Jerusalem, 20 May 1964

We appeal to the Government of South Africa to stop the current Pretoria trial of the arrested of Rivonia, of Nelson Mandella and others, leaders of the popular struggle against racial rule. All men of goodwill share their abhorrence of the idea of exclusive white supremacy and their simple desire to live as free men. We appeal to you : Shed not the blood of men and women who seek only to hold up their heads in dignity. Those whom you have placed in the dock are as created equal with you - your brothers. Talk to them. Listen to them. They have something to say. You will not silence their voices - [redacted] - by hanging them. Their words will ring a thousand times more loudly if you do. A harsh judgement will not solve your problem, nor will it diminish the righteousness of their plea for freedom.

Yours is the supreme opportunity of proclaiming the supremacy of sanity and understanding over ruthlessness. You have the power to imprison, to kill. Suspend it. Free the accused. Sit down with them. Negotiate with them. Give ear to their plea for self-determination.

From the land of Israel, we ask you to assert your faith in the nobility of man, whatever the colour of his skin. And if you "do unto others" in accordance with this faith, the future is yours, and theirs - and the world's.

[redacted] Martin Buber

Haim Hazaz

Martin Buber