

GRASSROOTS WILL NOT TOW THE LINE!

Dark clouds are gathering over the press in South Africa. The New Nation and South have been closed by Minister Stoffel Botha, because they dared to speak the truth. The Weekly Mail, Sowetan, Work in Progress and Grassroots have been warned that we are next.

Over the years Grassroots staff members have been banned and detained, and in 1985 our offices were burnt down. Now Stoffel Botha wants to close us down. He says that we promote violence, the African National Congress and hatred for the security forces.

At Grassroots we are responsible to our readers, the oppressed and democratic people of Cape Town. Grassroots has always exposed injustice by publishing the facts. We will continue to do so. Grassroots shares your political aspirations. We want to make South Africa beautiful by destroying apartheid and building a non-racial democracy free of exploitation. It is our responsibility to reflect those aspirations, no matter how much it upsets the government.

Grassroots stands for peace in South Africa. We believe that peace will come with democracy. Apartheid keeps the Government in power by force. It is Stoffel Botha's government that stands for violence, by taking up arms to defend this immoral and illegal system.

**AGAIN WE SAY:
HANDS OFF
THE PRESS**

Support our struggle to publish the truth

We stand accused of generating hatred for the security forces. It is the actions of the security forces, not reports about these actions, which breed hostility. If our people are to be protected against brutality, it is vital that the press are free to report on security force action. We believe that the security forces themselves have generated whatever hatred exists against them. Many in our townships believe that the security forces are not there to assist them, but rather to cause hardship.

The government would do better to take heed of how our readers view the security forces, rather than to try and silence the messenger.

We will not become another mouthpiece for apartheid reforms. Apartheid is a crime against humanity. We are compelled to resist.

The Nationalist Government is plunging our country deeper into darkness every day. They are the real threat to peace and stability. They are the ones who promote hatred and violence.

The revolutionary climate in South Africa was not created by newspapers. It was created by the government's failure to answer the demands of the majority of South Africans. We are under threat because we do not accept the government's reforms. For this we do not apologise. Botha's reforms are not an honest attempt to accommodate the aspirations of the majority. The reforms are simply apartheid disguised - not even very well disguised. We cannot be held responsible for the conflict generated by these reforms, for we warned the Government five years ago that it was creating a recipe for disaster.

We stand accused of presenting the ANC in a favourable light. The ANC is undeniably the major political force in the oppressed community. Nelson Mandela emerges as the most popular leader in almost every single scientific survey of township political opinion. If it were interested in peace in South Africa, the government would unban the ANC and negotiate with the organisation.

It is outrageous to charge that by calling for the unbanning of the ANC we are promoting violence. Reasonable people would agree that we are promoting peace. We believe that you have the right to know the truth about the ANC. We will continue to publish the facts about the ANC.

It is the banning of organisations and newspapers which causes violence. Such actions lead people to abandon hope in peaceful methods, and to take up arms. It is the government's actions, not grassroots', that promote violence.

RURAL FOCUS

IN South Africa there are many tiny towns hidden in rural areas. These towns are completely unknown to most South Africans. Yet thousands of our people live in these rural towns.

Life is a misery for the people in rural towns. Security forces and the most hated kitscops are conducting a reign of terror in these small townships.

Unemployment, cheap labour and brutal oppression of the rural people is becoming worse by the day. In addition the government is trying to move people forcibly from their places.

A Grassroots team visited some of these areas. We went to dig out the truth about the events in places like Vanwyksvlei, Carnavon, Victoria West and De Aar. On these four pages we report on what we had discovered.

VICTORY IN NAMAQUALAND



Members of the Leliefontein community leaving the church after a thanksgiving service.

ABOUT 38 Namaqualand landowners will be given notices threatening them with contempt of court unless they share their land with about 6000 people.

Normally, this would be bad news.

But in the Namaqualand town of Kameskroon the distribution of the notices will signify one of the most important victories for the thousands of people who have farmed the land communally since time immemorial.

The notices follow last month's Supreme Court judgement in which Mr Justice Tebbutt with Mr Justice CT Howie concurring, ruled against the State's allocation of the bulk of the agricultural land in the Leliefontein area to 38 leaseholders at the expense of 720 stockowners.

Up to April 21, when the judgment was handed down, the centuries-old tradition of peasants trekking across the vast, picturesque plains of Namaqualand in pursuit of greener pastures and a simple but rewarding way of life faced extinction.

Hundreds of communal farmers in this semi-desert believed their livelihood and unique way of life were on the way out in the face of a system of economic units.

From 1982 to 1983 the Leliefontein area, one of the largest farming reserves in Namaqualand, was subdivided into 47 units under the administration of the Department of Internal Affairs.

In 1984, Mr David Curry, Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, assumed control of the administration with the birth of the tri-cameral parliamentary system.

Thirty of the 47 units were allocated to individuals, many of whom had no historical connection with the area or were otherwise employed and not dependent on the yield from the land.

As the residents of Leliefontein had not been consulted about the subdivision and had not had an answer from the Government about their grievances, they turned to the Supreme Court.

By then, 200 000 hectares of land worked previously by about 7000 people had been divided into 47 units.

The camps covered between 1700 and 4800 hectares each and were available to individuals with 250 head of stock or R3000 in assets. Rent for each camp was a mere R300 a year, payable in advance.

Only small pockets of land remained available for communal farming, forcing farmers to reduce stock drastically and cutting them off from certain seasonal grazing areas.

The Leliefonteiners are direct descendants of the Khoikhoi branch, the Little Namaqua, who have lived in the area for at least 1000 years, producing their own food, income and passing on the tradition to their offspring.

The farmers were up against a State argument that communal farming resulted in overgrazing which posed a threat to rare Namaqualand plant species and conservation in general.

But they pressed ahead and went to court.

Mr Justice Tebbutt ruled that a plan had to be drawn before the subdivision of the land, to make provision for one or more residential areas, a town, commonage, areas for cemeteries and an agricultural area.

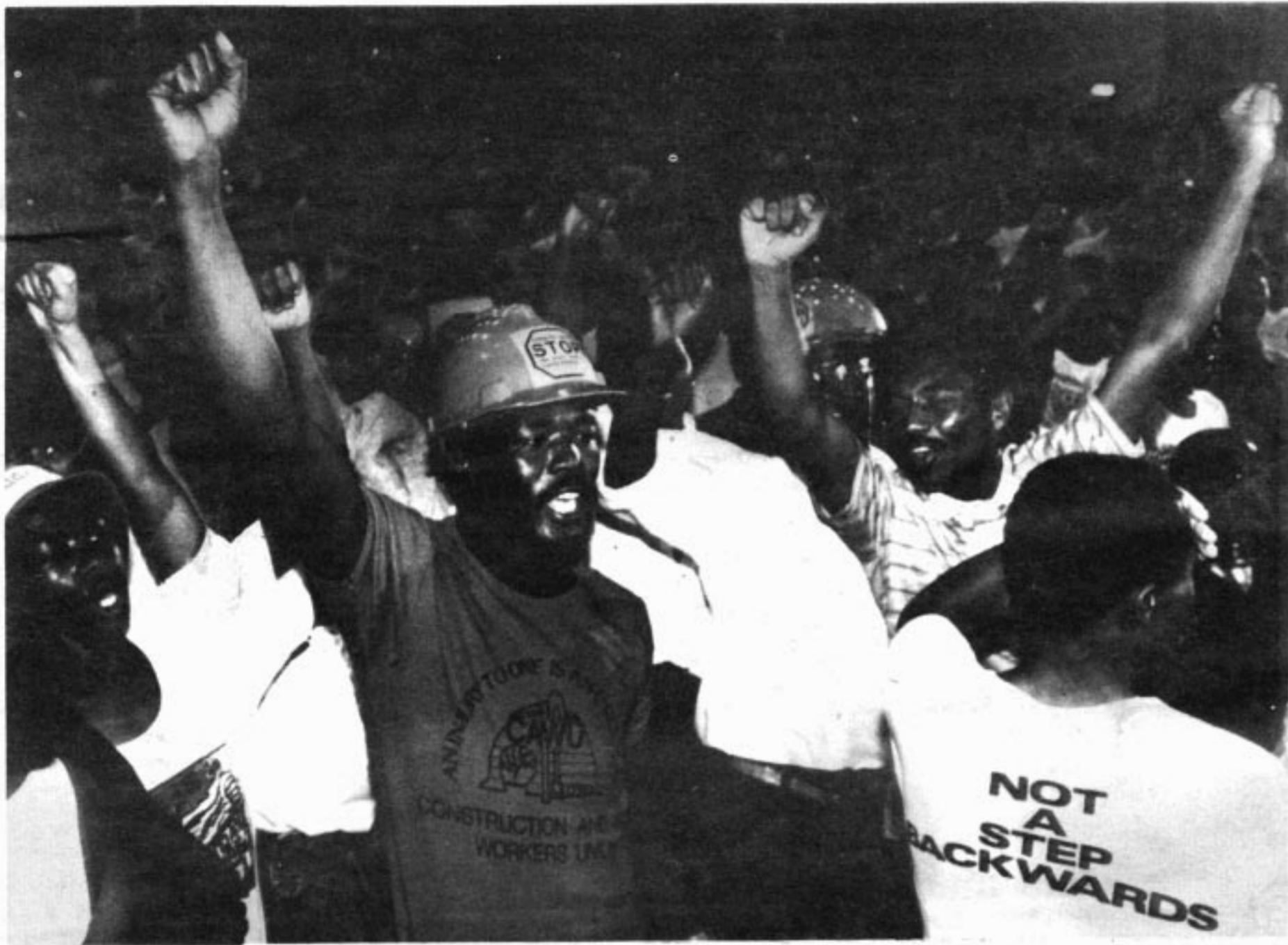
Mr Justice Tebbutt found that this had not been done, making the subdivision illegal.

He also found that official had not used existing regulations to control overgrazing and that the Government had not informed residents adequately of what was being planned.

Mr Justice Tebbutt restored the land to the communal farmers and ordered Mr Curry to pay costs.

The 38 leaseholders will be told to leave the units. Only those who make a living from farming are allowed to stay on — and farm communally.

Workers unite against labour bills



Capetonians celebrate May Day at the rally in UWC

SOUTH African union leaders early this month celebrated Labour Day by uniformly rejecting the Labour Relations Amendment Bill as a threat to industrial relations.

Rallies organised by the main union groupings the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) went ahead peacefully.

However, at Soweto's Regina Mundi Church police repeatedly intervened during a Nactu-organised meeting attended by about 200 people.

Police who sat in on the meeting and filmed proceedings had to be persuaded by the organisers to allow a workers' play to continue. Several police vehicles were parked outside throughout the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Nactu's assistant general secretary Mr Pandelani Nefolouhodwe called on the labour movement to prepare to defend itself against "State attack" in 1988.

"The State has banned organisations, closed down newspapers and attacked the workers in the form of the Labour Relations Amendment Bill.

"The bill, aimed at seriously restricting trade union activities will cause a lot of strain in the Industrial Relations field as it gives employers an upper hand especially as its application will be backed by the might and brutal force of the State."

At the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, Cosatu official Mr Kgetsi Lehoko told more than 1500 people that the State's actions

against unions came at a time when workers' living standards were under increasing attack by the State President's "Bothanomics" economic programme.

"The wage freeze will increase poverty, starvation and hunger", said Mr Lehoko told the spirited meeting, punctuated by worker slogans and songs.

Fedtraw (Federation of Transvaal Women) spokesperson Ms Amanda Kwadi told the meeting that South African workers had a tradition of celebrating Labour Day and continued to do so despite the restrictions placed on opposition organisations and leadership.

"In South Africa, the struggle of workers cannot be separated from that of the community

because workers are equally affected by the same problems affecting their communities," said Ms Kwadi. These problems included the eviction of rent defaulters, the enforcement of the Group Areas Act and the education crisis.

Fedtraw supported the workers' struggle for a living wage and their opposition to the Labour Relations Amendment Bill, she added.

At a meeting called by the Johannesburg branch of the Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union, a National Council of Trade Unions spokesman, Mr Paul Plaatjies described the Labour Relations Amendment Bill as "an attack on the entire labour movement".

"Unions all over the world have political views

For the South African union movement in particular, it is a must that they take a political stand," said Mr Plaatjies. Nactu, he said condemned the restrictions placed on 18 organisations including the Cosatu.

At the University of the Western Cape, Cosatu general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo told a 2000-strong audience that the labour movement was under "Systematic" attack from the Government through the imposition of a wage freeze and attempts to curtail union activities.

"We must resist attempts by the state to criminalise our activities," he said.

Cosatu said it had been refused permission to hold an indoor meeting in Port Elizabeth. Permission had been refused for an outdoor rally in Natal.

IF THE BILLS ARE PASSED:

- Strikers can be postponed endlessly. Whereas workers now have to spend 30 days trying to end a dispute, the Industrial Council or the Department of Manpower will be able to order workers to keep delaying a strike for 30 days at a time.
- Bosses will be able to fire people on strike and to re-employ whoever they want to after a strike.
- Bosses' power is also increased in that they can interdict or stop legal strikes. Now they can only stop illegal strikes. They will be able to go to court and stop a legal strike if they can show the strike is hurting a "third party" like a customer or even office staff who can't work during a strike.
- It will be far more difficult to go on strike. Workers will have to go through even more steps than they do now and will become more reliant on lawyers and more educated union leaders.
- Strike action can be made even more difficult with the clause that workers can only strike if the dispute is referred to a conciliation board or industrial council within 21 days

of it starting.

Facing trial for treason

FOURTEEN young Cape Town men and a woman will be appearing in the Cape Town Supreme Court over the next few months on charges of terrorism and having links with the ANC and the Communist Party.

If convicted they face spending the rest of their youth in jail. Why did they choose to join the African National Congress and what did they intend to achieve?

Last year saw a host of trials in Cape Town and other parts of the country where young South Africans were sentenced to life imprisonment for their involvement in ANC activities.

An interesting aspect of most of the cases was the

guidance in the Bible for his decision to resort to violence against the State.

Farieda Khan, sentenced two weeks ago to six months imprisonment admitted in court that she had joined the ANC in 1982.

In the latest trial, University of the Western Cape students Ashley Forbes, Peter Jacobs and Yasmina Pandey together with Bonteheuvel teacher Leon Scott, Nicklo Pedro, Nazeem Lowe, Anwa Dramat, Clement Baadjies David Fortuin, Jeremy Veary, Walter Rhoo-de, Wayne Malgas, Collin Cairncross, Ashraf-Kariem and Colin Petersen are facing charges of terrorism.

Their ages range from 19 to 29.

