

## No Change Of Heart

After spending a year-and-a-half in the gruesome death cells of Pretoria, Comrades Mashigo, Manana and Lubisi had the illegal death sentences against them commuted to life imprisonment. The concerted efforts by the oppressed of our country headed by the African National Congress and its allies; the effective blows delivered by our army, MK, at the personnel and structures of racial domination, and, of no little importance, the noble endeavours of the anti-apartheid and peace-loving communities the world over, have torn the knife out of the cutthroat's hand and saved our fellow combatants from the gallows. This is a victory worth celebrating!

The announcement came within weeks after the farcical President's Council (the shameless and futile attempt at improving the image of the abhorrent apartheid system by its envisaged 'power sharing') had issued its first report. The apartheid regime is bent on creating an impression that apartheid is changing. What a farce! Even if the tallest and widest of Chinese walls were to be erected to obscure the aims behind every move made by the racist rulers of our land, we — the oppressed and our allies — would certainly be the last to have our view obstructed. Hence the haste to warn all that the death sentences against the three comrades have been commuted, resulting not from a change of heart on the part of the Pretoria regime.

### APARTHEID

*Apartheid remains unchanged and is being intensified. The Group Areas Act is still as valid and forced mass removals continue unabated. The scheme of Bantustanisation of our country is being carried out with ever-growing intensity. Mass arrests, detentions without trial and torture are daily assuming deplorable proportions. The assassination of ANC leaders and members wherever they can be found has been elevated to the level of state policy. Indiscriminate murder of unarmed civilians and the destruction of property and economic*

infrastructures is the everyday life of the people in the frontline states who live and labour under a constant threat of a South African invasion and their stooges and puppets branded with deceptive names like the National Resistance Movement in Mozambique, Lesotho Liberation Army, etc.

Among those who sent letters of protest to the South African government the name of Albert Rene, the President of Seychelles, is given particular emphasis by the South African press. There's little wonder why this sudden 'respect' for an African president when not so long ago the Seychelles was under a fierce attack from the racist hordes and mercenaries, instructed by top officials of the South African government and the South African Defence force. By commuting the death sentences the boers aim at influencing the course of the trial of the mercenaries who staged the attempted coup in the Seychelles last November.

### LIVES

We have saved the lives of Comrades Manana, Lubisi and Mashigo. But three more sons of the oppressed of our land: Tsotsobe, Shabangu and Moise — in gross violation of the Geneva accords — are still locked in a fierce battle to stay the hand of the hangman in Pretoria's death dungeons. We have it as a task of utmost urgency to take up the fight to save their lives with added vigour. For if we dare let the boers murder them, tomorrow it will be me, and you.

We once more call upon the conscious communities the world over to join us and campaign to save their lives. We have it within our power to stop these apartheid murders. This will be the most fitting way of celebrating the important victory we have just scored.

