August 21, 1982

PRESS RELEASE: DBDC CONDEMNS KILLING

The Dennis Brutus Defense Committee wishes to express its profound shock at the assassination of yet another great South African patriot, Ruth First, who was killed by a parcel bomb bearing an English mailing address in Mozambique on August 18. Ms. First, distinguished journalist, editor, and author who came out of South Africa into exile in 1964 had been teaching in Mozambique at Eduardo Mondlane University.

Another patriot falls in the long list of South Africans who are being murdered by the Apartheid regime and its agents both inside and outside South Africa.

We express our sympathy and solidarity with her family and assure them that these killings will not be passed over in silence: someday those responsible will be brought to justice.

The Dennis Brutus Defense Committee wishes to draw attention to this tragic event because it has been one of our major claims that the deportation of Dennis Brutus to any country would place his life in jeopardy. It is therefore important that a speedy favorable decision on his application for political asylum should be issued by Elliott Abrams on behalf of the State Department. We call on all Dennis Brutus Defense Committees and supporters to write further letters to Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary for Human Rights, Department of State, 2201 C. Street, Washington D.C. 20520 urging him to take note of this new development.

The Dennis Brutus Defense Committee feels that this tragic death is a further indication that the growing collaboration between the Apartheid Government and the Reagan Administration has given the pariah regime license to carry out acts of terrorism against its opponents both at home and abroad without reprimand.

Jan Carew
Co-Convenor: DBDC

** copies of letters to Elliott Abrams should be sent to the DBDC at the address given above.