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Press statement

Reported arrests of Guptas a significant development

The Defend our Democracy Campaign notes the reported arrests of Rajesh and Atul Gupta in the United Arab Emirates.

We await further information from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development on the circumstances surrounding the reported arrests. We note that South African law enforcement agencies are working with their counterparts in the UAE and await further clarity on the matter.

If the Gupta brothers are to be extradited to South Africa to face charges, this would be an important victory for the many civil society organisations and ordinary citizens who have consistently called for justice and accountability.

It would also be a significant and welcomed development for the country as it tries to undo years of damage caused by the systematic repurposing of the state.

While the wheels of justice may sometimes turn very slowly, the reported arrests should send a strong message that the long arm of the law eventually closes in.

As we anticipate the final report from the Zondo Commission of Inquiry, we hope that it will shed more light on the scale of corruption and capture, and that the reports can be used as a basis for further criminal investigation and prosecution.

The Defend our Democracy Campaign will in July host its Conference for Democratic Renewal and Change, with key themes being around accountability and putting the interests of the public first.

The conference will reiterate the call for consequences for state capture and corruption in the public and the private sector.

Those behind capture and corruption – both under the previous administrations, and those currently stealing from the public purse – must be put in orange overalls!

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