

OXFORD

1950s - 60s

THE PEOPLE RESIST!

“The time comes in the life of any nation when there remain only two choices – submit or fight.”

Manifesto of Umkhonto we Sizwe, 1961



Peter Magubane

On 9 August 1956, 20 000 women marched peacefully to the Union Buildings to protest against the imposition of pass laws on African women.



El Weinberg, Bailey's African History Archive

In 1955, the Congress of the People met in Kliptown where the demands of the Freedom Charter were accepted.



Ian Berry, Magnum Photos

In 1960, the PAC organized a non-violent protest against passes at Sharpeville near Vereeniging. The police fired on the crowd, killing 69 people and wounding 180.



Bailey's African History Archive

After the violence of Sharpeville, the ANC and PAC felt they had no choice but to embark on armed struggle. The ANC used sabotage as a weapon, destroying pylons and government buildings.

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