

STATEMENTS BY EDUCATION ORGANISATIONS ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY BILL AND THE
INTERNAL SECURITY BILL

1. National Education Crisis Committee
2. National Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA)
3. University of the Witwatersrand , Academic Staff Association
4. Nusas
5. Transvaal Students Congress

NATIONAL EDUCATION CRISIS COMMITTEE (NECC)

At a time when the streets of our country are full of the blood of our children, the passage of these Bills will place our country finally and firmly under the rule of fascism.

It is inconceivable that at a time when more than 200 young people have been killed by the army and the police, and when more than 2000 were held under the State of Emergency, this government should still seek to give more powers to the police and the army. What for? To ensure that these figures increase daily ?

The NECC adds its voice in condemning these criminal Bills and we urge all our people to oppose them with everything at their disposal, because unlimited powers to the army and the police will lead to unlimited savagery.

If we don't oppose these Bills, our dream for a non-racial democracy in our country will be shattered, and our children will inherit the ashes.

NATIONAL EDUCATION UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) vehemently opposes the introduction of the Public Safety Amendment Bill and the Section 50 Amendment. Already the detention, arrest and killing of people opposed to apartheid has reached terrifying proportions.

As teachers and educationalists, we feel enormous anxiety at the relentless harassment and killing of the leaders of the people of South Africa.

As a result, chaos reigns in schools, colleges and universities.

We believe this Bill will give unbridled powers to the police which are causing this chaos. We demand that the leaders of the people be released and left in peace. We call for an immediate end to this reign of terror

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG.

ACADEMIC STAFF ASSOCIATION.

RATIFIED BY THE WITS POST GRADUATE ASSOCIATION

The Public Safety Amendment Bill, which puts absolute power in the hands of a single person and which prevents the intervention of the courts, gives to the Minister of Law and Order the powers of a dictator. The Internal Security Amendment Bill, which allows for the detention, without access to the courts, of uncharged people, makes a mockery of law. We call on the government to jettison both bills immediately. Instead of attempting to rule by force, the government should negotiate with representatives of all South African interest groups to bring about genuine peace in our country as soon as possible.

NUSAS

Nusas condemns in the strongest possible terms the proposed amendments to the Public Safety and Internal Security Acts. These amendments are designed to increase already excessive executive powers, which the Minister and delegates will be permitted to exercise in an arbitrary fashion, free of scrutiny by the courts. Such actions are contrary to the fundamental principles of democracy and as such, must be rejected. Clearly, the Government's reform initiatives are proving to be a complete failure and this has necessitated the introduction of further repressive measures. The Government wants state of emergency powers without the adverse publicity accompanying an officially-declared State of Emergency. Such repressive legislation in no way addresses the real problems causing the crisis in South Africa. We believe that public safety and internal security can only be achieved in a non-racial and democratic South Africa. Repressive legislation is simply an attempt to delay this and as such, we demand the withdrawal of the proposed amendments.

TRANSVAAL STUDENTS CONGRESS

The government is facing a crisis situation. Since our people have been resisting apartheid, thousands have been detained. We have now reached a stage where we are so used to this, that it can no longer silence us. Despite the threat of detention, we are still prepared to continue with the struggle for a proper education.

The government has now extended its activities to the bantustan areas, where our people have no say. Student activists are harassed and victimised by Bophutatswana and Venda police.

Repressive action against our people is growing stronger every day. Student demands are suppressed by the education authorities. In the bantustans, the education authorities are influenced by the Department of Education and Training. Its response to student demands has been to close schools, to harass and kill activists.

The state of emergency has continued in our communities. The presence of the SADF and the SAP is disturbing people there. Students cannot continue with their studies because of these elements. The pro-apartheid forces are planning to kill our people.

Despite the work of hit squads, our people's resistance has grown. The government has resorted to another way of declaring war against our people in the schools and the community at large. Agent provocateurs have been used to murder innocent defenceless, unarmed people. These people have been joined by the reactionary Black Consciousness elements, vigilantes and gangsters who continue to maim and kill our people.

We want to make it clear that defence committees will be formed within the school premises and the community in order to defend ourselves against these barbaric elements.

Le Grange has now come up with more attempts to suppress us by introducing the 180 day detention. There is also a plan to bring in a new state of emergency. The Public Safety Amendment Bill is aimed at crushing our people's organisation and to stop our legitimate struggle for a non-racial democratic South Africa. The police and the SADF will be given unlimited powers to detain without informing the people. We see this as another way of intimidating our people to stop them joining the struggle against this sadistic regime.

IN fact this has existed for a long time, as in the past we have been detained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act for no apparent reason.

All this will not silence us, We are expecting more to happen, and when it does we will respond. We strongly condemn Le Grange's Laws. It is clear that all the Government is aiming to do is to retard the progress of People's Education for People's Power.

We call upon our people to come out in united mass action through forming People's Committees, like the Education Charter Campaign Committee, within the school premises and the community in order to advance our struggle for a non-racial and a democratic South Africa.