



APDUSA VIEWS

Issue No.12

APRIL 1986

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The March 1986 issue of "DE REBUS", a lawyers' journal controlled by White Attorneys, published the following comments by a certain A. NAIDU on the Bill of Rights adopted by the Bantustan called Bophuthatswana:

"The Bophuthatswana Bill of Rights is not mere paper law. It is living law and is proof that the individual's rights are well protected in Bophuthatswana. The Bill of Rights sets an excellent precedent for other South African states. . . "

During the same month, the police of this Bantustan savagely attacked a peaceful assembly of people in Winterveld, shot dead 11 people and arrested 2 500 people. The arrested people were sjambokked and according to Dr Chanut, a French doctor, the police seemed to be having fun as they hit and kicked the local population.

Earlier that month, a weekly newspaper published shocking photographs of two men who were victims of barbarous brutality at the hands of the - Bophuthatswana police. The photographs revealed numerous long, deep and open gashes on the backs and buttocks of these two men - the result of the use of sjamboks and metal whips.

So we ask A. NAIDU: "Is this how the individual's rights are well protected? Is this the excellent precedent you refer to? How did you become the praise singer of a Bantustan whose despot, Lucas Mangope and his killers have unleashed a reign of terror against a defenceless people?"

There is a saying that a baboon doesn't become a gentleman simply by donning a tuxedo. Its tail is a sure give-away. And so it is with a Bantustan. A Bantustan will always remain a Bantustan and no number of Bills of Rights is going to change that.

That Bill of Rights, which caused A. NAIDU to push his pen so subserviently, has, not surprisingly, turned out to be a worthless piece of paper. It is a sham designed to deceive the outside world into believing that the Bophuthatswana Bantustan is not a Bantustan but a beautiful democracy! It is all part of a scheme hatched by the Government, Lucas Mangope and that camera-shy Sol Kerzner to attract tourists to the flesh pots set up in Bophuthatswana.

The Bill of Rights, therefore, was adopted for no other reason than to provide a human mask to cover the MARK OF THE BEAST.

The pirates of the old days flaunted their emblem of the skull and crossed bones on their flags. In doing so, those pirates displayed some degree of frankness as to their intentions.

Can Mangope match that frankness by adopting for his Bantustan the emblem depicting a mutilated human back with the sjambok and the automatic rifle crossing one another?

WHO DESERVES THE DEATH SENTENCE?

On 2 April 1986, RAYMOND LEON, a judge of the Natal Supreme Court, passed the DEATH SENTENCE 5 times on Andrew Sibusiso Zondo, a 19 year old son of South Africa.

Andrew's offence was that he had caused the death of 5 people and bodily injury to a number of people by the explosion of a limpet mine which he had placed in a shopping centre in Amanzimtoti.

The judge accepted the evidence that Andrew Zondo had not acted from motives of greed or personal benefit. He also accepted Andrew's statement that in placing the limpet mine he was serving his people.

We stand against capital punishment. The death penalty has never stopped people from doing things which are punishable by death. It is for this reason that all civilised people oppose capital punishment. Already, a number of countries have abolished the death penalty.

We believe that Andrew Zondo was sentenced to death as retribution or revenge. The judge's attitude is in keeping with that ancient practice of "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". Andrew Zondo took lives and therefore his own life must be taken.

Yet the matter is not so simple. Andrew Zondo is in a real sense a VICTIM. He is a victim of a social system which has taught him from childhood that life in South Africa is CHEAP - especially black lives.

He was born and brought up in a society where the great conflict between oppressor and oppressed has increasingly assumed violent forms. Violence stalks the whole country. Andrew is not the initiator of violence. He is not the cause of that violence. He was simply born in violence and grew up in violence.

All thinking people accept the fact that the cause of violence is the hated system which damns a person to subhumanity for no other reason than that he or she was born with a dark skin. The reform strategy of the Botha Government, though cosmetic and full of windy promises, is nonetheless an admission that there is something radically wrong in this society.

The hanging of Andrew Zondo will by no means resolve the problem of violence. There are millions of potential Andrew Zondos in this country.

Even if all the judges, magistrates, policemen, prosecutors and hangmen worked 24 hours a day in dealing with the Andrew Zondos of South Africa, they would not have touched a fraction of a fraction. Gallows will collapse through over-use and fingers will get cramps from signing the death warrants, yet the number of Andrew Zondos will keep increasing.

In a society where there is democracy, where people are free to express their opinions, to form associations, where all children can look forward to a meaningful and satisfying life without the spectre of poverty, why would an Andrew Zondo want to do what he did? Surely it is the sickness of this social system which generates this tremendous violence.

If the death sentence is to be passed at all, let it be passed on this sick social system and not on its victims. Judges, by virtue of their office, loyalty and functions, cannot perform this task.

ONLY THE LIBERATORY MOVEMENT CAN!

PHILLIPINES - OLD DIRT IN NEW DUST-BIN

The corrupt, murderous and tyrannical regime of Ferdinand Marcos is no more. The last days of the ailing dictator were made thoroughly miserable because his trusted patron, the United States, had turned against him. In fact, the U.S. twisted his arm and made him leave the Phillipines.

For years Marcos had been the favoured recipient of billions of dollars of American aid. In return, he allowed the U.S. the use of Phillipine soil for its strategic naval and air bases. Why then, did America turn on her one-time friend and ally?

The state of Marcos' dictatorship had paved the way for the growth of the New People's Army (NPA) and its political wing the National Democratic Front (NDF). Fearful that the NDF would gain power in the Phillipines, overthrow Marcos and instal a people's government, and also fearful that she might lose her strategic bases, as well as her influence in the region, the U.S. stepped in to safeguard all she had paid for so heavily. Marcos was blackmailed into not letting loose a bloodbath. He was hastily removed by a U.S. helicopter from the scene of his crimes, and Mrs Corazon Aquino was ushered in as the "saviour" of her people. Since the murder of her husband by the hired assassin of Marcos, Mrs Aquino has been built up as a democratic leader who would take the people away from tyranny to freedom in one quick leap.

What are the facts?

With U.S. help and backing, the rich and powerful Filipinos took over the reins of power. Mrs Aquino is a figurehead. People like General Ramos, Juan Emile and the Governor of the Central Bank, Jose Fernandez, all former allies of Marcos suddenly switched sides. They deserted Marcos like rats from a sinking ship. These are the people who rule the Phillipines. They have no intention of creating a new society which will attend to the needs of the people or the redistribution of its wealth.

During her election campaign Mrs Aquino promised a six months ceasefire and negotiations to bring peace to her country. Instead, she is now threatening to turn the army on the NP A. The new government has made no attempt to bring to justice the plunderers and murderers of the Marcos era. To do so, would mean that it would first have to indict people like General Ramos, Emile and company.

Mrs Aquino's government has abolished the constitution and National Assembly and has postponed local elections and now rules by decree. The Army and many former Marcos allies show a very high profile in decision-making. The chief concern of the Army is to protect itself against accusations of being involved in the crimes committed during the Marcos era, and also to protect U.S. bases and interests in the region.

As far as we are concerned there has been an exchange of one set of - oppressors for another. The real problems of the Phillipines have still to be resolved.

Published by the AFRICAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (NATAL),
an affiliate of the NEW UNITY MOVEMENT POBOX 8415 - CUMBERWOOD 3235