

# Albie jets into SA for an emotional reunion

By ALAN DUGGAN

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EXILED ANC lawyer Albie Sachs came home yesterday and declared: "I feel no bitterness, no desire for revenge — only hope for the country I love."

Stepping off the plane at Cape Town's D F Malan airport, Mr Sachs walked over to his elderly mother, Mrs Ray Edwards, and hugged her tightly.

Clearly moved by their meeting — the first since the car bomb blast in Maputo that shattered his arm two years ago — Mr Sachs said he was looking forward to exploring the city he still thought of as his home.

"I want to do two things," the 55-year-old lawyer told the large crowd that had gathered to meet him.

"First I want to spend some time with my mother, and then I want to climb Table Mountain. After that, I'll have to think about my

country's ills.

Mr Sachs said he had never lost hope, even while lying in his hospital bed after the bomb blast that shattered his arm on April 7, 1988.

PhD during his long exile, said he also had several speaking engagements, including one at the University of the Western Cape.

A red-eyed Mrs Edwards said: "I want Albie to sit down and eat a home-made chicken dinner. I promised it to him two years ago, and it's long overdue."

It was Mr Sachs' first visit to Cape Town since he left in July 1966 for a life of exile.

He said he had been touched when an immigration official approached him at the airport and said: "Welcome home, Albie!"

Asked to comment on recent developments in South Africa, he said he felt more optimistic than ever before of a peaceful solution to the

Asked whether his visit was an "official" one on behalf of the ANC, Mr Sachs replied that he was in South Africa primarily for family reasons, though he would be doing some work.

"We'll all be coming back here soon, but in an organised way."

Mr Sachs said it was apparent that apartheid still existed but that at least people had begun to work together.

"The step-by-step approach is important."

Although he had had to obtain a seven-day work permit he was not under any restrictions. He planned to stay in Cape Town with activist lawyer Dullah Omar.



HI, MOM! . . . exile Albie Sachs hugs his mother. Picture: TERRY SHEAN

# Detainee numbers rise - HRC

By Esmaré van der Merwe,  
Political Reporter

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) yesterday reported a rise in detentions since the beginning of March, attributing the increase mainly to a police clampdown on "political celebrations" in the wake of Nelson Mandela's release.

Another factor, an HRC spokesman said, was the campaign for the resignation of black councillors.

The spokesman said 265 people were currently being held in South Africa under the emergency regulations. Of those, 98 were being detained in the Western Transvaal, 64 in the Orange Free State, 18 in Natal, eight in

the Eastern Cape, five in the PWV area and one in the Western Cape.

The only homeland where current detentions had been reported was Bophuthatswana, where 25 people were being held under the state of emergency, the spokesman said.

In addition, 43 people were being held under Section 29 and

6 under Section 31 of the Internal Security Act.

Among those is Sowetan sports editor Horatio Motjuwadi, who was detained on April 12 under Section 29. Mr Motjuwadi has been transferred from Johannesburg Square to the Johannesburg Hospital where he is under observation for a heart condition.