

DETENTIONS IN PORT ELIZABETH AND UITENHAGE DURING THE  
SECOND NATIONAL STATE OF EMERGENCY, 12.2.86.- 27.2.87.

Total no. reported detained: 1,829.

Detentions by age:

1061 where ages are known.

15 and under	:	8%
16-18	:	21%
19-25	:	31%
26-35	:	23%
36-50	:	12%
51-60	:	3%
Over 60	:	2%

Detentions by area:

1118 where area is known.

New Brighton (inc. Red Location)	:	28%
Site and Service and Kwazakele	:	33%
Soweto and Veeplaas (shack areas)	:	11.6%
Walmer	:	1.3%
Zwide	:	13%
Motherwell	:	4.3%
Kwanobuhle (Uitenhage)	:	7%

Detentions by month:

June, 1986	:	27.5%	November, 1986	:	4.4%
July, 1986	:	14.5%	December, 1986	:	13.8%
August, 1986	:	14.2%	January, 1987	:	5.2%
September, 1986	:	10.3%			
October, 1986	:	9.7%			

As numbers of detainees reveal, the present State of Emergency has hit Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage very hard. Our information comes from the Black Sash Advice Office, the Port Elizabeth Crisis Centre and a few lawyers. Many detentions are not reported so our total figure of 1,829 is likely to be a very conservative one, the actual figure is likely to be far in excess of 2,000.

We have only had 134 releases reported to us and although this figure is probably very low we know that the vast majority of detainees are still in prison. A fair number of those released were not on our detained lists even though they were taken in June, 1986, proving once again how far short our total figure falls of the actual number detained.

Looking at the above statistics it can be seen that although June detentions were heaviest the arrests have been ongoing and in December a substantial number of arrests were made - many of these were in Red Location and seemed to tie in with the removal there or, conversely, a major factor in the removal was the perception that Red Location was a security risk and needed "cleaning up."

During the first two months of the Emergency when detentions seemed to be aimed mainly at the street and area committees the age group most frequently detained was in the older range. Since then, however, the concentration has been on the 16-18 year olds.

Detentions in the organisations were fairly predictable affecting initially executive members of UDF, PEBCO, PEYCO, PEWO and the Consumer Boycott Committee, then the street and area committees,

also UYCO and UWO in Uitenhage, AZASO, NEUSA and NECC executives, with ECC in the white area and some union leaders, Dennis Neer being among the first from MACWUSA. Some leaders, including Henry Fazzie, Vice-President of UDF in the Eastern Cape and Mkhuseleli Jack of PEYCO managed to avoid capture for a few weeks, but eventually they too were detained.

In addition to the mass of predictable detentions, a great number of arrests appear to be of a completely arbitrary nature. Many "substitute arrests" were reported, brother for brother, father for son, neighbour for neighbour. When PEBCO Chairman, Ernest Malgas, could not be found his wife, Mrs. Patricia Malgas was detained in his place. She is not a politically active person and an application was brought for her release on these grounds by the Legal Resources Centre. It was not successful, the Court finding that she was politically involved. When, however, Ernest Malgas was finally apprehended, Mrs. Malgas was immediately released - after 233 days in prison. In another case Ronnie Michaels could not be found so another Ronnie in a nearby house was taken. "Vat sommer daaie een," said the arresting officer. The fact that the second Ronnie was Ronnie Marais - with no connection to the first - appeared irrelevant. They are now both in detention.

Some of those arrested had at no time had any political involvement. Some were elderly, in their seventies, many very young, twelve and thirteen year olds. The pregnant were taken - Nosipho Matabese was seven months pregnant when arrested whilst attending the funeral of a relative. Her son, Phakamisa was born in detention and she was released when he was two months old, two days before an application was due to come before the Grahamstown Supreme Court.

Many of those detained have not been questioned during their period of imprisonment. Others had a perfunctory half hours interrogation when they were first taken. Reports on detainees' conditions vary from prison to prison, station to station. Some are "appalling", others "bearable". Security regulations prevent me from commenting in detail on reports we have received on prison conditions, but we have been deeply shocked by some of the disclosures.

Reports of assaults upon arrest and the wanton destruction of property have been an everyday occurrence in the Sash Advice Office. The cases of Tango Lamani and Wellington Apleni were brought before the Port Elizabeth Supreme Court by the Legal Resources Centre in an attempt to protect them from further police torture and assault. Both suffered severe physical and mental trauma as a result of their treatment during interrogation, both needed extended hospitalisation as a result.

The State of Emergency has deepened the economic crisis in Port Elizabeth. Businesses have been affected by the detention of employees. Hundreds of jobs have been lost with devastating results on families. On the education front the students are back at school, but, again, hundreds are still in detention causing acute frustration and anger from parents and pupils alike. Communities are being subjected to additional stresses as they attempt to support and assist the dependants of detainees and help released prisoners. The organisations are angry and

bitter as their leaders remain imprisoned for month after month. As a mother of two sons in detention said helplessly, "Where will it all end?"

Judy Chalmers.

Statistics compiled by Lesley Frescura.

Two additional statistics reflect that 6% of those detained are female, also that 24% of detainees who appear on our list for August-December do not appear on the official list recently published.

These statistics can be refined to a greater degree of accuracy, but are a fair reflection of the situation.