

Cutting Through The Mountain

'Let justice cut through the mountain'

Tractate Sanhedrin, 6B, Babylonian Talmud

הדין יקוב את ההר
מסכת סנהדרין ו: , תלמוד בבלי

CUTTING THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN

**Interviews with South African
Jewish Activists**

edited by
Immanuel Suttner



VIKING

VIKING

Published by the Penguin Group

27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ, England

Viking Penguin, a division of Penguin Books USA Inc, 375 Hudson Street,
New York, New York 10014, USA

Penguin Books Australia Ltd, Ringwood, Victoria, Australia

Penguin Books Canada Ltd, 10 Alcorn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4V 3B2

Penguin Books (NZ) Ltd, 182-190 Wairau Road, Auckland 10, New Zealand

Penguin Books South Africa (Pty) Ltd, Pallingshurst Road, Parktown, 2193 South Africa

Penguin Books South Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Offices: 20 Woodlands Drive, Woodmead,
Sandton, 2128 South Africa

First published 1997

Copyright © Immanuel Suttner 1997

The footnote on p 463 and the Acknowledgements on pp 635-636 constitute an extension of
this copyright page.

All rights reserved

The moral right of the author has been asserted

ISBN 0 670 87079 X

Typeset in 11pt on 12.5pt Bembo by Iskova Image Setting

Printed and bound by Interpak, Natal

Cover design by Aliza Bender

Except in the United States of America, this book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

CONTENTS

Foreword	vii
Introduction	1
All for the Union	
Taffy Adler	7
Ray Alexander Simons	23
Pauline Podbrey	49
Cultural Weapons	
Johnny Clegg	73
Nadine Gordimer	107
Barney Simon	117
Irwin Manoim	142
Anton Harber	153
Civil Disobedience	
David Bruce	169
Laurence Neill Nathan	179
The Coleman Family	187
The Great Dream	
Joe Slovo	221
Gill Marcus	245
Ronnie Kasrils	267
Jack Flior	289
Legal Aid	
Isie Maisels	309
Arthur Chaskalson	325
The Real Heroes	
Albie Sachs	343
Rowley Israel Arenstein	371
Ina Perlman	403
Helen Suzman	423
Shawn Slovo	445

Inside	
Denis Goldberg	463
Raymond Suttner	497
Maxine Hart	519
Teachers and Preachers	
Franz Auerbach	537
Ben Isaacson	565
Afterword	597
Glossary	629
The Interviewers	633
Acknowledgements	635

FOREWORD

Many of our families arrived in this country from the pogroms and racially fuelled violence of Europe. In their luggage they carried not only the hope of a better life for themselves, but also a cultural heritage that placed respect and kindness at the forefront of family and communal values.

They did not come to a country which always embraced these values, and as in the ancient times of Lot, they lived in places and circumstances which forced individuals into uneasy positions.

Memory and remembrance are critical measures. Without knowing from whence we came, and what we experienced, how can we know where to proceed? It is important to remember that while some of our families were far away, interned in Gulags, dying in Nazi camps, prospering in the New World, and fighting for the establishment of the State of Israel, we South African Jews were also playing out some nuance in the tapestry of moral dilemma.

It is perhaps appropriate that the idea for this book germinated around a heated Friday night Shabbes discussion concerning the role Jews played in bringing about change in South Africa. Suddenly the thought struck me how important it was to document at least some of these lives and stories.

History often distorts the past, either glorifying or vilifying its content. It is my hope that the stories contained in this volume will do neither, but rather fairly reflect the lives of some remarkable people who helped shape our present dispensation.

Mervyn Davidowitz
Johannesburg 1996

From the U.S.A. where only 1000 pairs are made each year and imported from the U.S.A. with exclusive rights from 12.50

Stuttsford's

MEWS DEPT. 1000

RAND Hair Mail

MORNING FINAL

JOHANNESBURG, TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1963. Price 3 cents

THEY ARE STILL ON THE RUN



ARTHUR GOLDREICH—5 ft. 10 in. tall, has thick black hair, is slightly built, walks with a mild stoop, had a full black beard. Aged 35.



MOSHE MOOLER—5 ft. 3 in. tall, has a light complexion, thick black hair and is slightly built. Aged 20.



ADIEL HASSENAT—5 ft. 10 in. tall, has a light complexion and has a light complexion and long black hair. Aged 27.



HAROLD WOLPE—6 ft. tall, has natural black hair, which is discoloured slightly over the forehead and is prominent nose. He is aged 30.

ESCAPE: POLICEMEN HELI

WOMAN IN 7-FLOOR FALL AT HOSPITAL



90-day men still at large; Mrs. Wolpe is freed

CRIME REPORTER

POLICEMEN are being held for questioning in connection with the sensational Marshall Square escape in which four 90-day detainees fled. Senior officers declined last night to say whether there had been any arrests.

Throughout yesterday senior police officers were carefully investigating every aspect of the escape which was obviously well-planned and timed to the minute. The theory of an impulsive escape has been ruled out.

