

# News Release

# Communiqué

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Affairs



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## JOE CLARK COMMENTS ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

### IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, issued the following statement today on recent developments in South Africa: the municipal elections, the threatened banning of the newspaper, the Weekly Mail, the increasing incidence of violence and the banning of two more anti-apartheid organizations.

"The October 26 municipal elections were undemocratic, because they were organized on a strictly racial basis and severely limited the number of blacks eligible to vote. Pretoria's claim that about one-third of registered black voters cast their ballots in no way can be interpreted as acceptance by blacks of that Government's policies or approach to reform. Only a tiny percentage of black South Africans were able or willing to vote. Canada's position is that the South African Government must enter into negotiations with blacks who are genuine leaders within their community, towards the establishment of non-racial, representative government.

The Government of Canada is very concerned over the threatened banning of the Weekly Mail by the South African Government and has made representations directly to the South African Minister of Home Affairs. The Weekly Mail and other newspapers previously banned are under attack because they present a picture of events different from that provided by Pretoria. The South African Government seems determined to hide from its citizens and those outside the horrors of apartheid and the views of those who oppose that system. The Government of South Africa must recognize that apartheid is the problem; a free press is part of the solution.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada

I continue to deplore the spread of violence in South Africa, which has included a large number of cruel and indiscriminate bombings so far this year, causing several deaths and scores of injuries. Some have been carried out by supporters of apartheid but most have been acts by South Africans who are opposed to apartheid. The frustrations of black South Africans in the face of a totally unjust system maintained by force is understandable, but indiscriminate violence is not a short-cut to the non-racial, democratic South Africa which most South Africans want. Not only do these acts kill innocent people, but they are also likely to set back the prospects for real change by intensifying fears and racial hatreds. Canada will continue to do all it can to pressure the South African Government to end the evil system of apartheid, which is at the root of the violence. Canada calls upon all sides to abandon violence.

Finally, I regret that the South African Government has continued to repress the voices of opposition by banning two more black organizations, the Azanian Coordinating Committee and the Soweto Student Congress."