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commitment of coloured men and women to the ANC.

Ashley Kriel, killed in July last year, was a soldier in the ANC, as was Robert Macbride, awaiting death in Pretoria Central for the Magoo's Bar blast in Durban.

Cecil Esau of Wynberg, sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for terrorism last year, said he joined the ANC after he faced the dilemma and challenge of every young South African.

"It is not shameful if a rebellion fails, but it is shameful if a generation endures without rebellion," he said.

Quentin Michaels, a teacher from Bonteheuvel also sentenced to 12 years explained to the court that he looked for

A Wynberg resident who knew Ashley well before he left the country said she understood the motivation which led him to where he was today.

"Ashley was always concerned about the suffering of other people," she said.

"Even though he is very young, he understands the hardships we parents face."

She said Ashley was well known in the community.

"He was always knocking at our door with a pamphlet or newspaper. If there was a campaign around an issue in the community, Ashley would get involved.

"He has a lot of energy and is totally devoted to the struggle".

May Day in Namibia

MAY DAY worker's rallies went off peacefully around Namibia as the Territory's labour force enjoyed their second official Worker's Day holiday weekend.

This year, Monday 2nd has been declared a public holiday because May Day actually fell on a Sunday.

Rallies held by the SWAPO - affiliated unions were generally well-attended, with an all-

day gathering drawing what union officials claimed were 6 000 people to a dusty meeting area in Windhoek's Katutura township. Speakers from the local unions and two officials from the Congress of South African Trade Unions addressed the Windhoek rally, while South African black music group Cheek to Cheek entertained the crowd.

Banners proclaiming socialism as the answer

for workers' problems were in evidence, and a number of calls were made for the withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia and the implementation of the United Nations Resolution 435 settlement plan for the country.

Police observed the rally in Windhoek from a police station less than a kilometre away, but made no attempt to move closer to the gathering.



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ended, and all the land re-divided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger;

The state shall help the peasants with implements, seeds, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers;

Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land;

All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose.

People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced about and farm prisons shall be abolished.



"Our community is decent and peace loving. Why must we leave our homes?"

We shall not be moved

"We will sit here and wait until the bulldozers come onto our plots. We believe everyone has the right to live where they choose. We will sit here until Lawaakamp is upgraded." These are the words of a representative of the George Civic Association.

Lawaakamp is a township of shacks on a hill outside George. The government has told the people of Lawaakamp that they must leave by May 31. Why does the government want to force people out of Lawaakamp?

"PW Botha is from George", explains an Advice Office Worker. "So they want it to be pretty. They are busy with a new freeway, which will pass Lawaakamp. They do not want people driving past to see how we live. But they are moving us to Sandkraai, which is even worse. We are demanding an upgrade."

"They also want to make divisions between Coloured and Africans by removing Africans, and then building houses for Coloured. They don't want us to stay together. People in the Coloured areas stand together with Lawaakamp."

"The Municipality is trying to cause hatred between Coloured and Africans", tells Mr Skapp who has lived in Lawaakamp since 1921.

"They want to take the land from us, and build houses for Coloured. We used to stay together from long ago. We don't need the beer to come and separate us. If there was any problem between us, we would never have been living together."

In the Coloured area of Uitenhage, residents have shown their support for Lawaakamp. "We are

holding a Church service to say to the government "We stand with Lawaakamp. We reject this removal!", says an Advice Office Worker.

"The people of Lawaakamp reject removals. They demand that the government instead upgrade and improve Lawaakamp, where they have lived for years.

"They could easily use that money to upgrade Lawaakamp."

"The George Town Council is trying to demoralise the people and make them leave voluntarily. "The Council is not

clearing the streets anymore", says Mr Skapp. "They come and break down old homes, take the tin and planks, and just leave the mass lying there.

Then they say 'look how dirty Lawaakamp is'.

But the municipality is trying to dirty Lawaakamp.

"They have also stopped collecting the rubbish and the night soil properly - they just do a full job, to try and demoralise the people. Already, there are only 4 taps for the whole of Lawaakamp."

"The Civic has organised against the Council. They have divided Lawaakamp into three zones, and elected cleaning committees. Those

committees organise residents to clean up the township. "We are showing the world that we are here to stay", says a Civic

member. "If they are not prepared to clean Lawaakamp, we will. The Cleaning Committees get all the people practically involved in resisting the removal."

Mbulelo Grootboom up for subversion

BIG subversion trial is set to start in the George Regional Court soon.

David Mbulelo Grootboom 27 years old, a worker of Sanyasi's appeared briefly in court in April in the George Regional Court in connection with subversion. The case has been postponed till the 30th of June.

whereby evidence will be laid. The state alleged that David made or assisted to make subversive statements at a meeting in George last year in August.

David experienced great harassment during the last couple of years. In 1986 he was detained under the Emergency Regulations and had been held for over one year. Three months after his release he was again detained for

a further five months under Emergency Regulations.

On the 10th February this year, he was charged with subversion and released on R500 bail.

He was also notified in terms of the Emergency Regulations to the magisterial district of Oudtshoorn.



shoots. He is also not allowed to participate in any activities of the Bongiwe Youth Organisation and the Bongiwe Civic Association.

He is further not allowed to participate in any SADF activities and also

address any gathering of more than ten people. He must report every Monday.

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"Fight for democracy" says condemned man

WHILE 1500 people pay tribute to Michael Lucas the night before his execution, three other families also shed tears because their sons are also destined for the rope. The three Goudshoorn prisoners, Patrick Magpies, Desmond Majola and

Dickson Madikane, were sentenced to death in the Cape Town Supreme Court in 1985 for the murder of the Communist's Coordinator, Mr Magrenere nicknamed "The Big Boy".

They were paid a visit last week by their families, and Goudshoorn spoke to some of the family members. The father of Patrick said "My son is still going strong and did not show any sign of remorse concerning their predicament.

They, the prisoners, appreciate what people are doing for them. They urge that we must continue to struggle for a democratic South Africa". His father concluded:

"The week before the hanging of Michael Lucas our families were with him. We consider these executions."

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"We will stay here until Lawaakamp is upgraded"

We fear for Peter Mokaba's life

PETER Mokaba's recent detention has shocked and angered many people. The brutal and savage treatment reportedly meted out to him by the state leaves us fearing for his safety, no, his life. We are only too painfully aware of the many comrades who have "taken their own lives", whilst in the hands of the state.

According to his sister, his mother was also detained shortly after she had accidentally seen him, after a blunder by the police. His mother claimed that she had

seen and spoken to him and he told her that he was being tortured. She also saw bruises in his face. This is not difficult to believe as recent studies of detentions have revealed that detainees sometimes undergo cruel and inhumane treatment in the hands of the security police.

Peter, 26 years old, is the president of SAYCO (South African Youth Congress).

Much of Mokaba's life has been spent in the jails of apartheid. In 1977, when he was only 15 he had his first



Under the law it is an offence to publish the photo of anyone in detention.

taste of prison. In 1983 he spent 2 years in prison for furthering the aims of the African National Congress.

SAYCO consists of 500 youth organisations, uniting its

700,000 members under one banner. The launch of SAYCO is described as one of the most significant political developments in this country in recent history.

On his release, he was almost immediately re-detained and charged for being a soldier of

Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC. He spent a year in prison before being released after a successful appeal against his sentence.

He was again detained in 1985, and spent a further 8 months in "preventative detention".

No one comrade is indispensable. Structures and organisations have to be built. When any comrade falls

there shall always be others to take their place. This is part of the philosophy of SAYCO. It is this kind of

thinking which gave birth to the slogan of SAYCO,

"FREEDOM OR DEATH, VICTORY IS CERTAIN". It is this kind of thinking which shall ensure that SAYCO will not die.

We demand that Peter and all our comrades in detention and on "Death Row" be released as their only crime is being dedicated to the fight against tyranny and for justice and democracy in a free South Africa. If that is a crime, we, all 26 million of us should be jailed.

Education not re-registration



Students are calling for the immediate release of detained pupils and teachers, the abolition of corporal punishment and an end to police harassment.

Viva Cape Democrats

WHITES cannot be left behind in the struggle. They have to be pulled along. That was the message of the launching rally of Cape Democrats, opened by veteran activist Helen Joseph.

For Helen and Cape Democrats Chairperson Amy Thornton, the event was a nostalgic one. Both had been members of the Congress of Democrats which was banned along with the ANC 35 years ago. Now, with 2000 people at the City Hall, they were launching a new organisation to bring white democrats into struggle.

Cape Democrats was formed at a conference two weeks earlier. 120 delegates decided to form a non-racial organisation to bring whites into the democratic movement. They voted that Cape Democrats should adopt the Freedom Charter, and seek affiliation to the UDF.

Cape Democrats would help to strengthen non-racialism by bringing more white democrats into the democratic movement, Amy Thornton told the launching rally.

Whites had more space to organise because they were treated with "soft gloves" by the regime, said Father Smangalis Mkhathwa, former Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference. Organisations like Cape Democrats should use that space to help protect the defenceless majority from repression, he said.

IF coloured and black education authorities are harvesting bitter crops they only have themselves to blame for they sowed the seeds of discontent this year. And, one does not need a crystal ball to forecast that the discontent at Cape Flats high schools will continue.

Peace will only return once South Africa has been transformed into a non-racial democracy with one education system.

Sadly, an organisation like the National Education Crisis Committee which could have defused the situation has been restricted.

There were early signs that this would not be a trouble-free year at schools but the warnings were ignored.

The Department of Education and Training did not cover itself with glory on February 16, the second day of an unprecedented three-day stayaway by teachers, when it refused to see black high school teachers at its offices on the Foreshore.

Cape Democrats should go and reassure the white community that they had nothing to fear from democracy, Fr. Mkhathwa said. "Those white democrats who have already joined the struggle have proved to themselves that black and white people can live together".

It was also important that Cape Democrats take whites into the townships to see the reality of their country. "Many overseas visitors come to our townships and then leave knowing more about this country than whites who were born here", he said.

Cape Democrats would face many difficulties said Fr. Mkhathwa. But the organisations should persevere, because they would play an important role in bringing about a new South Africa.

Messages of support for Cape Democrats were received from many organisations and individuals, including SAYCO, UWCO and UDF Publicity Secretary Hilda Ndude. Singer Jennifer Ferguson also appeared at the rally, and sang songs about the oppression of children in South Africa.

After only three weeks, Cape Democrats has over 200 paid-up members. And, as more than 1,000 whites in the City Hall raised their fists to sing the National Anthem, it was clear that the organisation has great potential.

Teachers were instructed to report for duty at schools the next day. A spokesman for the teachers said they wanted the department to admit all pupils who had failed to enrol when the deadline for registration expired on February 2.

The teachers ignored the directive to return to school on February 17. Instead they met under bizarre circumstances at Uluntu Centre in Guguletu. They were initially prevented from holding the meeting, but were allowed to go ahead after agreeing to police being present, not to discuss

boycotts and to restrict discussions to a report-back of a meeting their representatives had had with Mr Sam de Beer, Deputy Minister of Education and Training.

Early in March, the delegation met Mr de Beer again, leaving his office "empty-handed". Significant about the teachers' stayaway is that for the first time members of the democratic African Teachers' Union and the Peninsula African Teachers' Association were united in their opposition to the department.

Members of both organisations were part of the two delegations which had met Mr de Beer.

Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, answering a question from Progressive Federal Party MP for Gardens, said in Parliament in March that the boycott had affected eight high schools in the Peninsula.

He said the Joint Students' Representative Council, a branch of the Western Cape Students' Congress, had distributed pamphlets calling on pupils to sympathise with pupils turned away from schools.

He described the pamphlets as "intimidating, inflammatory and inciting".

The department, in turn, distributed a counter-pamphlet saying stayaway actions were senseless in the townships.

"Today, the security forces are effectively threatening to occupy schools in the name of 'law and order', they said.

"We want to say clearly: education cannot happen at gunpoint. The response of the authorities is a recipe of chaos and confrontation that destroys all hope of 'normal' schooling and undermines a meaningful educational process."

They said security forces "have no experience that qualifies them to be involved in the educational process". They called for an end to the harassment of teachers and pupils, the release of detainees and for democratic organisations to be allowed to meet freely. They urged the Department of Education and Training to reinstate all suspended teachers unconditionally.

Their demands were the minimum preconditions to ensure a basis for negotiation and peace in schools, they said. At a Press conference called by the group, Mr Sonn said it would be useless and a waste of time for the group to speak to education authorities — "because they do not control schools."

The major issue was the Government's refusal to allow pupils and teachers to express themselves, he said. He found the demands of the Western Cape Students' Congress reasonable and fair, he said.

Five of the teachers who took part in the stayaway were suspended without pay for alleged misconduct in March. They are Mr OM Mbekwa and Mr Ernest Hendla of ID Mkize High School in Guguletu and Mr Thembikile Plaatjie, Mr Vuyo Hlaba and Mr Zolile Fonya of Langa High School.

Their suspension triggered off another wave of dissatisfaction. Tension at schools increased last week over a police threat to "force" Mitchell's Plain pupils into classrooms if they "mill around" schools. The regional inspector of the Department of Education and Culture, Mr DJ Rabie, warned that police believed some pupils were not interested in normal programmes and were disrupting schools.

The police threat was condemned by various teachers, principals, Wecoco and the Democratic Lawyers Organisation. This week was in many ways reminiscent of 1985 — the year when Cape Flats held a protracted boycott of school — as thousands of pupils protested against developments and conditions at Cape Flats high schools.

Wecoco, which represents pupils at most Cape Flats schools, called for the immediate release of detained pupils and teachers, the abolition of corporal punishment and an end to "police harassment". The congress said pupils demanded the right to hold peaceful marches and rallies.

It also called on the Department of Education and Training to admit more than 1000 pupils refused admission to black high schools this year and to abolish the system requiring pupils to carry blue cards giving them access to schools.

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"The Civic has organised against the Council. They have divided Lawaakamp into three areas, and elected cleaning committees. Those

committees organise residents to clean up the township. "We are showing the world that we are here to stay", says a Civic

member. "If they are not prepared to clean Lawaakamp, we will. The Cleaning Committees get all the people practically involved in resisting the removal."

Mbulelo Grootboom up for subversion

BIG subversion trial is set to start in the George Regional Court soon.

David Mbulelo Grootboom 27 years old, a worker of Sanyasi's appeared briefly in court in April in the George Regional Court in connection with subversion. The case has been postponed till the 30th of June.

whereby evidence will be laid. The state alleged that David made or assisted to make subversive statements at a meeting in George last year in August.

