

*"The Star" 24/2/78*

# Irate group plans new Fischer rally

The Human Rights Committee today deplored the "undemocratic action of the Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg in arbitrarily banning a peaceful meeting of law-abiding citizens calling for the

release of an old man who is dying from cancer."

The rally calling for Bram Fischer's release was to have been held in Johannesburg yesterday. The city's chief magistrate, Mr N H Blem, announced a ban on Human Rights

Committee (HRC) meetings until 8 am tomorrow. The HRC have now announced that they are planning another meeting scheduled for tomorrow, 1 pm, at the Ghandi Hall, 50 Fox Street, Johannesburg, after the present ban expires.

They have been told no

application for such a meeting is necessary. Tomorrow's planned meeting could, however, be banned. Mr Blem was not available for comment today.

Dr Tim Wilson, Fischer's son-in-law, said today he wrote a letter to Mr Kruger yesterday, asking him to release Fischer on Wednesday, and allow him to have two weeks at home.

## REPORT

Dr Wilson wrote the letter after reading a report in a Sunday newspaper that Mr Kruger would consider Fischer's release if Fischer and his family "came forward with acceptable undertakings."

Dr Wilson said it was "ridiculous" for Mr Kruger to suggest that the family should spell out the conditions.

Dr Wilson added that he nevertheless set out certain conditions in his letter although Mr Kruger has not specified what sort of undertakings he wanted.

*"Rand Daily Mail"*  
**Bram rally is banned again**  
*24/2/78*

Staff Reporter

THE CHIEF Magistrate of Johannesburg, Mr N. H. Blem, yesterday issued a second order banning a mass rally, scheduled for today, calling for the release of Bram Fischer and other political detainees.

The Human Rights Committee, which organised the rally, sent a delegation to see Mr Blem last night.

"He told us he was not prepared to discuss the banning," the secretary of the committee, Miss Sheila Winberg said.

The order under the Riotous Assemblies Act of 1952, comes into effect at 8 am today. It expires at 8 am on Thursday.

This is the second such rally to be banned within 48 hours. On Sunday, a meeting at the Gandini Hall was cancelled after an order banning all Human Rights Committee meetings until 8 am today had been issued by Mr Blem on Saturday.

Miss Weinberg said the committee had postponed the rally indefinitely and was taking legal advice over the latest banning.