

Anti-Apartheid Groups Cast Out Winnie Mandela, Citing Terror

By **CHRISTOPHER S. WREN**, Special to **The New York Times**

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JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 16 — Winnie Mandela was effectively cast out today by the anti-apartheid movement to which she and her husband, Nelson Mandela, have devoted their lives.

The announcement by the movement's leadership, distancing itself from her activities and asking its supporters to do the same, was made as the police pressed an investigation into the killing of a 14-year-old youth whom Mrs. Mandela's bodyguards are accused of abducting.

At a news conference, Murphy Morobe, the publicity secretary of the United Democratic Front, the country's major legal anti-apartheid organization, read a statement accusing the bodyguards of mounting a "reign of terror" in Soweto leading up to the killing and blaming Mrs. Mandela for creating them.

It was not known how Nelson Mandela, who has been in prison for 26 years, felt about the repudiation of his wife. But it seemed unlikely that the action would have been taken unless Mr. Mandela's lawyers had warned him and sought his tacit assent for the sake of the anti-apartheid movement.

Today's announcement fed rumors among blacks that Mr. Mandela might contemplate a divorce in the interest of the struggle, particularly if Mrs. Mandela became the subject of criminal prosecution. She visited her husband in Cape Town on Wednesday.

The body of the youth, Stompie Moeketsi, was positively identified on Wednesday. He was among four youths reportedly abducted in December by the Mandela United Football Club, a group of about 30 young men acting as Mrs. Mandela's bodyguards.

"We are outraged at Mrs. Mandela's complicity in the recent abductions of Stompie," Mr. Morobe said. "Had Stompie and his three colleagues not been abducted by Mrs. Mandela's 'football team,' he would have been alive today."

Mrs. Mandela's increasingly erratic behavior has not dampened public admiration for her husband, whose image has assumed almost mythic dimensions during his years in prison. But the leadership seemed anxious today not to erode his accumulated prestige.

“We take the opportunity to reaffirm our unqualified support for our leader Nelson Mandela and call for his immediate release,” Mr. Morobe said.

This evening, the state-run South African television reported that the police were investigating the disappearance of two other young men believed linked to the soccer team, including a claim that Mrs. Mandela was present when one, Lolo Corlett Sono, 21 years old, was taken from his home by her bodyguards and accused of being a police informer. The other man, Sibonise Anton Tshabalala, 20, was summoned to Mrs. Mandela’s home and was not seen again, the television news reported.

The friction between the soccer club and local youths is rooted in the political climate of Soweto. The club members refused to be accountable to the alternative power structures created for the struggle against apartheid and incurred the hostility of residents by throwing their weight around.

Mr. Morobe was flanked at the news conference today by Archie Gumede, president of the United Democratic Front, which represents some 700 affiliated groups, and Elijah Barayi, president of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, which claims 800,000 mostly black members. The two groups form the backbone of the open struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

The effect of the decision, which Mr. Morobe said had been considered for some time, was to drop Mrs. Mandela from the common struggle against apartheid and increase her isolation in the black community. It has also left her more dependent for safety and companionship on her soccer team, which the exiled African National Congress, to which Nelson Mandela belongs, had been urging her to disband.

The announcement today stressed that unhappiness with Mrs. Mandela had predated the scandal in which she is now embroiled.

“We are of the view that Mrs. Mandela has abused the trust and confidence which she has enjoyed over the years,” Mr. Morobe said. “She has often acted without consulting the democratic movement. Often, her practices have violated the spirit and ethics of the democratic movement.”

His statement took note of the public resentment that had been building in Soweto over Mrs. Mandela’s unaccountability and the bullying behavior of her soccer team.

“In recent years, Mrs. Mandela’s actions have increasingly led her into conflict with various sections of the oppressed people and with the mass democratic movement as a whole,” he said. “The recent conflict in the community has centered largely around the conduct of her so-called football club, which has been widely condemned by the community.

“In particular, we are outraged by the reign of terror that the team has been

associated with. Not only is Mrs. Mandela associated with the team; in fact, the team is her own creation.”

But Mrs. Mandela has been the most prominent woman in the anti-apartheid struggle, and her ostracism was announced with sorrow rather than anger. “The Mandela family has always occupied a very special position in the hearts of our people,” Mr. Morobe said.

He observed that Mrs. Mandela had been separated from her husband for most of their married life and raised two children alone while coping with house arrest, detention and banishment by the government’

“We pay tribute to her contribution,” Mr. Morobe said.

The leadership said many efforts had been made to mediate frictions between Mrs. Mandela and Soweto residents, including the formation of a crisis committee of people respected in the anti-apartheid movement to deal with the excesses of the football club. “On every occasion, Mrs. Mandela has refused to cooperate and has chosen to disregard the sentiments of the community,” the statement said.

A woman who answered the phone at Mrs. Mandela’s office in Soweto this afternoon said that “she’s not taking any calls.” The woman promised to convey a request for Mrs. Mandela to return the call, but Mrs. Mandela failed to do so.

The soccer team members have been accused of abducting four young men, including Mr. Moeketsi, from the house of a Methodist minister in Soweto on the night of Dec. 28, and taking them to Mrs. Mandela’s home. One youth escaped but the other three were reportedly beaten.

Two youths were released after the crisis committee intervened. Stompie Moeketsi disappeared, and Mrs. Mandela and the club members disclaimed any knowledge of his whereabouts. The police announced Wednesday that a body found early last month was that of Mr. Moeketsi, and said he had died from knife wounds in the throat.