David experienced great harassment during the last couple of years. In 1986 he was detained under the Emergency Regulations and had been held for over one year. Three months after his release he was again detained for a further five months under Emergency Regulations.

On the 10th February this year, he was charged with subversion and released on R500 bail.

He was also notified in terms of the Emergency Regulations to the magisterial district of Oudtshoorn and the Bantustan Civic Association.



He is further not allowed to participate in any SADF activities and also address any gathering of more than ten people. He must report every Monday.

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"Fight for democracy" says condemned man

WHILE 1500 people pay tribute to Michael Lucas the night before his execution, three other families also shed tears because their sons are also destined for the rope. The three Goudshoorn prisoners, Patrick Magpies, Desmond Majola and

Dickson Madike, were sentenced to death in the Cape Town Supreme Court in 1985 for the murder of the Communist's Coordinator, Mr Magrenere nicknamed "The Big Boy".

They were paid a visit last week by their families, and Goudshoorn spoke to some of the family members. The father of Patrick said "My son is still going strong and did not show any sign of remorse concerning their predicament. They, the prisoners,

appreciate what people are doing for them. They urge that we must continue to struggle for a democratic South Africa". His father concluded "The week before the hanging of Michael Lucas our families were with him. We consider these executions."

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The state is trying to demoralise people but we are showing the world that we are here to stay.

"We will stay here until Lawaakamp is upgraded"

Child-minding in Belhar

A child-minding project has been initiated by the Belhar Advice Office (BAO). The project started on 15 February this year with only four childminders. Two field workers, Riviera Syme and Cedric Ntshivumbe co-ordinated the project. Already we have 11 childminders and 60 children.

The broad aims and objectives of the project are:

- * To create job opportunities and reduce unemployment by involving as many childminders as possible.
- * To articulate problems in the area such as children in the streets, early school leaving, etc. and to provide childcare facilities.
- * To improve the standard of education of childminders by educational training by Grassroots Educare and ELRU
- * To bring parents together so that they can help their children in the involvement of a day centre or creche in the area.
- * To bridge the gap between early learning and school-going children.
- * To build a good relationship between the community and the Advice Office.

ACTIVITIES

On the 25 February this year the childminders had a training workshop at Belhar Minor Hall. They then had a joint outing workshop with the Extension Youth Congress on 12

March.

The childminders have visited other day-care centres and pre-schools like Blackheath Childminding Project, the Early Learning Centre and the Belhar Pre-school Association. The local clinic in Belhar has been contacted, they are supportive of the project and a good working relationship has been built up with them.

PROBLEMS

There are Transport, financial and venue problems. The BAO do not have a vehicle and this has severely hampered the amount of work that could be done by the two field workers, who have to rely on public transport.

The project depends heavily on the fees of the parents, although some support is received from Grassroots Educare Centre.

For meetings the houses of different childminders are used, but for training sessions they can only use the Minor Hall during the childminding hours.

THE WAY FORWARD

To get more people involved, the Office will try to draw in the Youth Movements and other progressive community organisations in the area. We are working towards developing a pre-school structure in the area, as well as trying to strengthen the organisations in Belhar and initiate more projects like this.

The reason for Ramadan

FROM 18th April to the 17th of May, it is the month of Ramadan for Muslims all over the world. From before sunrise no food or drink will pass the lips of Muslims until the call to prayer at sunset (Maghrib).

This month of fasting is far more than just a hunger strike. It's a month of self discipline to control not only one's appetite, but to develop a better attitude to Allah (God),

to religion, to one's fellow human beings and to life.

According to the Qur'an: "O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may ward off evil."

In this month then you will see many signs of "warding off" these evils. You will see, for example that the mosques will be full. Muslims will pray as they should always, 5

times a day.

At night children will take cookies to their neighbours. This is training to ward off the evil of separateness, of selfishness and individualism. Instead, sharing, a sense of community and togetherness is encouraged.

In this month, while some fast out of choice, others fast because they have no food. Many of our people suffer hunger pangs all their lives. Ra-

madan is not only in solidarity with their struggle, the pangs of hunger remind us that the evil of poverty, low wages and exploitation must be wiped out completely.

But it is not only food that is abstained from, it is also lying, gossiping, backbiting and so on that needs to be sacrificed. All the evils that oppose truth must be worked against. The lies and gossip we see and hear on TV and in

the state media is also included in this. It is obvious that they do not know how to fast.

Ramadan is then the month of training. It is a training session with good ones, replacing separateness with togetherness and community, replacing selfishness with sharing, replacing lies with truth. It is a time to create believers in Allah who will stand up for these values.



Despite Botha's attempt to divide the people of the church from their leaders, Christians everywhere are standing up for truth and justice.

A prophetic voice of justice and hope

South Cape Sash on the move

In May 1955 six housewives decided to do something about the Senate Bill that was to remove 'Coloured' voters from the Cape common roll.

The organisation was soon nick-named the 'Black Sash' by the Press.

Though the campaign failed to stop the Bill being passed, the members resolved to continue the fight and to oppose the Governments attempts to entrench apartheid in every sphere of the South African life.

Commented Jean Sinclair, the organisation's first president. "We knew that no short term solution was possible, we would have to settle down to years of dogged and sustained protest against injustice and discrimination".

What does the Black Sash do?

It strives for the recognition and protection by law of human rights and liberties.

It protests against any law or regulation which diminishes the rights and freedoms of the individual.

It also runs advice offices, which are operating throughout the country.

The Black Sash also sends members to attend court cases relating to unrest all over the country.

During the last few years membership has increased enormously.

It is clear that a growing number of women, uneasy about the path South Africa is taking, join the Black Sash to stand up and be counted.

THE Christian tradition clearly affirms that when human authority conflicts with divine authority the sovereignty of God must prevail. When a government consistently abuses its power and fails to act in the common good the church is obliged to respond in two ways: *Firstly*, it must resist the tyranny of the prevailing government in the interests of true government. Under such circumstances the highest service the church can pay the state is to expose its illegitimacy and pave the way for just and true government. *Secondly*, the church must act to restore hope amongst the victims of tyranny. In this way

the church embraces the cause of suffering people

as they struggle for freedom and full human life.

In affirming this tradition, most South African churches have for at least thirty years protested the systemic development of legal structure which protects white interests and excludes the majority black population from meaningful participation in political processes.

These churches have expressed anger at the suffering caused by oppressive legislation to millions of black South Africans; they have declared apartheid to be an heretical contradiction of the essence of the gospel; they

have made representa-

tions, sent letters and appeals, and formulated resolutions; they have prayed for an end to unjust rule and the inception of just government; and some Christians have engaged in costly non-violent resistance to the state. All these appeals have fallen upon the deaf ears of the apartheid regime, which persists in its evil domination and exploitation of the majority of South Africans.

In response to this church leaders have sought to translate the prophetic message of the gospel into dramatic acts of resistance, which af-

firm the Lordship of Je-

sus Christ above all human authority. In so doing they merely proclaim in action what has long been verbally articulated.

Therefore, the current escalating conflict between church and state in South Africa results, on the one hand, from the governments persistent failure to respond to the cry of church and nation and, on the other hand, from determination of the churches to actively affirm the sovereignty of

God as both a judgement against tyranny, and source of hope for the oppressed.

In this situation we call

all Christians to re-affirm

the Lordship of Christ and stand behind their leaders. All attempts to discredit and destroy the prophetic voice of the church is a challenge to God and all Christians. The South African government claims for itself authority which is God's alone, and it is upon this supreme blasphemy that it will stumble and fall.

Further we call upon all Christians to redouble the search for strategies of non-violent resistance which will demonstrate the Lordship of Christ, help to remove the tyrant and enable the establishment of just and true government.

Ashton se vet katte

Liewe grassroots,

Ek is baie hartseer oor wat in Ashton gebeur. Die kinders het in November geboikot vir een (1) dag. Die gemeenskapsraad het nou n groep ondersteuners wat nou mense in die nag slaan. Hierdie mense wat as die INKATHA bekend staan, werk saam met die Polisie.

Die regering het glo geld aan die gemeenskapsraad oorhandig vir hulp aan die werkloos, maar hulle (inkatha) verdeel dit onder mekaar en sê dit is vir hulle omdat hulle in die nag al die swaar werk moet doen, (dit is nou om mense in die nag te slaan).

Om ons mense nog verder kwaad te maak is daar die ding van die kontrakteurs wat huise bou in Ashton. Die Inkatha het vir hulle gesê dat hulle vir Ashton se kontrakwerkers in hul diens slegs R20-00 p.w. moet betaal.

Hierdie Inkatha, of VET KATTE soos ons in Ashton vir hulle noem, sorg aan die anderkant baie goed vir hulself en hulle ondersteuners. Hulle ontvang hulle gewone salaris as fabriekwerkers plus die R50-00 p.w. vir die nag werk. Hulle die VET KATTE misgun vir die kontrakwerkers van Ashton 'n regverdige leefbare loon. Hierdie VET KATTE doen hulle bair vroom voor en sommige van hulle staan soms agter die preekstoel.

Ons in Ashton voel die VET "Inkatha" KATTE kriminele is, want hulle steel van ander mense. Hulle moet egter onthou dat daar 'n GOD is wat nie slaap nie, en ook nie vergeet nie.

Eenheid in die stryd,
Eddie Mkweto.

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DE LANDE - Waar water 'gesteel' word



TERWYL ons almal koorsagtig alle nuus verslind het oor die Vloedgeteisterde gebiede, is daar 'n gebied binne ons landsgrense wat vir die afgelope sewe (7) jaar geen noemenswaardige reënval gehad het nie. Hierdie gebied is DE LANDE - 'n groep van 4 plase rondom Van Wyksvlei, 'n dorpie in die Karoo.

Terwyl ons almal gebied en gehoop het dat die slagoffers van die vloedramp tog net nie hulle lewe moet inboet in hul pogings om van die waters te ontfug nie, is daar ander manse wat hul vryheid en liggaamlike leed moet trotseer om slegs 'n beker te bekom. Hierdie mense is die sogenaamde Kleurlinge van De Lande.

Volgens die 1985 sensus het Van Wyksvlei ongeveer 1000 Kleurlinge waarvan 520 (85 gesinne) op De lande woon. Die meeste mense verrig seisoenwerke, soos die skeer van skaap, en die ander is pensioentrekkers.

Hulle huur bouvallige kleinhuise wat verhuur word teen 'n huishuur vanaf R8,00 tot R20,00 pm. Die huisvesting is baie haglik en ongeskik vir bewinning deur mense Selfs die Kareerberg Afdelingsraad moes in 'n brief aan die sendingkerk toegee dat die huise "nie voldoen aandie Platte-landse Sanitêre regulasie nie".

Weens die armoede van die De Lande inwoners kan hulle nie alternatiewe huisverting bekom nie. Die plaasboere besef die stand van sake en huiwer nie om dit uit te buit en sodoende hul houvas op die mense te versetweg nie.

Soos bv. die geval van 'n sekere Mnr. Bosman wat na 'n woordewisseling met die plaaseenaar summier in die pad gestee is. Hy is met sy hele gesin en besittings langs die groot pad afgelaai. Temperatuur van daardie tyd het gewissel vanaf 40 tot 45°C.

Hulle het 'n kombors oor 'n bos gespan vir beskutting teen die bloedige hitte. Mnr. Bosman se twee klen kinders was na drie dae in die bloedige hitte in 'n verskriklike toestand.

Tydlike huisvesting is vir hom en sy gesin gereël deur 'n gemeenskapsorganisasie - CARAVAN, 'n samesmelting van die gemeenskapsorganisasie van Carnavon, en Van Wyksvlei. Die inwoners van De Lande het dit duidelik gestel dat die Bosman-insident glad nie 'n geïsoleerde gebeurtenis

is nie, maar dit die gebruik by plaaseenaars is om geskille met werkers so op te los!

Huisvesting is egter nie grootste probleem van die De Lande inwoners nie. Hul grootste probleem is WATER!

Vir die afgelope sewe jaar word die gebied deur 'n ongenadige droogte geteister. Die inwoners van De Lande word verplig om water van moddergatte, aan te ry. Hierdie moddergatte dien ook as die drinkplek van diere.

S'oms tref die mense dooie diere in die water

aan. Hierdie karkasse moet hulle dan net uit die moddergatte verwyder en voortgaan om hulle houeers met die vrot water te vul.

Die water word per donkiekar na De Lande se inwoners vertvoer en teen 'n tarief van R2,50 per drom verkoop.

Kraanwater is vir die De Lande-inwoners taboe Hulle word ingevolge 'n munisipale regulasie verbied om kraanwater op Van Wyksvlei te drink.

Vir drinkwater vir hul kinders het baie inwoners van De Lande 'n probeer

om water op die dorp te "steel". Laar in die nag sluip die inwoners die dorp binne en probeer dan hul houeers by die publieke krane vul.

Indien hulle deur die plisie betrap word, word hul houeers met water omgekeer en hulle uit die dorp gejaag. Die De Lande inwoners is verbitter oor die stand van sake maar besef dat daar baie min is wat hulle kan doen om hul posisie te verbeter, tensy hulle die bystand van die kleurlinge wat in die dorp Van wyksvlei woon, kry.



Werklose vroue, met die hulp van KCC, het n naaimasjien klub in De Lande begin

WCKO word ongewens verklaar

WESKUS Christelike Kultuur Organisasie (WCKO) is ongewens! Dit wat die eenparige besluit by die Algemene Jaarsvergadering vandie Weskus Raad van Kerke in Malmesbury. Die afgevaardigdes van 12 lidgemeentes het hierdie besluit geneem nadat getuies van verskillende afgevaardigdes aangehoor is van die manier waarop WCKO in hul gemeentes onmin en verdeelheid veroorsaak het.

Die WCKO sê dat hy interkerklik is en daarop uit is om die kinders, jongmense en ouers wat by hulle aansluit terug na God toe te bring om kinders van God te word. Afgevaardigdes van Vredenburg se Sendingkerk

het egter gesê dat WCKO hul veral op Kerkjeug en die Kerkhoor toegespits het. Hulle sê dat die jeug en kerkhoorlede opgedring. Die gevolg van hierdie bedrywighede was dat die kerkraad die kerkhoor ontbied het en sommige lede onder tug geplaas het as gevolg van hul optredes. Die seniorjeug is deur WCKO banadeel omdat hulle die jeug verdeel het en die juniorjeug het ook groot probleme gehad. Die gevolg van al hierdie WCKO-betrokkenheid was dat die kerkraad 'n besluit moes noem om lede van WCKO nie op kerklike verenigings se besture toe te laat nie.

