LEKGAU MACAULAY MATHABATHE is the principal of Morris Isaacson High School in Soweto. He was detained by the security branch of the South African Police on 18 August 1976, and has been held incommunicado ever since.

Word has been received that Mr. Mathabathe has been severely beaten and is suffering from a possible brain concussion and other major injuries which he sustained while in the hands of the security police. There is a more recent report that he may be dead.

The RAND DAILY MAIL of Johannesburg writes that security police General Michael Geldenhuys declared that Mr. Mathabathe is 'alive and well'. Ms. Mathabathe twice on 8 October was refused permission to see her husband when she went to John Vorster Square police headquarters in Johannesburg.

Mr. Mathabathe is one of the thousands who have been arrested in Azania (South Africa) since the uprising which began in Soweto on 16 June 1976. A 20 September report of the Christian Institute of Southern Africa says over 300 people are being detained under security laws alone. Only the security police know how many and who they all are.

On 14 October officials said a 22-year-old student from Mr. Mathabathe's school had 'hanged' himself in prison. Jacob Mashabane became the 26th person known to have died while held by the police since 1963. The 27th, 16-year-old Dumisani Mbatha of Soweto, was said by police to have become ill in jail and died in hospital on 25 September. The CI report lists names and official reasons of the deaths of detainees - 'fell down stairs', 'fell from window', 'slipped in shower', 'committed suicide', 'natural causes'.

The South African security police are in charge of interrogating political prisoners. Electric shock treatment, excruciatingly painful trussing up, prolonged and ingenious beatings, water torture are their standard methods. The Terrorism Act, Internal Security Act and other laws prevent access to prisoners by the courts, attorneys, clergy, families and friends. South Africans and Namibians (from that United Nations territory illegally occupied by the Pretoria regime) bear witness - and scars - of their time at the hands of the security police.

General Michael C. Geldenhuys is chief of the South African Security Police. He was formerly a bodyguard to Prime Minister Balthazar Johannes Vorster. The NEW YORK TIMES has this to say in reporting on Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's meetings in Pretoria recently with Vorster and Ian Smith of the Rhodesian regime: '....Geldenhuys...took personal charge of the security detail assigned to Mr. Kissinger. A burly, sandy-haired man, he was constantly at the head of a wedge of security men, American and South African, who surrounded the Secretary whenever he passed through the hotel lobby or emerged from the discussions to brief the press.'
The Christian Institute report was banned 10 days after its publication. Security police raided CI's Johannesburg and Cape Town offices and confiscated the document, and repeated the effort in such places as the Methodist Youth Centre in Durban. It is against the law to possess or to distribute the report.

Many of the leaders of the student uprising of 16 June attended Morris Isaacson High School. As principal of this outstanding educational center, Mr. Mathabathe was suspect in the eyes of the fearful and vengeful Pretoria regime. The RAND DAILY MAIL says that several days before his arrest, Mr. Mathabathe revealed the police were asking him of the whereabouts of the 19-year-old president of the Students Representative Council of Soweto, Tsietsi Mashinini.

Mr. Mashinini eluded the South African Police for months before leaving the country, even giving a startling television interview for a British network. He is now in London, and may shortly be coming to the USA.

Mr. Mathabathe is chairman of the Soweto High Schools Principals Union and an executive member of the African Teachers Association of South Africa. He is associated with many civic and educational organizations, and is chairman of a committee planning for a school for the physically handicapped young people in Soweto.

Lekgau Macaulay Mathabathe is 51 years old. His wife and he have six children - five daughters ages 10 to 22, and a 16-year-old son. They are members of St. Paul's Anglican Church in the Jabavu section of Soweto. It was from this parish church that 13-year-old Hector Peterson, the first person to die from police gunfire on 16 June 1976, was buried. A photograph of a fellow student carrying his body appeared worldwide.

Mr. Mathabathe toured the United States in April and May 1975 as a guest of the American government under its International Visitors program.

AN ACT OF CONGRESS, 30 June 1976 - signed by the President

"It is the policy of the United States, in accordance with its international obligations as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in keeping with the constitutional heritage and tradition of the United States, to promote and encourage increased respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Ask your elected representatives to demand that the US government - now engaged in 'delicate negotiations' with the Pretoria regime - to confront Prime Minister Vorster on Mr. Mathabathe and all those held in detention in South Africa and occupied Namibia.

  - Senators
    - Washington, DC 20510
    - PHONE: (202) 224-3121

  - Representatives
    - Washington, DC 20515
    - PHONE: (202) 224-3121

APPROACH THEM ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL AND IN THEIR DISTRICT OFFICES.