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INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA-UAW

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To: All Local Union Presidents,
Recording Secretaries, &
Financial Secretaries
Region 4 - UAW (Outstate Illinois, Iowa & Nebraska only)

Greetings:

This week we won a tremendous victory. On Monday all charges against South African union leader Moses Mayekiso were dropped!

The freeing of Moses shows that international solidarity works. Unions in South Africa and throughout the world waged an extensive campaign on his behalf. Posters calling for Moses' release could be seen throughout South Africa. Moses' fellow union members packed the courtroom day after day.

Moses' 1½ year trial was a visible part of the government's vicious crack-down on trade unions. A guilty verdict would have had a chilling effect on the growing black trade union movement. The malicious prosecution by the government, however, was not supported by the facts in the case. The trial judge dropped all charges against the five accused.

I want to express my deep appreciation to you for the tremendous response you have shown. The UAW played a critical role in getting Moses freed.

Thousands of postcards were sent to the South African Ambassador. Thousands of petitions and letters were sent. Thousands of dollars have been contributed. Many of you helped to make Moses' freedom a reality. Moses noted the contributions of the UAW following the judge's verdict while celebrations began in Johannesburg on Monday.

The UAW played the leading role in keeping the international spotlight on the Mayekiso trial. We will continue to remain vigilant. We want to ensure that Moses remains a free man. Further attempts to prosecute union leaders will be met with fierce opposition by our union.

Again, my deep appreciation goes out to you for your support in this arduous fight to free Moses Mayekiso. Thank you!

Fraternally,

Bill Stewart
Bill Stewart, Director
Region 4 - UAW

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