Afgevaardigdes van Sal-

danha se drie kerke AME, CPSA en NGSK het ook getuig dat WCKO besig is om in hul gemeenskap die jeug te organiseer en te verdeel. Afgevaardigdes het verwys na kampe wat WCKO vir die jeug reël en die indruk wat hulle kry is dat WCKO baie geld tot hul beskikking het. Bewerings is ook gemaak dat hierdie geld afkomstig is van die Arbeidersparty.

Die Weskus Raad van Kerke het in sy besluit benadruk dat die organisering van die (kerk) jeug die verantwoordelikheid van die Christelike Kerk is. Die WRK het ook besluit om inligting oor die WCKO aan jeugtakke en lidgemeentes te stuur.

★ ★ Dear Grassroots ★ ★

I want to express my deep concern about the people of Zolani near Ashton in these times of difficulties.

Here at Ashton we have one factory where about everybody of the 4000 to 5000 souls are dependant during the season period that is from October up to March.

But what disgusts me is that most people from Zolani are not employed during this period and only people from Worcester, Robertson and surrounding farms are employed because there are some moneys they give out to the so-called Black Personnel Officer to buy work.

As far as Industrial Act is concerned a Personnel

Officer is supposed to be a trained person in that field who knows how to organise and place workers in a workplace.

The reasons for these bribes is that the responsible Personnel Officer vetkat and most people are comrades and therefore they have a least chance of ever getting employed.

We therefore want to see that the vetkat and comrade story in this factory is scratched and everybody should enjoy equal privileges in this capitalist factory. Young and old are denied equality of opportunities in this our town, Ashton.

Thanking you,

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JMC's and total strategy

A huge network of over 500 committees, controlled by the military and police is co-ordinating governmental and state activity at every level of South African life.

which allows the security forces (SADF & SAP) a big say in making decisions in every level of government.

Sinister

When the government declared its first state of emergency, the only system in place to monitor and control the various activities and functions was the old state security council machinery with its various committees and regional centres.

At that time the system was found to be lacking as far as proper communication and control channels were concerned, apart from the fact that it was designed for a different function. A new structure, the National Security Management System, was introduced specifically for the running of the state of emergency.

Since then it has grown to such an extent that it now reaches across the country; having a presence in every town or dorpie.

There is very little known about this system

The committees are able to take part in decision-making right from the top levels of the state to the lowest.

1. At the top is the State Security Council (SSC) which works at cabinet level and meets twice a week. It makes recommendations on national "total strategy" to the cabinet.

2. The next level is the working committee of the SSC, made up of the heads of most of the government departments and other cabinet committees. It prepares and makes recommendations to the SSC.

3. The secretariate is the full-time staff of the SSC.

4. The next level is a set of inter-departmental committees, made up of representatives of all government departments. The titles of some of the 13 committees gives an idea of their work eg.

National Economy Manpower, Security Forces,

Culture & Political Affairs, etc. When the secretariate wants to develop a strategy for a particular problem, it passes the matter to the relevant committee.

5. At a regional level there are Joint Management Centres (JMC). There are said to be 12. There are 60 sub-JMC's and at the bottom, working at the level of Local Authorities, 448 mini-JMC's.

These committees are meeting regularly to discuss the security situation in their local areas, to swap information and develop strategies to deal with problems.

Undemocratic

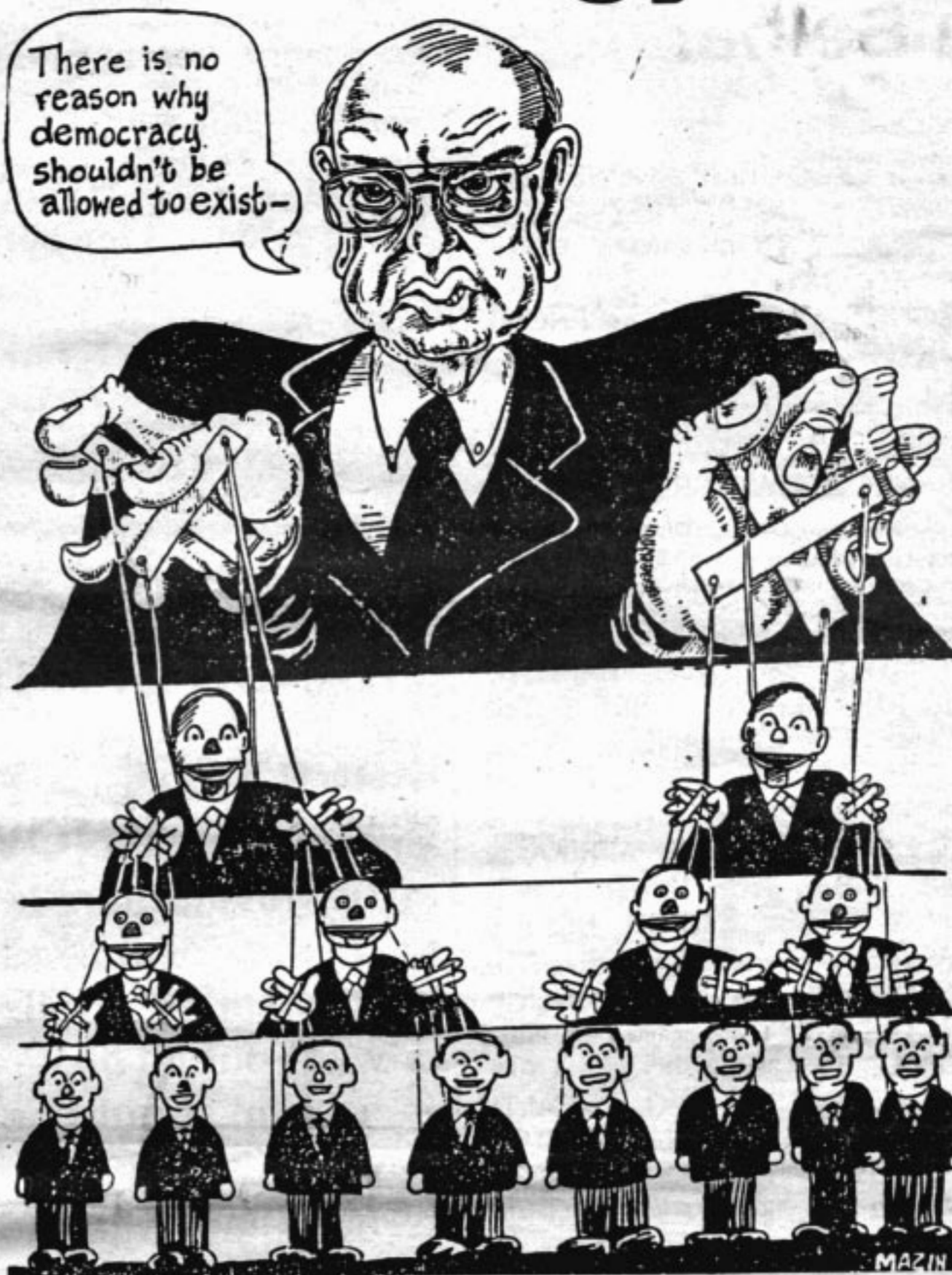
All JMC members are civil servants i.e. people who work for state institutions like principals and social workers. Though none of them are elected the chairman of JMC structures are all either senior military or police officers. As an example; represented on the JMC's of Bonteheuwel and Atlantis, are members of all state departments, management committees, the divisional council, as well as rate payers and personnel from the army and "local commanders".

JMC's functions

Every JMC, sub- or mini-JMC has 3 committees:

- The joint intelligence committee
- The political, economic and social committee
- The communications committee

The two main functions of the JMC, namely that of monitoring how "total strategy" is implemented on the ground



and working out strategies for dealing with matters at a local level: are performed by these 3 committees.

The intelligence committee allows police, military and the National intelligence service to gather together information at a local level (eg. water-shortage, stone-throwing, keeping tabs on community leaders, meetings, etc.

The political, economic and social committee deals with problems of rent, services and the provision of facilities.

The communications committee will communicate what the JMC wants to tell the people. If the

JMC has decided to address an issue, the committee will ensure that people know this through the press, radio and pamphlets.

Atlantis

Atlantis serves as a good example as to how they work. According to a researcher, the Cape Town JMC intervened when there was a problem with a residents association in Atlantis. It was felt that the association was creating a revolutionary climate and it was seen as a local threat. The JMC was given the task of working out a counter strategy. It therefore or-

ganised food parcels and soccer tours for the inhabitants. The communications committee organised pamphlets and newspaper coverage. The political, economic and social committee saw to it that the local MP's (Tricameral Parliament) were given the credit.

Investigation into the role and methods of the National Security Management System showed how this system was functioning alongside the normal state structure. The NSMS has been called a "shadow government" and is seen as "a sinister political development".

What is clear is that the plan for this "shadow government" developed out of the idea that South Africa is facing a "total onslaught". Thus a "total strategy" was needed.

The State Security Council secretary when interviewed, said that the Republic is faced by an attack on the constitutional, economic, social and security bases in accordance with a worked out plan. It was the conviction of the government, he said, that this threat could only be met and turned back by using the same methods of the "enemy" i.e. these four main factors.

JMC's are taking the credit for our victories

COMMUNITY organisations in Mitchells Plain only recently became aware of a Joint Management Centre in their area.

It came to light that a mini-JMC functioned after a recent meeting was held to discuss the new re-routing of buses. There has been a general outcry against this system which has resulted in commuters spending more money on travelling as well as losing their work bonuses and benefits by getting to work late.

Residents of the Rocklands area, together with the local civic body, met to discuss the issue.

About ten days after, the civic association was contacted by members of the Mitchell's Plain police office. The police enquired about the meeting, but also said that they were aware of the problem. They then said that if there were problems the police could solve them since "issues like that are just used by trouble-makers and agitators to stir up the community".

Community and civic organisations, knowing how the JMC's have been operating in townships like Atlantis, Bonteheuwel and Bishop Lavis, are quite suspicious of the motives and methods of the JMC.

A local youth member said that the people being co-opted onto the JMC committees had never been part of the area's grassroots organisations. "Where is Landers, the so-called MP for Mitchells Plain?" he asked. "He had a 0, percentage poll in the elections for the Tricameral Parliament. In the four years since then he has not once spoken to the people of the Plain. He does not know or care about our problems and grievances!"

Community workers are also cynical by what they see as an underhand attempt to win the support of the community. Local campaigning centred around legitimate demands which have been going on for years, are taken over by JMC's which have lots of money and resource. So they can take people on outings and hand out food parcels and upgrade streets. "We do not reject these things or deny the community facilities, etc. What we do reject is the JMC taking credit for them or telling us that it was Landers' hard work! In Mitchells Plain we've been fighting for a General Hospital for years and nothing has come of our efforts. But if they should build that hospital tomorrow, the JMC and sell-outs will take the credit, a civic angrily commented.

Tramways monopoly angers residents.

IN Mitchells Plain we are experiencing many problems and presently Transport is one of our biggest problems. The workers stay very far from their working places and trains and busses are never on time.

Recently City Tramways has implemented a new route in/out Mitchells Plain whereby people are boarding buses in their various areas and transported to the bus terminus which is in the Town Centre.

At first, the Civic Association in the area has given the new bus re-route a chance because we were told that the route will be shorter;

there will be more buses and that the busfares will not be increased but after two weeks since the new route was implemented people experienced lots of problems with the said route.

There are few buses, we are arriving late for work.

We have to wake up 30 minutes earlier to get to the busstop and drivers clipping cards unnecessary. The drivers and inspectors are confused about the new route and people are facing long queues at the terminus.

Rocklands Ratepayers Association then organised a meeting on 23rd February at the Rocklands Civic Centre where lots of workers travel-

ling by bus voiced their anger about the new route.

The other Residents Associations in the area also did different kinds of work concerning the bus re-route eg. surveys; interviews; getting views from bus travellers.

Tramways was contacted where they denied some of the complaints. The Rocklands Ratepayers again organised a meeting at the Rocklands Civic Centre on 10th March and invited

Tramways, they acknowledge receipt of our letters and later wrote to inform that they would send a representative to our meeting, who never pitched.

A place like Mitchells Plain will always have this transport problem because there are so many people living in the area, and transport is inadequate. More and more houses are being built and taxis in the area are trying to assist the residents by providing alternative transport. But they also experience lots of problems with the authorities and pirate taxis and we feel that we do have people in/outside Mitchells Plain who own busses and could provide transport e.g., Transport like the local bus drivers and Companies in our various areas but they are not allowed to do this because Tramways has the monopoly.

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COSATU, UWCO, DEFEND NECC, CALL OF ISLAM, CAHAC, WCCA, WPCC, WESCO, SANSKO, UWC SRC, UCT SRC, NUSAS, MAPP, BLACK SASH, ECC, NAMDA, IDASA, WCTA, DEFEND SAYCO, JEWS FOR JUSTICE, MOYCO, GAYCO, SAMWU, SADWU, SARHWU, CWIU, ILRIG, FREE THE CHILDREN ALLIANCE, SACC, CTPA, ADVICE OFFICE FORUM, TEAM, CUPC, CODAC, GAWU, CLOAUW, DIE SUID AFRIKAAN, VAKALISA, WESTRIDGE CIVIC, RAPE CRISIS, OPEN BOOKS, WYNBERG CRISIS, JUSTICE AND PEACE SUPPORT GROUP, ROCKLANDS RATEPAYERS CIVIC, AFRAPIX, CAPE DEMOCRATS, ERIC, HEALTH WORKERS SOCIETY, COSAW, HEALTH CARE TRUST, SURPLUS PEOPLES PROJECT,

**DEFEND U.D.F.
COMMITTEE**

**DEFEND CAYCO
COMMITTEE**

**DEFEND NECC
COMMITTEE**

For eight years grassroots newspaper has faithfully served the oppressed communities of the Western Cape. It has been a beacon of light in a time of darkness. Now Minister Stoffel Botha is trying to douse the light, and darken our lives still further.

**WE STAND BY
GRASSROOTS IN
THIS TIME OF TRIAL.**

We say

"HANDS OFF THE PRESS;

**WE HAVE A RIGHT TO
KNOW".**

The government is threatening to close down Grassroots in the interests of "public order": If they want public order the apartheid system should be closed down and the government should negotiate with the leaders of the people.