Mr. Gen. R. J. van der Berg, chief of the C.I.D. said that the escape was considered in an extremely serious light and that a full inquiry would be held. He believes that the escapees may have had negotiations with outside contacts for some time.

The missing men are Arthur Goldreich, a Johannesburg artist, who was held with 17 others in last month's Rivonia swoop; Moshe Mooler, chairman of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress; Harold Wolpe, an attorney and Abduel Jassat, a member of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress.

Goldreich is alleged to have contacted a guard inside his cell to release the other three men but they fled two days ago.

After the escape, Wolpe was arrested by the police on the public road and Mrs. Wolpe said she was taken into a room above three floors of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress.

The missing men are Arthur Goldreich, a Johannesburg artist, who was held with 17 others in last month's Rivonia swoop; Moshe Mooler, chairman of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress; Harold Wolpe, an attorney and Abduel Jassat, a member of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress.

South Africans

world's biggest drinkers

South Africans are the hardest drinkers in the world and are "top of the league" in drinking.

Mr. J. H. Swales, managing director of a country's biggest brewers group, said the consumption of hard liquor in South Africa is not only the highest in the world but also the most per capita.

Mr. Swales said that the average South African drinks more than any other country in the world, but the fact that South Africa has the highest per capita consumption of hard liquor is not far behind.

Mr. Swales said that the average South African drinks more than any other country in the world, but the fact that South Africa has the highest per capita consumption of hard liquor is not far behind.

Plane crash kills 17

WOMAN—A 10-year-old girl and her mother were killed when a small plane crashed into a field near the town of... The plane was carrying 17 people...

MRS. WOLPE—last night's picture.

Threatened but not hit by police

—Mrs. Wolpe

CRIME REPORTER

Threatened but not hit by police — Mrs. Wolpe

Mrs. Wolpe said she was threatened by the police but was not hit. She said she was taken into a room above three floors of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress.

NEVER LEFT

They said they had never left the country. Mrs. Wolpe said she was threatened by the police but was not hit. She said she was taken into a room above three floors of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress.

PETITION GOES TO VORSTER

ONE CORRESPONDENT

CAPE TOWN—African women who have taken to the streets to protest against the government's policy of apartheid have presented a petition to the Minister of Justice.

Racialist not to Jews-leader

ONE CORRESPONDENT

Mr. J. H. Swales, managing director of a country's biggest brewers group, said the consumption of hard liquor in South Africa is not only the highest in the world but also the most per capita.

Whites cheer KENYATTA'S PROMISE

NAIROBI—Five hundred White farmers joined the Minister, Mr. Jomo Kenyatta, for "charismatic" Sabbath for "togetherness" at his first ever meeting with representative group of White farmers at Nakuru Town Hall yesterday.

A bride waited in vain

OWN CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN—An Esko bride-to-be was left waiting in vain for her groom who failed to appear at the wedding ceremony.

Haggard look

MR. ANNAMAR WILCOX was seen in a haggard look after being held for several days by the police for his role in the escape.

Ship may be freed today

ONE CORRESPONDENT

The ship may be freed today after negotiations between the government and the crew.

Ship may be freed today

ONE CORRESPONDENT

The ship may be freed today after negotiations between the government and the crew.

Jail is price of insulting Dr. Banda

ROBIN—An African police officer was fined for insulting Dr. Banda.

ROOM FOR ALL

MR. WILCOX said that there was room for all in the new South African government.

BOBBIES TAKE STOCK OF UHURU

LONDON—The men from Zambia were handing out leaflets to the police about the Uhuru movement.

REFeree HIT WITH FIRST-AID BOX

STAFF REPORTER

The referee was hit with a first-aid box during a boxing match.

Ship may be freed today

ONE CORRESPONDENT

The ship may be freed today after negotiations between the government and the crew.

Dead in flat

MR. S. P. DUBOIS was found dead in a flat in Johannesburg.

ROOM FOR ALL

MR. WILCOX said that there was room for all in the new South African government.

BOBBIES TAKE STOCK OF UHURU

LONDON—The men from Zambia were handing out leaflets to the police about the Uhuru movement.

REFeree HIT WITH FIRST-AID BOX

STAFF REPORTER

The referee was hit with a first-aid box during a boxing match.

Ship may be freed today

ONE CORRESPONDENT

The ship may be freed today after negotiations between the government and the crew.

CONTENTS

WEATHER	Page 11
RADIO	Page 12
CRICKET	Page 13
LETTERS	Page 14
SPORTS	Page 15
FINANCE	Page 16

'RE-ARMED'

MR. WILCOX said that the new South African government was re-armed.

Sideline fight—and teams fled

STAFF REPORTER

The fight was held on the sidelines and the teams fled.

REFeree HIT WITH FIRST-AID BOX

STAFF REPORTER

The referee was hit with a first-aid box during a boxing match.

Ship may be freed today

ONE CORRESPONDENT

The ship may be freed today after negotiations between the government and the crew.