

introduction

At the present moment, the apartheid government is going all out to crush the UDF. About two-thirds of our national and regional executive members have been out of action through death, detention or trial. Thousands of members of affiliates are in detention. A major UDF affiliate, COSAS, has been banned.

We are not surprised that the government should be attacking us in this way. It has singled out the UDF because of the role we have played in winning many victories in the two years of our existence. In these two years:

- * The black local authorities system has collapsed.
 - * The tricameral parliament has been exposed as toothless and without support.
 - * Mass struggles against forced removals are beginning to win victories. At Driefontein, Kangwane, Magopa, Mgwali the apartheid criminals have been forced to retreat.
 - * The apartheid government is more isolated internationally than ever before. International sanctions have been widely applied. Ambassadors have been withdrawn. The government cannot pay its foreign debts. All of this has happened at a time when they have been trying to win foreign friends!
 - * above all, in towns and villages, in schools, mines and factories, the broad masses are on the
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march. Through mass stay-aways, consumer boycotts, mass funerals and marches they have shown that no deals can be negotiated over the people's heads. The message "FORWARD TO PEOPLE'S POWER!" has become more and more the demand of all freedom-loving South Africans.

In order to steel ourselves against the attacks of the government, and to carry forward our tasks, it is important that we should develop our understanding of the struggle. Let us use theory as another weapon in our march forward.

In this first issue of ILIZWE we look at some important issues for our struggle. The views expressed in these papers are not the official views of the UDF or any section of the Front. They are designed to encourage discussion, debate and education within our ranks.

THE UDF LIVES! FORWARD TO PEOPLES' POWER!