**WE SUPPORT THE
PEOPLE'S PAPER**

Jakes Gerwel, Alan Boesak, Franklin Sonn, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Steven Naidoo, Winnie Mandela, Mary Burton, Moulana Faried Essack, Johnny Issel, Essa Moosa, Dulla Omar, Syd Lukett, Cassiem Allie, Sheik Nazeem, Charles Villa Vicencio, Seraj Desai, Zubeida Jaffer, Leila Patel, Saleem Badat, Lionel Louw, Keith Gottschalk, Wilfred Rhodes, Mama Dorothea Zihlangu, Gaye Davis, Nomaindia Mfeketo, Hein Willemse, Don Richards, Neville v.d.Rheede, Mr. M.N. Moerat, Albertina Sisulu, Nabel Swarts, Amy Thornton, Antie Rashida, Martin Nicole, Colin Bundy, Dennis Cruywagen, Graeme Bloch, Basheer Wagley, Mrs. Tinto, Sheryl Carolus, Moosa Kaprey, Nic Henwood, Tony Heard, Naseegh Jaffer, Willie Hofmeyer, Rasheed Seria, Jimmy Mathews, Sahn Venter, Percy Sonn, Mike van Graan, Rashied Lombard, Moira Levy, Tony Weaver, Ronnie Morris, Chris Ledochowski, Helen Joseph, Rodger Meitjies, Omar Badsha, Jonathan Shapiro, Guy Tillum, Zubeida Vallie, Rehana Rossouw, Ampie Coetzee, Soraya Abbass, Ryland Fischer, Eric Miller, Chris Gutuza, Allie Parker, Zollie Malindi, Christmas Tinto, Roseberry Sonto.



Stoffel chases after Saamstaan

THE Oudsthoorn-based newspaper Saamstaan recently became the seventh publication to be warned in terms of the state of emergency press curbs.

In a letter hand-delivered to the newspaper Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha warned that he was considering gazetting a warning for the publication of 'subversive propoganda'.

Botha took exception to reports regarding the "honouring" of political activists and the Harare Conference. (Several children spoke at the conference of harsh treatment they had received while in detention).

He said the article served to cause hate and enmity towards the security forces.

Botha also considered reports on the Geneva Convention, the release of Govan Mbeki, an interview with South African Youth Congress leader, Peter Mokaba and public violence to be subversive.

At the end of last month Saamstaan was given two

weeks to respond to the warning.

Botha's office notified Saamstaan last week that it had not yet received a written submission contesting reason for Botha's decision.

In another development two men from the Department of Internal Affairs recently visited the offices of a Catholic Bishop and confiscated all correspondence regarding overseas funding to Saamstaan. To date the correspondence had not been returned.

Derick Jackson said there appeared to be a concerted attack against the newspaper.

"The state wants to silence the mouth of the oppressed people of the Southern Cape, but we will do our best to ensure that Saamstaan continues to appear," he said. Jackson and two other workers, Mbulelo Grootboom and Reggie Oliphant, were restricted recently following restrictions placed on 17 organisations.



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ONLY
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south
Hands off the Press!

SOUTH IS CLOSED DOWN

An attack on the press is an attack on you

"We know and steadfastly support Grassroots for the role they play in the community. We can imagine the information deficiency that can result if your newspaper meets the same fate as the New Nation" - SANSCO

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BY RASHID SERIA, Editor of the Cape Town-based weekly SOUTH.

When I compare the present media situation in our country to that of Nazi Germany certain people appear quite sceptical of my analogy.

Mainstream commercial newspapers make no reference to it, very few people question the comparison, and even fewer talk about it.

This scepticism is actually symptomatic of a disease in our country which allows for some of us to declare — "things are not really that bad".

It is symptomatic of how

the apartheid government has gained control of the hearts and minds of a substantial number of our people that when a newspaper is shut down some of us believe it actually does not affect them.

That while the Botha government is busy crushing the entire infrastructure of the democratic movement we still find Britain and Europe merrily trading with this country.

That while many are killed in Maritzburg and other parts of our country, we find major newspapers leading their front pages with stories of a horse being electrocuted or a man dying while having

sex.

Almost on a daily basis, some or other of our rights are being wittled away — and our silence is tantamount to acquiescence.

In Nazi Germany many were aware of the impending holocaust but wrote very little because they chose survival of their newspapers or their foreign news agencies above telling the truth.

In South Africa today we find a situation where the mainstream newspapers and foreign media are being intimidated into submission.

The closure of smaller papers like New Nation and the closure

of SOUTH are used to terrify the major media companies to implement self-censorship as never seen before. On at least two papers, some staff have already walked out in disgust.

And foreign correspondents are toeing the line to get work permits.

Any black person who on a daily basis suffers the humiliation and exploitation of apartheid, will testify that the situation in our country is not improving — it is getting worse.

As far as the alternative media is concerned, the State is set on a course of elimination.

It is understandable that many community-based organisations are slowly rebuilding after the brutal repression in the post-1985 period. But it is still a tragedy that so few voices of protest are being raised.

An attack on SOUTH is not an attack on a small paper in the remote southern-most tip of our country.

An attack on any alternative newspaper is an attack on the extra-parliamentary black opposition, on the voteless and voiceless black masses of which papers like New Nation and SOUTH have become a mouthpiece.

An attack on SOUTH is an attack on YOU — and your right to be kept informed.

It is therefore imperative that organisations within the progressive movement rally to the cause of alternative papers facing closure.

It is the responsibility of each and every activist to ensure that this onslaught on the people's press is placed on the agenda of all organisations, trade unions, religious organisations, civic bodies etc.

We should never forget the words of Pastor Pieter Niemoller describing how the Nazis gained power:

"I stayed silent and when (at last) they came for me, there was no one left to protest".

**They came for the Communists
and I did not speak up because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Jews
and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew
Then they came for the Trade Unionists,
and I did not speak up because I was not a Trade Unionist.
They came for the Catholics
and I did not speak up because I was a Protestant
Then they came for me
- and by that time there was no one left to speak.**

grassroots comment

WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH

NEVER before has the white minority government been shaken as today.

Politically they are at a loss. When we hear them talk of appointing another Prime Minister then we know how deep they are in the mud.

Their economy is in a shambles. And what makes it worse for them is that they don't know how to get out of it.

Sanctions are biting and they just cannot sell their products so easily overseas anymore. Foreign companies are fleeing and international loans are fast drying up.

They have very few friends left in the world. What last did we hear Reagan or Thatcher speaking up for them?

Their war against the people of Angola is turning against them. At Cuito Cuanavale they have been stopped. Thousands of fresh Cuban soldiers arrived recently in Angola and they could do absolutely nothing about it.

Their puppets in Namibia are in disarray whereas the support Swago is enjoying has never been stronger.

Recently one of their chief puppets in the international bogged for us to be marched into parliament as if we were waiting all these years in the gallery. There is only one discussion we can have, as Nelson Mandela put it: About the hand over of power.

The white minority government is desperate.

They are attacking our Church, our bishops and our priests. They have declared war on our school children and their teachers. They are terrorising our principals. And they have cut the funds of our universities.

They try to smash our organisations and ban our process. They murder our leaders and instigate violence against our communities.

Now they have come for our newspapers. But we know they are not strong.

Their state of emergency which has lasted for two long years has not stopped our protest.

At the end of last year all over the Western Cape we openly rallied with Mbeki's face in black-green-and-gold. Once again our students have begun to occupy our streets. The bosses are scared to freeze the wages of our workers despite Mbeki's pleas and threats that they should do so.

Our people have not been defeated. We always knew their racial arrogance would not last forever. Let us master all our strengths in defence of our newspapers. Let us defend Grassroots which we have built into one of our finest democratic projects. Let us advance towards the final battle.



New Nation was closed down on March 22, South on May 9. Who will be next?

Repression won't stop us

THE warning from Staffel Botha is the government's latest attack on Grassroots which has been the target of state repression since its inception. Months after the paper was started in 1980, the first organiser, Johnny Isak was banned. In terms of his banning order, he was prohibited from being involved in the activities of Grassroots.

In the eight years of Grassroots existence, six editors were banned under the Publications Act. Each time the ban was challenged and lifted after successful appeals.

In 1985 six staff members were detained under security legislation, including two to publish the paper. During that year, only one edition was issued. On October 11 1985 Grassroots offices in Corporation Street, Cape Town was burned down in a mysterious fire. Des-

pite information given to the police about a security policeman seen in the building shortly before the fire began, the police are yet to make arrests. Recently, the state has been attempting to criminalise the work done by Grassroots. Charges under the Police Act are

being investigated for the publication of an article on kibibombel action against Grand Reef residents. Grassroots was recently visited by the security police who are investigating charges of promoting the aims of an unlawful organisation.

The investigation follows a statement from the ANC calling for an end to violence in black townships. The statement was read in most of the major daily newspapers, including the Argus, the Cape Times and papers in other countries.

Yet Grassroots is the only paper being charged with carrying the statement. The latest attack, the warning from the Minister of Home Affairs, is an attempt to close down the paper.

Building the people's voice

WHEN Grassroots first appeared on the streets of Cape Town in 1980, we knew that the day would come when it would no longer print. How soon, we did not know. The watchful eyes of the censors were always upon us. The knowledge spread to us to make every edition the best one. We knew too, that the success of Grassroots did not depend on the length of its lifespan, but on its quality and the extent to which it took the struggle forward.

There is no doubt that Grassroots has done this. "We speak for ourselves" is a statement written over the pages of Grassroots. It is a statement which speaks of the demands of our people, of our joys, our hopes and fears in our struggle.

It is a press which speaks of the unity and organisation of the oppressed and of a life in a free and democratic South Africa in which the people shall govern.

Grassroots emerged in the early eighties at the height of the school, bus and rail riots, boycotts and it continued through the years to build and strengthen our organisations. It also aimed to inform and educate to about why we suffer under apartheid.

Through Grassroots, ourselves and in our ability to change things.

More importantly, Grassroots struggles at a local level to national struggles. Local demands for rents we can afford become national demands for housing, security and control. Grassroots has been part and parcel of the building of a mass, national democratic movement for change in this country.

And so, it is not unusual that when that democratic movement is under attack by the Government, that Grassroots, too, becomes one of the targets.

Grassroots has always written about the genuine leaders of the people. It is these leaders who have been selected and jailed.

Grassroots has projected the voice of the voiceless majority and it is the organisations of the people which have been banned and restricted.


Grassroots has always tried to fill the gaps of what is spiced and ignored by the commercial newspapers. This could now also end. But more importantly Grassroots

has been waging a war against the ideas and beliefs of an apartheid government. It has tried to put forward ideas and beliefs of the people for a peaceful and just future.

It is with sadness that I write what could possibly



be my last story for Grassroots. There are those who contribute financially such as the traders who bought advertising and there are those who so willingly shared their skills in their efforts to bring about change in our country. To the subscribers and international supporters of Grassroots, we can only say: "Your contribution has built the voice of the people". It is because so many people have had a hand in Grassroots that it has and continues to be a true People's paper.

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Trogan horse' victims remembered


grassroots
ANC CALLS FOR UNITY

FREE - BUT FOR HOW LONG?
Release Section 29 detainees


THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH

Building the people's voice

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be my last story for Grassroots.

Many people have played their part in making the newspaper a success.

Over the years members of organisations wrote stories and distributed thousands of copies all over the Cape Flats.

There are those who contributed financially such as the traders who bought advertising and there are those who so willingly shared their skills in their efforts to bring about change in our country.

To the subscribers and international supporters

of Grassroots, we can only say... "Your contribution has built the voice of the people".

It is because so many people have had a hand in Grassroots that it has and continues to be a true People's paper.



"Hands off our paper" say our readers



Neville Naidoo of CAYCO

"MANY organisations see Grassroots as their very own paper. Grassroots is very close to the people".

These were the comments of Neville Naidoo, a member of the Cape Youth Congress in Belhar.

His views were echoed by dozens of people throughout Cape Town who have responded angrily at the threats against Grassroots by the Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha.

"Everything is becoming illegal", said Veronica Simmers who is an active member of the Rocklands Residents Association in Mitchells Plain. "Now even what you want to read is becoming illegal. I felt very angry when I heard of Stoffel Botha's threat against our paper.

Many people in our area always ask: "When are we getting our next Grassroots. This is because the paper speaks about our problems, our daily experience."

Marion Wanza, 20, of Manenberg said that Grassroots "serves a very valuable purpose in the community."

"We regularly use Grassroots in our door-to-door work. It is used to bring our people together and broaden our knowledge. The paper has played a valuable role in making people understand the importance of organisation."

Federation of South African Women (Fed-saw) member Mrs Lydia Olivier of Atlantis said:

"Grassroots is 'n koerant vir die gemeenskap. Deur Grassroots het ons in At-

lantis geleer wat in ander plekke aangaan. Die koerant beteken vir ons baie en moet bly staan".

Richard Ndлуzele of the South Africa Railway and Harbours Workers Union (Sarh-wu) felt strongly about the Government's attack against Grassroots. "The Government doesn't want us to see the bad things they are doing. They see our papers are exposing their actions.

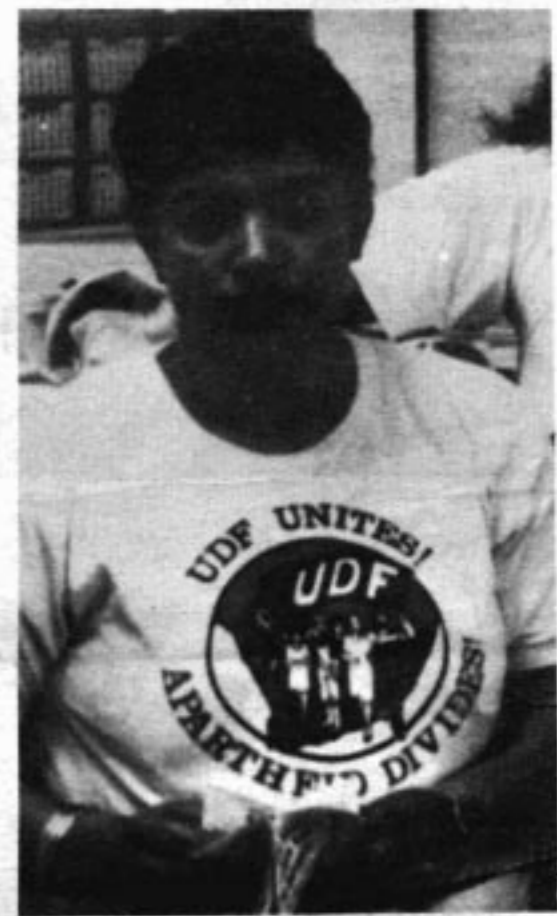
I first read Grassroots in 1985. All the workers find it very interesting. It was the first paper that speaks about the workers problems. The railway workers are always looking for Grassroots."

