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THE SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ORGANISATION

IN DETENTION FOR THEIR COUNTRY,

Again and as usual and expected the monolithic and racist white regime has imposed a five-year political ban holiday on eight (8) Black leaders.

We are neither shocked by nor mourning this action since it confirms our belief

Organisations such as SASO and B.P.C. which are relevant in the Black struggle for liberation. This action shows how earnestly and urgently Black People should work for their emancipation.

The racist regime has banned our brothers with the hope or intention of decreasing the tempo of the move towards freedom, or even killing it. They are not aware that they cannot ban our desire to be free and our wish to chart our own future and destiny.

The following are our first "open" victims of the system.

RANWEDI NENGEHLU: Is 27 and a B.A. graduate in Law. Has had a short school career, since primary School. Has been in the Turfloop S.A.C. since 1968 and in the year 1969 was elected its President. In 1970 the University refused him admission and the year saw him work in Sibasa and in Johannesburg. In 1971 he was elected President/Organiser of SASO, and was re-elected in 1972. He is founder member of both SASO and B.P.C. Harry is presently reading for his L.L.B. with Unisa. Banned in February 1973 and restricted to Sibasa North Transvaal.

DARNEY PITAYANA: 27 and married with one child. Has had a turbulent school career which ended abruptly in 1968. Is at present studying with the University of South Africa for a B.A. (Law) degree. He was President of SASO in 1970 and in 1971 he became the Organisations Secretary-General re-elected in 1972. He is founder member of B.P.C. Banned in February 1973 and restricted to Port Elizabeth.

STRINI MOODLEY: 26 and married; He studied Speech and Drama and English at the University College for Indians in Durban. Has had a turbulent University career which ended abruptly in mid-1971. Has directed a few plays with the Theatre Council of Natal (TECON). He is also a Poet, Was Publications Director of SASO in 1971 and in 1972 he became SASO's Administrative Assistant. Is presently studying through Correspondence for a Diploma in Directorship. Is Founder-President of the Black Theatre Union. Banned in February 1973 and restricted to Durban.

STEVE BIKO: 26 and married. Has been President of the UNDSYC for two terms. He is Founder President of SASO, Founder member of B.P.C. Is presently studying for a degree in Law with the University of South Africa. Had joined the Black Community Programmes of Sproccas. Banned in February 1973 and restricted to William's Town.

JERRY MODISANE: Born in 1948 in Kimberly. Has been involved in many projects relating to Blacks. After Matriculating in 1967 he worked for the Kimberly Mines until September 1968 when he took up a post in the Asbestos Mines in Kuruman. Like all Black people he was employed as a "general labourer". In 1969 he enrolled as a student with the University of Fort Hare and read towards a B.A. degree in Law.

In 1972 he walked-out in protest against tribal education and in July, the same year, was elected President of SASO. Banned in February 1973 and possibly restricted to Kimberly. (By the time of compilation of their fact sheet Mr. Modisane had not yet been served with his banning order. This information is from press reports - particularly THE STAR Saturday 3 February 1973)

BOKWE MAFUNA: Married with child. Once worked with the Trade Union Council of

(2)

South Africa; worked for the Rand Daily Mail as a reporter until July 1972 when he resigned in protest against the continual use by the Daily Mail of the term "non-White" despite repeated objections by Blacks. Soon thereafter he joined the Black Community Programmes of Sprocas. Is founder Vice-President of the Union of Black Journalists. Was associated with the Black Workers' Project. Was member of B.P.C. & SASO and is presently studying with the University of South Africa. Banned February 1973 and restricted to Johannesburg.

SATHASIVAN COOPER: 23 was a student at the University College for Indians during the period 1963 and 1969. Suspended at the end of 1969. Has been involved in the Natal Drama Foundation and the Theatre Council of Natal (TECON) -- is responsible for the formation of the Durban Central Branch of the N.I.C. -- fought a strong battle to get the principles of Black Consciousness adopted by N.I.C. Elected to the post of Director of the South African Council of Black Theatre Union in 1972 -- at the same time was elected P.R.O. of B.P.C. Initiated the formation of Black Arts Studio and is responsible for many of its activities. Saths is one of the five "taken" in after issuing the pamphlets during the recent strikes in Durban. Saths has laboured hard to get the Black Community in Durban particularly and in South Africa generally, accept B.P.C. has had five (5) passport refusal, was editor for Black Gold Publications, presently reading towards a B.A. Degree in Law.

DRAKE KOKA: - Married and a qualified teacher; has been principal for sometime. Due to bad practices in the Education Department he left the profession and joined industry. Was Convenor of Commission of Black People's Convention, and its interim Executive General Secretary. Was Secretary General of Black Allied Worker's Union was member of the Parents' Vigilant Committee. Has served on many church bodies. Drake laboured hard for the Black consciousness movement.

Many may think that these men's careers will end just here. This is not the case since these men's careers and goals were not to pile up degrees, diplomas and certificates but was to see the Black people liberated and accorded the human dignity they deserve. Hence whether banned or not their careers and goals will fruitify since we, who share the same ideas, will continue with the struggle from where they were forced to leave it. The whole Black world should know that, like these men, it is better to die for an idea that will live than live for an idea that will die.

We express Solidarity with these men by fully pledging ourselves to continue with the projects they had started. We emphasize: Banning orders cannot kill the human spirit which drives us on.

Black people should know that fighting for liberation is a natural right and when one does so, one commits no crime.

"POWER TO THE PEOPLE"

"BREAKING THE CHAINS"

SASO.