

Association for Homeschooling

Association for Homeschooling
Vereniging vir Tuisonderwys



FROM : Association for Homeschooling
6 Arend Street, Amandelsig, Kuilsrivier
Cape Town, 7580
SOUTH AFRICA
Tel. (082) 907 9696 / Fax. (086) 657 7216
Email : bouwe@tuisskolers.org
Website : www.tuisskolers.org

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TO : Högsta domstolen

Box 2066

103 12 Stockholm

SWEDEN

Fax: +46 8 561 666 86

Email: hogsta.domstolen@dom.se

ICW : Re: Case Number 298-13, Annie and Christer Johansson

Dear Sir / Lady

The Association for Homeschooling has represented homeschoolers in South Africa since 1994 and promotes the freedom of parents to choose the type of education that is in the best interest of their children, as this is expressed in art. 26(3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations. This declaration states : "*Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.*"

During the period of apartheid, home education was illegal in South Africa. The parents Andre and Bokkie Meintjies were jailed in 1994, and their children were placed in an orphanage, because they educated their children at home. However a few years later the right to home-educate was acknowledged by the new constitution and the Nelson Mandela government made provision for this in the Schools Act of 1996. Since it was legalised, homeschooling has grown exponentially in South Africa.

We trust that the Swedish Supreme Court agrees that the infringement of basic human rights and arbitrary removal of custody by social workers is not acceptable. As elected representatives of the organised homeschooling community in South Africa, we request the Swedish Supreme Court for the reunification of the Johannsen family, as well as the recognition of the rights of Swedish parents to choose the kind of education that should be given to their children.

South African parents would like Swedish parents to have the same parental freedoms as South African parents, so that Swedish children may also enjoy the same proven benefits of home education as do tens of thousands of South African homeschooled children.

Yours sincerely

Bouwe van der Eems

(Chairman : Association for Homeschooling)