Patrick Solomons a worker at the Children's Magazine Molo Songololo said the public must be called upon to speak

out against the Government's clampdown against the press. Solomons first read a copy of Grassroots in 1980 - the first year it appeared. "I was very impressed by the paper. It handled issues which I had difficulty in understanding and cleared them up for me". Before I could not understand why rents were high, why there was so much unemployment".

Grassroots had played a very positive role in Atlantis, according to Badrika Daniels, a worker at the local advice office. She said: "Grassroots het mense bewus gemaak en ons mense verenig. Wanneer ons dinge bespreek in onse organisasies, dan gebruik ons Grassroots as a bron van inligting. Die koerant is baie opvoedkundig."

Grassroots interviewed numerous other people, young and old, worker, student and youth. It is difficult to publish all their comments.



Veronica Simmers of UDF

From humble beginnings...

When Grassroots first hit the streets in March 1980, it was received with great enthusiasm by the people of Cape Town. There were very few newspapers who so fully reflected our people's hopes and dreams, their pain and joy.

There were however some prophets of doom who said that this project would not last longer than a few months at the most.

They believed that heavy state repression and the dire lack of resources in our community would force the paper into very early retirement.

It is now history that 'the people's paper not only survived but also grew tremendously over the last eight years.

It did so despite banings, raids, detention of staff and executive members, the burning down of the offices in 1985 and the regular intimidation by the security police.

With one full-time organiser and a big group of volunteers, grassroots was produced six times during the first year. The full-time organiser worked from a modest little office in the centre of town, having regular contact with the developing community groups throughout the Peninsula and some of the surrounding rural areas.

It was sold for 5c during the first two years until, like the everything else, the cost price rose to 10c and eventually to 20c by the end of 1983.

EDITIONS

During its second year, the paper hit the streets on nine different occasions. Ten editions of Grassroots were produced in all subsequent years.

By the end of 1982 grassroots was deeply rooted in the community and

the project was set to develop even more rapidly. 1983 saw the birth of two new sections of the project - the Education and Training Section and the rural wing.

The education and Training Project responded to a very big need in the community to be trained in bringing out pamphlets, posters and newsletters to be used in their campaigns.

The Rural Project was started when groups of people started to organise in the rural areas following the national launching of the UDF in August 1983.

SAAMSTAAN

One of the major achievements of the rural project was the setting up of a unique community newspaper in the Southern Cape. The Oudtshoorn-based SAAMSTAAN, is today an independent paper serving

the people of Mossel Bay, George, Knysna, Plettenberg, Calitzdorp, Willowmore, Beaufort West and many more tiny rural dorpiers.

By the end of 1984, Grassroots had a full-time staff of six people - a full-time co-ordinator, an administrative assistant, a news and production co-ordinator, a distribution co-ordinator, an education and training officer and a rural organiser.

During 1985 and 1986, two new products of Grassroots Publications saw the light of day.

Learning Roots, a student publication was initially an insert in Grassroots until it was developed as a separate newsletter to serve the student mass

New Era, a political magazine, first appeared in 1986 but was regularly produced from the beginning of 1987.

So, what started out as a tiny publication with circulation of 5,000 has now grown into a full-scale media projects with at least five main subsections.

The average circulation Grassroots and Learning Roots stands at 30 000. Both are distributed free of charge.

New Era has a readership of close to 5 000.

Ten people presently staff the project and despite threats to close down the Grassroots newsletter, the staff and executive plan to expand even further in the following year.

As in the case of other attempts in the past, Stoffel's plans to shut Grassroots for three months will be met with firm and resolute resistance.

"We are deeply concerned about the 'total onslaught' against the press in our country and support the 'Hands off the Press' campaign" - Methodist Church Christian Citizenship Department

"We support your newspaper for its commitment to truth, a free informative and democratic press in South Africa. May your voice be heard for many centuries to come" - Advice Office Forum



Singing and dancing



for the struggle

Why a women's cultural festival?

We as South Africans have a rich cultural heritage. But what precisely do we define as our culture? Franz Fanon pointed out that the colonisers or the ruling class had to in order to successfully oppress the colonised people, distort the history and culture of the oppressed people.

A characteristic of colonial domination is imposing the colonial cul-

ture onto the colonised people. It is important for us who are working towards a new democratic society, to reclaim our culture. We have to break down the artificial barriers that apartheid has caused. It is our task as progressive women to build a new national culture.

Because of the subservient position of women in our society, women's cultural contribution is either invisible or devalued.

Women lives are largely confined to the home and so their creativity too is often contained within the sphere of the home. We can think of all the creative sewing, cooking and baking; but these activities are never acknowledged as creative. In the rural areas women make clay utensils. It is for these reasons that our festival exhibition does not only concentrate on conventional art like sculpture and painting but on all women's creative crafts.

As a federation of various women's organisations we also felt that we needed an activity that could encourage a working relationship amongst our affiliates. During the planning and preparation of this festival we have got to know one another and build up a spirit of co-operation.

The Saturday feté offered various treats from fish braai hosted by the Weskus to rooties and curries from Wynberg

and Athlone UWCO branches and Bellville community organisation.

The information stalls on women and religion women and health were very popular and the baby care stall.

The cultural programme also reflected the diversity of our cultural heritage we have in this country - we had man-janani dances from Nyanga and the highly stylized dancing by Jazz Art. There was the quiet corn-

er for poetry reading and the lively Gumba late Saturday night. There were serious dedication to heroes of the struggle like

Dulcie September, Ruth First, Victoria Mxenge by Uwco central to the hilarious poking of fun at the group areas by B.C.O.

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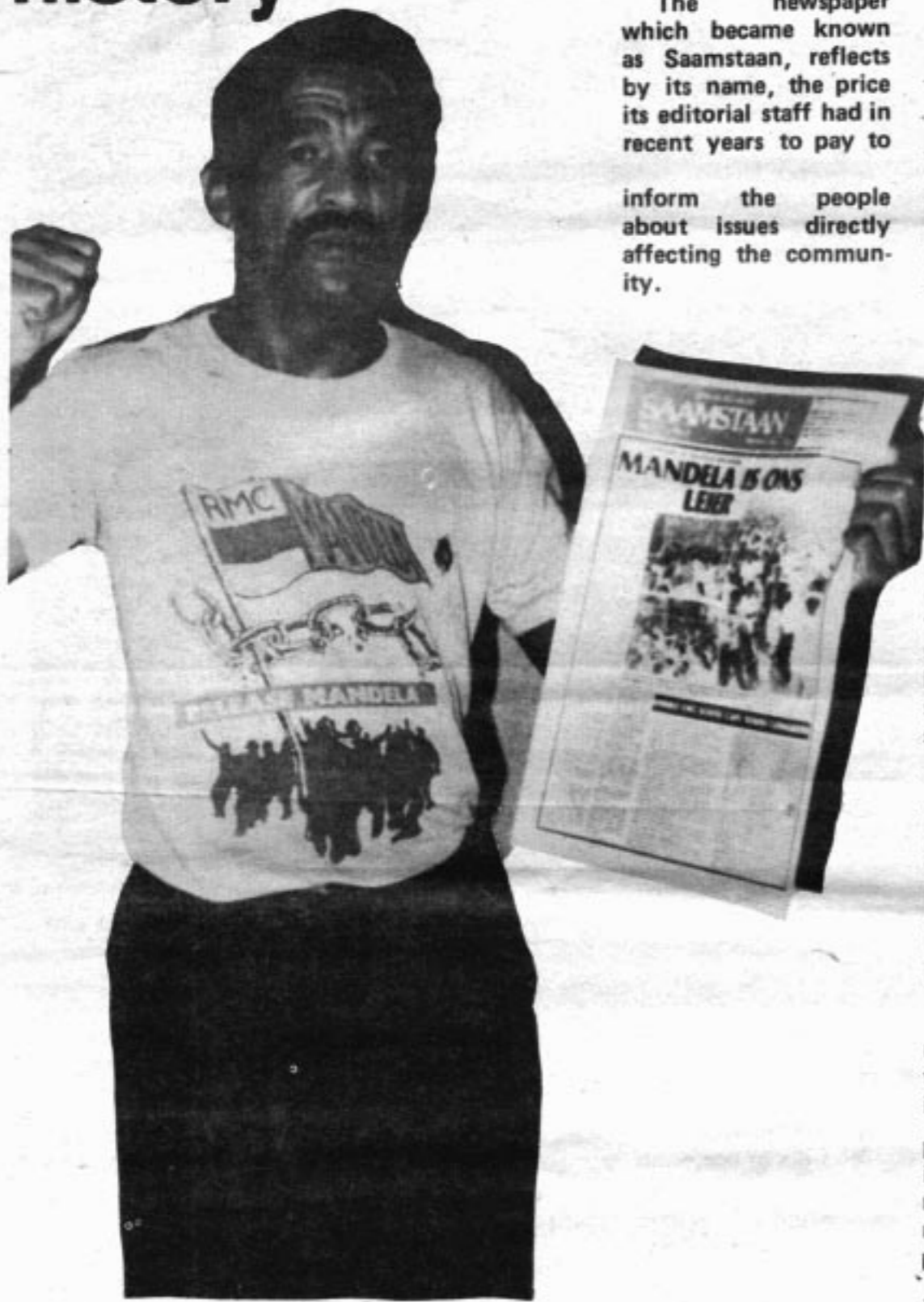
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS

The I.F.J. congratulates Grassroots on this courageous stand in defence of press freedom. The I.F.J. which represents journalists committed to press freedom in five continents, is opposed to the battery of laws introduced by the government of S.A. to threaten the existence of alternative media & to restrict fundamental freedom of expression. The I.F.J. will continue to co-operate with progressive forces in S.A. to draw the international attention to the difficulties under which all South African Journalists work.

**Aiden Waite (Gen. Sec.)
Mia Doornaert (Pres.)**

THE VOICE OF THE SOUTH CAPE

Saamstaan's proud history



IN November 1983 a process was set in motion that was to change the face of the rural areas and in particular the Southern Cape — that process was the creation of an own community newspaper.

The newspaper which became known as Saamstaan, reflects by its name, the price its editorial staff had in recent years to pay to inform the people about issues directly affecting the community.

Saamstaan was launched with the chief purpose of promoting community organisations in Oudtshoorn and all over the Southern Cape. The former chairperson of Saamstaan's executive committee and UDF president for the Southern Cape, Reggie Oliphant, recalled the early history around the paper.

He said that in previous years the community accepted their lot and never really questioned their way of life until Saamstaan hit the streets.

"There were no political organisations here in Oudtshoorn — both in Bridgeton and Bhongolethu. The youth and students initially formed small organisations. In 1982 a youth group called the Bridgeton Cultural Movement was formed. About the same time the Bhongolethu Youth Organisation was formed," said Oliphant.

He continued that their attempts to build bigger organisations were unsuccessful because "people probably didn't realise a need for peoples' organisations".

In 1983 a Grassroots delegation visited the South Cape, including Oudtshoorn, to test people's feelings regarding issues like "forced removals" and other related problems. Oliphant said the Grassroots-group also persuaded them to create a community newspaper.

After their visit the people of Oudtshoorn gathered to discuss the possibility of starting their own paper.

Founder members of Saamstaan said the positive reaction at these meetings was impressive. "Perhaps the strong comradeship between the Africans of Bhongolethu and the 'Colour-eds' was the biggest motivating factor — people of both communities initiated the first meetings," said members.

Grassroots organiser, Mansoor Jaffer, remembered how he visited the South Cape as part of a group that went to investigate the feasibility of a newspaper for the area.

He later spent more than six months in Oudtshoorn to help train people to produce their own paper. Jaffer said it also served as a learning process for him because "as a townsman I had to adapt to the rural culture and lifestyle". He said people were friendly and made him feel at home.

Jaffer confirmed that the chief purpose of the project was to build organisations, but that the eventual chain reaction was much wider than he thought it would be.

The first edition of the six-weekly paper, then known as the "Suid-Kaap Nuus", was produced in a store-room. Five people were

initially involved in the project in a room with only a small table full of holes.

Jaffer's co-workers included a housewife, a dismissed teacher, a student and an unemployed rugby player. Layout sheets were stuck to the walls because of lack of space. A few cool drink cases served as chairs.

The community also came to assist after they have identified the paper as their own. Painters came to paint,

Women made curtains, others came to scrub and to polish the floors and an apprentice signwriter painted a name-board outside the office.

Founder member and local teacher, Harry Noemdoe, told that news was gathered over the whole of the South Cape. "We felt that speaking to people and identifying grievances helped in the building of organisations. We highlighted problems and rallied people around those problems," he said.

Noemdoe said in the first two years of its existence the newspaper was sold from door to door, "It worked well. The distribution of Saamstaan led people to be more motivated to take action; street meetings were held where grievances were discussed. A new sense of unity was created in the community after the first edition of Saamstaan," he said.

The newspaper's pages presents a tapestry of rural community life in South Africa.

Articles in Afrikaans and Xhosa tell of the suffering of various communities in places so small they might easily be missed on the map. Articles discuss the lives of the rural people, the Freedom Charter, the history of struggle, religion, trade unionism, sport and developments in neighbouring countries.

Within months of its first issue the paper was read as far afield as Mossel Bay and Swellendam on the one hand and Beaufort West and Graaff Reinet on the other. And in our sleepy rural towns it brought a new awareness and an urgency to build democratic organisations.

Until then the paper concentrated mostly on local issues, but since mid 1984 broader issues were addressed. When the UDF went on its mass "Million Signature Campaign" in opposition to the tricameral system the paper played a key role in generating and channelling a new spirit of resistance.

In turn this spirit has produced community, student and youth organisations which united under the banner of the UDF.

Soon the rural areas of the Cape was straddled by a network of hundreds of UDF-affiliated youth congresses and civic organisations.

We will continue

Rural repression hits hard

In 1985 Oudtshoorn was also regarded as the rural epicentre of revolt that swept throughout the country.

A school boycott gripped the area early that year. All over the countryside activists fell prey to harassment and victimisation from the security forces.

The brutal slaying of the Cradock Four — Mathew Goniwe, Fort Calata, Sparrow Mkhonlo and Sicelo Mhlawuli — by unidentified assailants generated widespread anger. So did the killing of Beaufort West resident, Mandlenkosi Kratshi, who was shot at point blank range at his front gate by the police. An eight-week consumer boycott followed these incidents. All white shops and shops of those identified as collaborators with

the system bore the brunt.

Then followed a rent boycott which lasted for more than a year.

The authorities responded with a wave of detentions and trials. More than 60 leadership figures, including Saamstaan workers, were detained in the Oudtshoorn community after the state of emergency was declared in June 1986.

