

*Memo*

*From the Desk of:*

Howard P. Willens

February 28, 1974

To: Mr. Helfer

Mike:

You will be interested in skimming this in the course of outlining your response to the Carnegie Report. After reading this, I am even more outraged regarding the report's suggestion that United States action in the Marianas can be analogized to South Africa's conduct in Namibia.

HPW

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LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Executive Committee

FROM: George N. Lindsay

SUBJECT: Testimony before the House Foreign Affairs  
Subcommittee on Africa on "Critical Developments  
in Namibia," February 21, 1974

DATE: February 26, 1974

Because of the recent and widespread crackdown by the Government of South Africa on blacks in Namibia (formerly South West Africa), Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr., Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa conducted urgent hearings this past Thursday, February 21 on "Critical Developments in Namibia." In recognition of the leadership of the Lawyers' Committee in providing legal defense in political cases involving black Namibians, Chairman Diggs invited Doug Wachholz, Staff Director of the Africa Legal Assistance Project, to testify on the issue in order to inform the Subcommittee of these serious developments. After consultation with Peter Connell and other members of the Africa Legal Assistance Project Subcommittee and my approval of a draft of the prepared statement, Doug appeared before the Congressional Subcommittee on Thursday.

I am enclosing copies of the invitation to testify and Doug's prepared statement for your information and comment. As you will see from reading the statement the situation is indeed very serious, and the Lawyers' Committee remains the chief bulwark in the protection of the human rights of black Namibians.

Enclosures

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Congress of the United States  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 14, 1974

Mr. Douglas P. Wachholz  
Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights  
Under Law  
733 15th Street, N.W.  
Suite 520  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Wachholz:

The House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa is planning a hearing on February 21 in Room 2172 Rayburn Building on "Critical Developments in Namibia." It would be appreciated if you could testify on the present critical situation in Namibia as reflected in the recent arrests, detentions and trials. It would also be enlightening if you would comment on:

- the current political situation;
- the actions of the illegal South African administering authority;
- the situation with respect to the homelands;
- removals;
- the labor situation and developments with respect to employment;
- the position of Namibians on the above matters;
- the legal context
- possible United States Government and U.N. courses of action.

The Rules of the House of Representatives require each witness to file a prepared statement with the subcommittee 48 hours in advance of his appearance. It is not possible for the subcommittee to duplicate the statements of the witnesses. A minimum of 15 copies for subcommittee appearance is required; however, if the witness wishes his statement to be distributed to the press, 50 additional copies will be required.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Charles C. Diggs, Jr.*  
Charles C. Diggs, Jr.  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa

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