vier nie, maar die hele land, veel wyser is na die insident – en dat ons nie weer liedjies sal hoor soos "Skiet die Boere" of "Kill the Boer, kill the farmer" nie.