In Oudtshoorn alone about 200 people have been tried on charges ranging from terrorism and furthering the aims of a banned organisation to public violence, and illegal gatherings.

Three Oudtshoorn people are at present on death row in Pretoria where they await the same fate as Michael Lucas, who was recently executed.

Lucas was found guilty of the killing of a bus driver who was said to be a former security policeman.

Despite the intense repression that followed after the declaration of the state of emergency, militant resistance has continued. Organisations are rebuilding themselves and several have been operating in the last few months. This undoubtedly showed the level of support for the national democratic struggle.

In this light Saamstaan reflects that while these towns may appear to be sleepy hollows, their political culture is as developed as Soweto or New Brighton.

However, the Saamstaan staff also had to cope with severe pres-

sure from the regime. Several incidents over the last few years seem to prove that there was a concerted effort to stop the paper from reaching its readers.

There has been three attempts to set the Saamstaan office alight. On one occasion a worker, Mbulelo Grootboom, was asleep in the office. Had he not woken up, the office could have burnt down and he might have been seriously injured.

In March last year a whole consignment of Saamstaan copies disappeared from a depot and up to this day it has not been found.

Last September a staffer, Patrick Nyuka, was injured when he was shot at by a kits-

konstabel while covering an event. He was still having problems with his left hand and had to undergo an operation recently.

Several staff members have been detained and redetained in the last few years. In 1986 voluntary workers were arrested and charged with attending an illegal gathering while they were selling our newspaper.

"Between June and October 1986 all, but one of our members were in detention and as a result we were not able to bring out the paper," said organiser Derick Jackson. Jackson himself has served two spells in detention.

Jackson also said the newspaper was distributed freely since the second state of emergency in 1986.

Last month Saamstaan became the seventh publication to receive warning from Internal Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha that he would act against the paper because it was publishing "subversive propaganda".

At about the same time two government staffers confiscated correspondence between a Catholic Bishop and overseas funders. The letters have not yet been returned to him.

Reggie Oliphant, Mbulelo Grootboom and Derick Jackson, have been restricted in terms of the emergency regulations and cannot leave the Oudtshoorn District. They are also confined to their homes between 6 p.m. and 5 a.m. They also cannot address groups of more than ten people.

Oliphant was prohibited from taking

part in the activities of the UDF, the Bhongolethu Youth Congress, the Oudtshoorn Youth Congress, the Bhongolethu Civic Association and the Bhongolethu Women's Association.

Grootboom was restricted following his release and he is still appearing in court on charges of alleged subversion. But despite the problems they face, the Saamstaan crew remains confident.

"The State is out to silence the mouthpiece of the oppressed people of the Southern Cape, but we will do our best to ensure that Saamstaan continues to appear," they concluded.

Therefore even to the outsider it is clear that the process earlier set in motion had irrevocably won "the battle for the hearts and minds" of the rural community.



Women in Zimbabwe found that the most effective way of passing on information was by simply talk- ing to each other

We will speak

In Zimbabwe, known as Rhodesia under Ian Smith's government, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) was the movement fighting for freedom. In Rhodesia the Smith government did everything in its power to deceive the masses and to tell them that ZANU and ZANLA were "terrorists" fighting against the people. However when Robert Mugabe came to power in 1980, it was shown who the people had really believed.

The white Rhodesians had banned progressive newspapers and used the "terrorists" were murdering and maiming people.

But ZANU and the people inside the country had their own network of

information. And it is largely this unsophisticated, but effective network which brought their eventual liberation.

When progressive newspapers were banned; they left big blank spaces on their pages to show that they could not write about what was taking place. Others would run stories on why the government was banning newspapers and why they were scared to have people know the truth.

The two greatest methods ZANU used to inform and educate the masses were the Pungwe and Chimurenga.

Pungwe is Shona for "all through the night". This meant that ZANLA freedom fighters would come to the villages at night and be fed, etc. by the villagers. The villagers

and fighters would then discuss politics and sing until dawn. Lectures on specific topics would also be held.

The Chimurenga was the term used for the poetry, music and songs which carried the message of freedom. ZANLA fighters also distributed their own pamphlets, newspapers, stickers, posters and magazines among the villagers.

Later on, country's that had been liberated like Mozambique, allowed ZANU to broadcast to Rhodesia. This radio station was known as the "Voice of Zimbabwe". It was found that most black Rhodesians listened to and believed what was said on this radio station instead of the Rhodesian Broadcasting Corporation (RBC).

Israel's apartheid rule

Dear Grassroots

WITH recent assassination of key PLO leaders and key ANC leaders similarities between the Botha and Israeli regimes are becoming more and more apparant. It is also a fact that for the past two decades Israel has been Pretoria's closest military ally supplying hardware and technology to build weapons ranging from Uzi submachine guns to gunboats and fighter aircrafts.

Palestinians were killed in a wave of protests. This is twice the rate of slaughter achieved by Botha at the height of resistance in SA between 1984 and 1985. Israel is also adopting other tactics first used in the apartheid state which includes banning the press from whole sections of the West Bank and Gaza strip in an attempt to keep the vicious repression a secret. Palestinians murdered are also denied a funeral. In Israel itself public opi-

nion increasingly favours more repression. This inevitably in a state which like the apartheid stae in SA is based on the principal one part of the population is superior to another. The more threatened Israel's jewish population feels and so the more ready they are to defend their privileges at any cost. The Gaza Strip and West Bank like the homelands are used as labour reservoirs, the Arab workers commuting to work

Repression won't silence us

THERE is much wringing-of-hands and gnashing-of-teeth happening nowadays. The man on the street is confused, worried, angry and scared. What with all these restrictions on organisations and detentions and strikes and hangings and boycotts - the land of Milk & Honey is becoming decidedly uncomfortable!

In fact there doesn't seem to be place for an ordinary peace loving perso in a country where Boer, Buffel and Baa seems to be running the show. Boere and buffel scrawl and crop up all over the place - man schools and churches and offices and homes are hardly without these uninvited visitors. Then if you civilly tell them that they might not be welcome, you just get banned out of existence.

Like Look at New Nation newspaper which was banned. Other newspapers like South and Grassroots have also been issued with warnings that they could be banned. WHY? Because firstly, their names don't start with B (there's not even a little b in any of their names!) and secondly, they write about people without jobs and

houses or about forced removals and the police and army in the townships. They find out from parents and students, workers and all types how they would like South Africa to be and then they write about it. These newspapers talk to "grootkoppe" hey, Tutu and Mbeki and Boesak . . . Now Big Brother Botha is saying that they are writing lies and sucking stories out of their thumbs.

So I was puzzling over this thing and reached the conclusion that if a clever cat like me can't make sense of this mess - how can you? I mean, I'm not in the "struggle", but I like honesty. And the way I check it newspapers should be allowed to write about what is happening and people have a right to know the truth. But if newspapers are being banned and people detained and organisations restricted - WHO IS GOING TO TELL THE TRUTH?

Like I did some checking around; reading here a bit and talking there a bit and got quite some information on what intellectuals call the mass media. So if you're interested, here's some ideas on - beating the ban.

We must tell the truth

Chile, a little country in Latin America, is another country which went through years of the worst repression imaginable and which is still fighting for freedom. The Chilean people have experienced some of the most horrible things that can be done to human beings. At one period - every available avenue for spreading information was closed down.

Universities and schools were run by the army and police, newspapers were banned and books, literature burnt. Journalists, workers, students, lecturers, and artists were detained or killed. Nonetheless, with Chilean courage, creative ways were found to tell the truth.

One of the things which worked very effectively were wall-newspapers. Events of the day would be written on ordinary paper and put up at bus-stops, shops, factories, schools - wherever people were.

At the universities art students would use crude methods like silk-screening and stencils to make posters. Hundreds of these would go up each day and eventually get ripped off by the army or police. The next day hundreds more would re-appear. These posters would criticise the government or make fun of its individual leaders. They also served to spread messages to the masses.



Wall murals used in Zimbabwe

Messages and information was also spray-painted on walls, buildings and the like. Songs, books, poetry, theatre and art played a very important role in keeping the flame of freedom burning in the hearts of people.

The Chilean people, in a very real way, developed a culture of resistance which is growing and surviving to this day.

These countries are but two examples of how,

when a people is ruled by an unjust and violent regime, methods will be and are developed to resist and achieve liberation.

There are many: Mozambique, Cuba, Nicaragua, Algiers . . . When looking at these countries and their revolutionary movements, it is clear that the one thing that can never be banned or killed is thought or the will to be free.

And in all of them the simplest and most effective method for spreading information and the freedom message was by talking:

Talking to your neighbour, your friend, your class-mate, your fellow-worker, your colleague, your parents, your children . . . SO even if all other ways of communication are shut down; you can still talk!

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under permit system reminiscent of SA's now abandoned pass laws, being forbidden to stay overnight in Israel itself. The material rule in the Gaza strip and West Bank more than matches the SA's security laws and emergency legislation, both have detention without trial. Demonstrations are severely restricted in SA but banned outright in Palestinian territories.

Yours in struggle Comrade Yasser

Advice

T.B.

WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

What we hear:



What we think:



What is the truth?



If children don't get enough food like milk, cheese, fish and eggs, they become small and weak.
A CHILD LIKE THIS CANNOT FIGHT AGAINST T.B GERMS!!



Many people have no work. Other people earn low wages and pay high prices for rent, transport and living expenses. There is little money left for food.



People can get sick easily if they work in unhealthy places. Workers who breathe in dust the whole day have a big chance of getting T.B. Long hours of tiring work also make it difficult for people to fight against T.B.

What is TB?
Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by a germ called the tubercle bacillus. TB can attack any part of the body but it is usually the lungs that are affected. Because of the stress caused by the germ there is eventually a hole in the lung whose tissues have been destroyed. That person is an infectious case. Infectious means that it can be transmitted from one person to another. The infected person does not necessarily develop active disease.

DID YOU KNOW THAT :

GREAT GRAND-PARENT CAUSES:

If we ask ourselves the reason for poor housing and poor food it is physically impossible to produce good food and good houses. The reasons are that the people cannot afford to buy them. People are poor because of unemployment, low wages and inflation. This is great grand parent cause is the socio-economic aspect of T.B. Looking at another aspect of medical survey of April 1986 that 80% of blacks, 15% of coloureds, 1,5% of Asians and 1% of whites had T.B. There is no evidence showing that a black person's body is more exposed to T.B. than a white person's. This impression has been created by apartheid, the unequal distribution of power resources. This is what we call the political aspect of T.B.

WHY DOES T.B. INCREASE?

1. High rate of unemployment, inflation, the country's resources are used more in military than in primary care, the root causes of T.B. are neglected and the blame is always put on the victim.

+++++
In our land, every day 10 people die from T.B.

REMEMBER :

ANYBODY CAN GET T.B. BUT PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR AND OPPRESSED, WHO EARN LOW WAGES, WHO CAN'T AFFORD GOOD FOOD AND WHO HAVEN'T GOT A PROPER HOUSE HAVE THE BIGGEST CHANCE OF GETTING T.B.

- The danger signs of T.B. are:**
- A cough that lasts longer than 3 weeks
 - Loss of weight and poor appetite
 - Shortness of breath
 - Coughing blood
 - Pain in the chest
 - Feeling tired or weak

With modern treatment, it takes at least 6 months to cure T.B.

HOW TO FIGHT T.B.

Find the active cases in the community and bring them forward for medical treatment. Make sure that each one in the family is vaccinated against T.B. T.B. patients must go for treatment regularly. People close to an infectious person must be checked by the doctor. People must join campaigns

around health, housing and low wages in order to change their living conditions in their communities that seem to be the root causes of T.B.

WORKERS DEMAND THAT:

Employers should take care of them and the underprivileged in reducing the factors affecting T.B. by:

1. Ensuring that their workers and their families are well fed and have reasonable living quarters
2. Paying attention to transport and hours of work.
3. The employers should not sack the workers with T.B. instead, they should keep necessary requirements which goes with safekeeping the workers from T.B. affection.

HOLD IT!!

BEFORE YOU THROW THIS NEWSPAPER AWAY, HAVE YOU FILLED IN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FORM YET?

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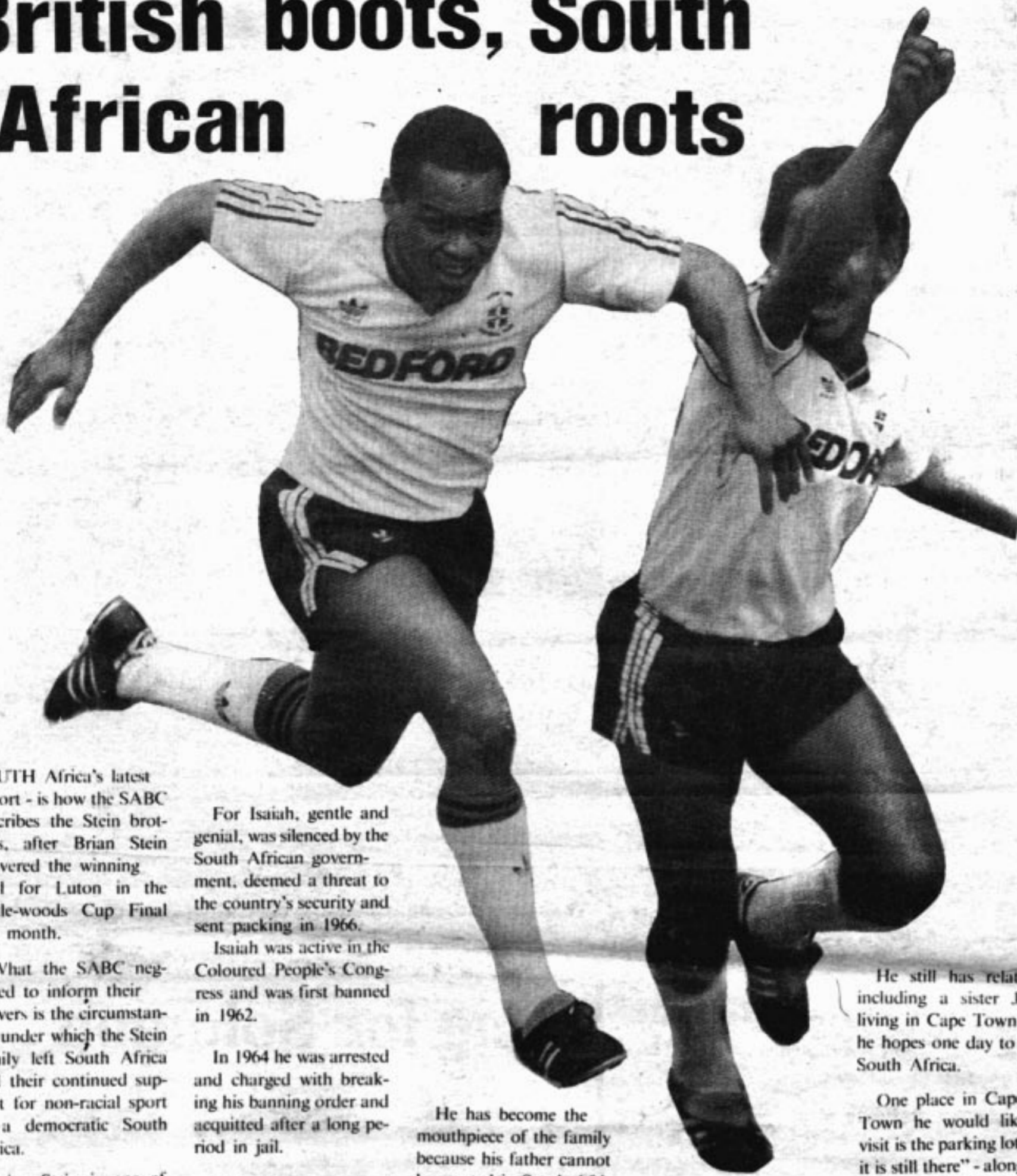
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British boots, South African roots



SOUTH Africa's latest export - is how the SABC describes the Stein brothers, after Brian Stein delivered the winning goal for Luton in the Little-woods Cup Final last month.

