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Dearest Udine

Absolutely wonderful to have heard from you yesterday - simply did not know how to reach you. I had tried all your numbers you had left me but to no avail!! John really needs all his friends fighting wherever possible.

1. Herewith the Commission of Inquiry Report which is self-explanatory.
2. Irrespective of whether he was involved, was the instigator, or not there are certain norms in the way in which a person should be treated.
 - 2.1 John is 63 years of age - born 14th September, 1932. He is a Chronic Diabetic - which requires not only medication but also the ingestion of certain foods at certain time intervals.
 - 2.2 John was initially allowed visitors. This was then stopped. Following representations from not only family and friends but also some Foreign Government expressions of "concern", Ruth was allowed to visit him once a day. This is continuing at the moment.
 - 2.3 John was not having his medication. His Doctor could not visit him. The response to a Foreign Government on this subject was that there is a Doctor at the Prison. John at that time however, was at Zomba Prison and there was a Medical Orderly. The Prison Doctor from Blantyre did, I believe, see him once. He is presently back in Zomba Prison and, as Ruth is there for the visit at the moment, I cannot confirm if he is now seeing the Doctor regularly or not. Also whether he is now allowed to see his own Doctor at least once a week or so.
 - 2.4 The food situation was the worst. He had food taken by Ruth but it had to be sufficient for the day - i.e. three meals. Needless to say the conditions are such that, whilst he eats one portion, the remaining two portions go bad as a result of the conditions at the Cell, and there being no refrigerators available for his food. This is according to what his British Lawyer - Mr. Rand - said to me.
 - 2.5 He is also supposed, as you may remember, to have medication a certain time prior to eating. He is not however, permitted to have either a Watch or

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Clock. The British Lawyer - Mr. Rand said to me that John has absolutely no idea whatsoever of the time of day.

2.6 The British Lawyer - Mr. Rand said to me that John was initially permitted to eat on his own in the open area at the Zomba Jail. This was then stopped and he has to eat in the vicinity of other prisoners who hurl abuse and objects at him. John finds it extremely difficult to eat his very limited food intake under these conditions.

2.7 At Zomba John was (and may still be) kept in a Prison Block of 20 Cells, 7 of which are occupied. The Block is for Condemned (!!!) and Remand Prisoners. There were 4 Condemned and 2 Remand and himself there at the time.

When he was taken through to Chichiri Prison last week for the farcical Bail Hearing he was put into one Cell for the duration that he was in Blantyre with 3 Policemen!! One of these was the man who has supposedly admitted to killing the 3 Ministers and M.P. in 1983 !!!

2.8 When John had to walk across the open area and through another building to get to his British Lawyer - Mr. Rand at Zomba, Mr. Rand tells me that the shouting, the noise level was so extreme that he could hear John's progress all along the way.

2.9 In short, Mr. Rand the British Lawyer said to me "The manner in which Mr. Tembo is being detained is most unsatisfactory. Most unsatisfactory indeed".

3. The Family and many friends, or known associates of the Family, had their telephone connections cut. Pressures were exerted in this regard and Ruth now has one line only working at home (265) 622 226. The Office Numbers where one can usually find Rose Magola (John's Blantyre Secretary, whom you will remember) or Josephine (I don't think you knew her) who is the Receptionist - and Ruth is often at the Office - (265) 622 879 : 623 388 : 624 384 : 623 365 : These lines go off and on and one never knows which one to get through on. The Fax Number to use at the moment is the old Homecraft Boutique where Chrissie Matupa is still working - (265) 624 384.

Needless to say ALL "Known" Family Telecommunication facilities are bugged.

Interestingly, all Press Corporation telephone numbers suddenly went off. Likewise Limbe Leaf, etc. Heavy pressures were exerted on "Business Grounds" and

Switchboard lines were reinstated, but not all Direct Lines for example at Press Lilongwe only 3 out of 10 Direct Lines have been reinstated. Posts and Telecommunications tried to say that it was due to a Non-Payment query which was rubbish.

4. John is subjected to stone throwing when Police bring him to Court. Statements have been made to the newsmedia and the persons making these statements actually named as "Members of the Public" that are really appalling, for example "If he gets out of prison we'll burn him alive". I saw on the one C.N.N. T.V. coverage John in his suit being hauled into the back of a landrover (up over the side) by his handcuffs like a bit of rubbish!! Dudu was with me that night en route back to her job in Cape Town - she sobbed for hours after seeing that shocking handling.
5. John was refused Bail at the first Application - despite the new Constitution. The reason given was that only the High Court (Supreme Court) of Malawi could grant bail for such an offence.

At the Bail Hearing at the High Court on 18th January, 1995 despite all the newsmedia coverage given that this would be taking place, it was put forward as "The Magistrate in Zomba had not managed to get his papers through in time to Blantyre". However, it was put out by the Public Prosecuter and others that the reason for the postponement was that "Tembo's Foreign Lawyer had simply not turned up". The Public Prosecuter was quoted as saying that he "had never come across such arrogance in his life of a supposed Lawyer simply snubbing the Court".

6. John is of course, one of the most loyal people that one can find. He is also incorruptible - and has often been called the "Sea Green Robespierre". He has always said "If I have to die for H.E. I will - and gladly". He has also always said that he will protect H.E. against any slurs or slanders whatever it might mean to himself.

in short udine, John is never going to have a fair Trial in Malawi. There are so many that are determined that he will die whatever happens. Given his loyalty (Point 6 above) I just do not know how we are going to save him.

This simply gives you a little bit of what is happening. I have a great difficulty personally in my work where everything is concerned. Although my Group Chief Executive understands that my friends are my friends, I cannot jeopardise my employer any further. We are the largest Road Haulier in the Region these days - our Malawian Company has a fleet of 100. We however, lost a Tender for World Bank Maize to Malawi although we were K 25. Million Cheaper than the Malawians who tendered together with foreign hauliers. This came about because of my being a Director of the Malawian Company (I have since been removed) and Mr. Chikuni (!!) being the Chairman of the Malawian Disaster Relief Board and Programme !! He hates me with an undying hatred because of John. We very nearly had to deregister our entire Malawian Fleet simply because of my employment by G.D.C. My Chief Executive managed to overcome this with a lot of visits and a lot of international assistance. I must however, not be involved in any way whatsoever. This after all the things I have done in and for Malawi over the years as well, and I have certainly never been in the political field there or anywhere else for that matter. But if I lose my job over fighting for John, it will be worth it for John's life !!

The newsmedia started on Cecilia Tamanda yesterday!! She supposedly being part of the Triumvirate. Linked to murders. Social Hostess who became much more. All the usual smut plus this new thing. The mob (which would appear to have been incited) screaming for her to be taken away from H.E. However, for once when this came to the ears of the current President, a statement came out of Government that this was nothing to do with the Case. Of course, should H.E. now die I believe she will be taken into custody immediately - and you well know her state of health as well. "The so-called People" "want the blood" of both her and John.

I do hope that you can manage to fight strongly for our friend and his family from your side - and successfully. Time is definitely running out.

With Love to You All - Also from Heather



(Sally Gallagher)