

stating our peaceful intention.)

On Thursday morning we gathered and marched together with the police in attendance from East Mamelodi to the administration offices. There were no incidents of violence. At the offices we gathered outside and the police were there, in many armoured vehicles. The police asked us to stop singing. The people in front stopped, but those far away couldn't hear. We never saw the mayor. Then through a black interpreter, using a loudhailer, we were ordered 'If you don't keep quiet in three seconds, we are going to start shooting.' At this stage most of the crowd in

front were women and there was no stone throwing or violence from the crowd.

Then teargas was dropped from the helicopter overhead, at the back of the crowd, and people started running. I was trampled by the crowd and knocked unconscious. When I came round there was a dead woman lying next to me, bleeding from the nose. I could still hear shooting in the distance. When I left I saw another body of a young boy, a teenager, lying in the street between Denneboom Station and the offices. He had blood on the back of his neck and lower back. I saw the police collect the boy's body.

Sash member KATHY JAGOE, is also editor of the bulletin published by DPSA, Disabled People of South Africa. The group is a national organisation of people of different disabilities and cultures who have come together to work towards changing issues which affect them. This article highlights some disturbing figures.

Briefing on violence

DPSA is very aware that violence is one of the major causes of disability in this country. Violence can result not only in the initial impairment, but often if the injured person does not receive the correct medical treatment, preferably immediately, an injury which could very easily result in a life-long disability.

At this point there are no available figures on those disabled in the violence of the last two years. There are not even adequate figures of those injured. However, there *are* figures of those who have died.

January 1984 — end 1984	175 people died
September 1984 (Vaal uprising) — end 1984	149 people died
January 1985 — December 4 1985	791 people died
Since State of Emergency (July 21 — December 4 1985)	457 people died
First month of media blanket (Nov 2 — Dec 4 1985)	99 people died
August 1985	163 people died
Killed by security forces (Jan 1 — Oct 31 1985)	360 people died
Daily death rate since State of Emergency	3.44 people died
Daily death rate before State of Emergency	1.67 people died

September 1984 — December 4 1985

TOTAL 940 people died

(Figures issued by SA Institute of Race Relations)

Firstly, we think it is important to note that while much of the violence has been blamed, in some quarters, on coverage by the visual media, the month of November 1985 (the blanket started Nov 2) showed the second highest figure of deaths since the State of Emergency (August '85 being the highest).

Secondly, Frank Bird (in his study on loss and damage) estimates that for every one serious disabling injury there are 10 minor injuries. It has been estimated by people working closely with those injured in the unrest that for every 10 seriously injured people one person has died.

Therefore, if one were to look at this picture in the light of a 1:10 ratio (death:seriously injured), one would estimate that **at least 9 400 people have been seriously injured due to violence in our country in the last (almost) two years.**

DPSA does not know how many of these people will be permanently physically, sensorally or mentally disabled.