What the SABC neglected to inform their viewers is the circumstances under which the Stein family left South Africa and their continued support for non-racial sport in a democratic South Africa.

Brian Stein is one of three sons in the family who have won glory in their adopted country. His brother Mark also won English colours and shows just as much promise as Brian.

Then there is 21 year old Bertrand, a highly promising tennis player.

His three sons are a source of pride to their father Isaiah, but his boasts cannot be heard in South Africa, where all the Stein's were born.

For Isaiah, gentle and genial, was silenced by the South African government, deemed a threat to the country's security and sent packing in 1966.

Isaiah was active in the Coloured People's Congress and was first banned in 1962.

In 1964 he was arrested and charged with breaking his banning order and acquitted after a long period in jail.

He had hardly returned to his Athlone home when he was placed under 24 hour house arrest.

Confined to his house and unable to earn an income, he eventually accepted a one-way ticket to England with his wife and seven children.

Although Brian was only eight when he left South Africa, he is as committed to the struggle as his father is.

He has become the mouthpiece of the family because his father cannot be quoted in South Africa.

Last year, Brian Stein was honoured by the United Nations Committee Against Apartheid for his stand against apartheid. Like his father, he is active in the South African Non-racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc) and the ongoing campaign to isolate South Africa from world sport.

Brian remembers little of his life in Athlone, but

recalls being puzzled that his father was always at home whilst his friends parents went out to work.

His mother Lillian helped support the family on her income as a domestic servant.

"I do not remember all that much about home because I was very young when we left. But if I close my eyes I am back there again and I can remember some of the good times and the bad times," he said in an interview recently.

"I have very fond memories of life in Cape Town as a child and I can still remember the back streets and the parking lots of Athlone where I was first introduced to soccer.

"I can remember my regular visits to Athlone Stadium with my two older brothers where we used to go watch my favourite team.

"And I can remember Table Mountain and our trips to the beach for the day."

"But there is no way that I would ever live there".

He still has relatives, including a sister Julie, living in Cape Town and he hopes one day to visit South Africa.

One place in Cape Town he would like to visit is the parking lot - "if it is still there" - alongside the Regent Bioscope

where he spent much of his childhood playing soccer with his friends in the neighbourhood.

Brian's mother still speaks fluent Afrikaans, which the seven children do not speak, but understand.

"You can always tell if she is angry because she always reverts to speaking Afrikaans. That's when you have to look sharp".

Brian has strong feelings on the growing number of South Africans forced to leave home and live in other countries to get into international sport.

"It shows what a lot of talented people there are in South Africa.

"When South Africa does away with apartheid, I would like to see the country back in international sport. But I do not see that happening for a long time to come.

"My dad is still pretty much involved in anti-South African politics and I have the greatest respect for his courage. He suffered a lot for his beliefs."

"We fully support the 'Hands off the Press' campaign" - FAWU

"These are the last kicks of a dying horse, and for quite some time more repression is going to be the order of the day. Such things happened in Angola, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, but those countries are now liberated. The same will happen for South Africa." - SANSCO

"We support Grassroots and all newspapers who seek to expose the truth. We pledge ourselves to work for the demands of the Freedom Charter so that all may have the right to speak in our land" - LOGRA

"Be assured of our support for the campaign to save the alternative press from being shut down" - Western Province Council of Churches

SAAMSTAAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

We condemn the attempts to silence Saamstaan, Grassroots, Work in Progress, Weekly Mail, South & Out of Step. The clampdown against the alternative press is an attempt to silence us from exposing, Bannings and Forced Removals, Detentions and Unemployment. Freedom of press is essential. An attack against the press is an attack against democracy.

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SAVE THE PATRIOTS

THE fate of the Sharpeville Six is in the hands of court - the same court that found them guilty of a murder they did not commit, and sentenced them to hang.

Lawyers for the six have filed for the re-opening of the case after it was discovered that one of the witnesses was threatened by the police to give false evidence against them during their trial.

The witness a "Mr Manete" who was known as X2 during the trial admitted to his attorney Mr MS Bham that he lied to the court after he was assaulted by the police who forced him to say what he had said.

THE Sharpeville Six have until this week to file for a re-opening of their case.

They were reprieved at the eleventh hour from their meeting with the hangman in March this year. Their conviction and death sentence sparked an outcry both internationally and at home.

The six were convicted of the murder of Mr Kuzmayo Dlamini, a Lekoa community councillor, who was stoned and burnt to death outside his Sharpeville home in September 1984.

Dlamini met his death at the hands of a 100-strong crowd which was the remnants of a larger group of rent protestors who were dispersed by the police. The rent protestors in the Vaal triangle marked the start of an unprecedented uprising against the state.

At least 2 500 people died and 40 000 were detained in the course of the uprising. Many of those who died were, like Dlamini, pro-government officials. The Sharpeville Six were the first to be given the death sentence

for their participation in the uprising.

The six Theresa Ramashamola, Majelefa Sefatasa, Oupa Diniso, Duma Khumalo and Francis Mokgesi are unlikely martyrs.

None of them were politically involved; two claim that they were forced to join the march; and four claim not to have been present when Dlamini died. Ramashomola's role was said to have been limited to shouting "He's shooting at us. Let's kill him" and slapping the face of a woman who argued with the crowd.

Khumalo and Mokgesi have been implicated by a witness who stands accused of lying to the court.

The state has been unable to prove that any one of the six was directly responsible for Dlamini's death.

Their conviction is based on the principle of common purpose. In the words of Justice A Botha for the Appeal Court:

Mr Manete said he had not seen two of the six "John Mokhetsi and Duma Khumalo" at the scene of the crime.

He said the police had mentioned the names of the other accused and instructed him to say in evidence that they were present at the murder.

The attorney general of the Transvaal has said that he will oppose the application to have the trial re-opened. However the second respondent the minister of justice has decided to abide by the court decision.

The Attorney of The Six, Mr Prakash Dior, said that he remained hopeful that they would not hang.

"Each of the accused shared a common purpose to kill the deceased with the mob as a whole, the members of which were intent upon killing of the deceased and in fact succeeded in doing so."

The principle of common purpose is not controversial in itself. If you are involved in a crime and your accomplice injures someone, you will be held responsible for his actions.

The question is whether this principle is applicable to individual members of a crowd of protestors.

The conviction of the six, upheld by the Appeal Court has far-reaching implications. It means that at a member of a crowd, you can be held responsible for his actions.

Two Cape Town killings came to mind that of constable Leon Farmer and Moegsien Abrahams. Farmer died at the

hands of the members of a large funeral procession in Salt River in 1985, after being identified as a policeman.

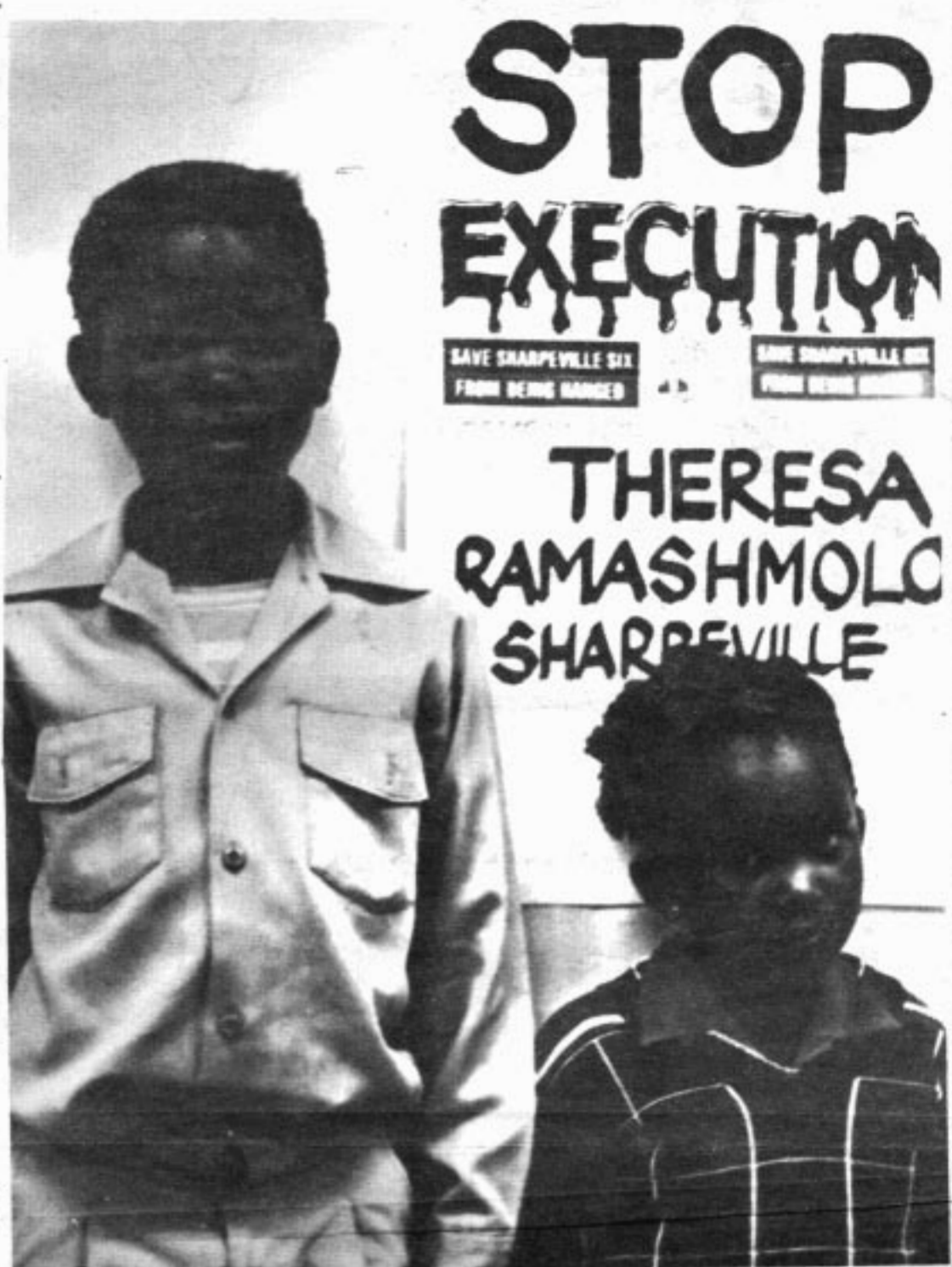
Abrahams, a former Cape Corps member was beaten to death by a group of youths who broke through a cordon of UDF officials trying to protect him from the crowd.

He had been asked to leave a UDF meeting in the Westridge Civic Centre which was attended by more than 1 000 people.

Can anyone who was part of the crowds present at these gatherings be held responsible for the deaths?

Would hanging the members of the crowd who were not directly involved in the killings be just?

Is the application of the principle of common purpose a reasonable way in which to deal with those people caught up in the spiral of violence and repression in South Africa?



Thembisio (10) and Lindiwe (4) children of Oupa Diniso anxiously waiting for the result of the appeal

Song for Solomon

We are the young of Africa
We roam the open plains
We stalk our prey when the sun sleeps
We rest under the mopani tree

motherland
Dry your tears
They have placed us in captivity
But, tamed, we will never be
For we are the young lions of Africa.

Africa is ours
The young lions are gone
Africa mourns her loss
For who will fight the oppression?
Who will fight the injustice
Do not weep for us



ANC member Albie Sachs being carried to hospital after being injured in a car bomb explosion. Sachs lived in Mozambique.

When will these terrorists be brought to justice?

IN February Defence Minister Magnus Malan

vowed that the security forces would "eliminate

the ANC wherever they may be". 6 weeks later, Dulcie September, the

ANC representative in Paris, was gunned down

in cold blood. Days after that, Albie Sachs, and

ANC member presently working for the Mozambican government, was badly injured in a car bomb.

There is widespread suspicion among exiles and foreign governments that they were killed by apartheid death squads.

Both September and Sachs come from the Western Cape. The Sep-

tember family still live at Stellenbosch. Dulcie

worked as a teacher during the 1950's, when she

was a member of the Unity Movement. She later joined the National

Liberation Front, a small group which planned to launch armed struggle.

Her group was captured, and in 1964 she stood trial.

She spent 5 years in prison for her activities. She left South Africa in 1973, and joined the ANC

in London. After working in ANC offices in London

and Lusaka, she became the movement's Paris representative in 1984.

Albie Sachs has been active in the Congress movement since his teens. He played a leading role in the Congress of

democratic whites, and helped organise the Congress of the People. He

was a talented young advocate, and defended political cases without being paid.

A strange sight greeted Cape Town when Albie was released from deten-

tion in the 1960's, explains his old friend Amy Thornton. "He ran all the way from Caledon

Square to Clifton where he plunged into the sea.

Throughout his 90 days inside he had been dreaming of doing that".

Detention and harassment forced him into exile in 1966.

Albie is an internationally respected writer and

legal academic. After the liberation of Mozambique, he went to live in Maputo and work on building the country's new legal system.

Although Sachs has lost his arm and is seriously injured, he will survive

"It seems a dreadful thing to say", Amy Thornton observed, "but we have to be grateful that we are commemorating the murder of one person and not two".