

## MAWU Takes to the Streets

About 50 members of the Metal and Allied Workers Union, including union organisers Moses Mayekiso, Bernie Fanaroff and Maggie Magubane, were arrested on 30 April when they picketed outside the Johannesburg City Hall where the industrial council negotiations for the metal industry were being held.

The talks with the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa take place amid mass retrenchments in the recession-hit metal industry. Mawu members organised a peaceful march from the union offices in Harrison Street through the city centre carrying placards saying: "Stop retrenchments" and "MAWU demands a living wage". Demonstrating workers were confronted by riot police and, after a heated exchange, forcibly loaded onto 2 police vans and driven to John Vorster Square.

They appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's court on May 1 and were released on bail and the case postponed. After leaving the court, friends and relatives of the unionists joined them in a march back to the union office. As a result 41 were arrested for attending an illegal gathering. Twenty-nine unionists were released on R50 bail and warned to reappear, while the rest were given R100 bail. The arrested unionists were: Mr Moses Rykdom, Mr Hilton Mashigo (36), Mr Johannes Mbatha (31), Mr Norman Maila (27), Mr Mathews Mhlango (32), Mr David Mohlaban (39), Mr Bethuel Dishego (41), Mr Frank Ratshilovhi, Mr David Silhanga (32), Mr Simon Metseleng (28), Mr Silas Adams (21), Mr Richard Ntuli (41), Mr Peter Dentjie (24), Mr Sikhumbuzo Molefe (21), Mr Philemon Khumalo (37), Mr Richard Peege (27), Mr Bernard Fanaroff (37), Mr Samuel Nyambi (39), Mr Happiness Giva (35), Mr Johannes Mbatha (31), Mr Frank Boshielo (40), Mr Moses Mayekiso, Mr Reginald Doobazana (33), Mr Sonnyboy Njokwe (32), Mr Mack Masilela (44), Mr Joseph Lutshethu (33), Mr Lucas Tabane (44), Mr Stanley Mbombo (44), Mr Weston Kgabaye (35), Mrs Lydia Kompe, Mrs Maggie Magubane (40), Miss Nkomakosi Maseko, Mrs Susan Shabangu (27), Miss Emily Mokoena (21), Mr Elias Novela (42), Mr Zacharia Sithole, Mr Monkawili Singana (33), Mr Jabulane Motshweni (25), Mr Johannes Malee, Mr Mogisi Moloko and Mr Tshepo Malebatsane.

(SALB correspondent, May 1985)