

IDASA harrassed

By Wayne Mitchell
National Co-ordinator

RECENTLY members of IDASA staff, as well as people attending IDASA projects have been harassed, detained and beaten.

Regional Co-ordinator Mr Monde Mtanga of IDASA's Eastern Cape office was detained on 9 December 1987 under emergency regulations. To date Mr Mtanga has not been charged or brought before the court of law as would be expected in any country which claims to be democratic. IDASA has sought counsel for Mr Mtanga in an attempt to secure his release. Mr Mtanga, a well-known political and trade union figure in the Eastern Cape is a member of the executive of the Port Elizabeth Youth Congress as well as being chairman of the Eastern Cape Youth Congress at the time of his detention. Mr Mtanga, a devoted Christian, has espoused the concept of non-racialism in working towards a democratic future for South Africa.

The arrest of Mr Mtanga follows the brutal murder of Mr Eric Mtonga, IDASA regional director for the Border region, whose body was found dumped in the Ciskei near King William's Town during 1987. To date no arrests have been made and efforts to bring the murderers to trial have been superficial with none of Mr Mtonga's colleagues in the East London office even having been questioned about Mr Mtanga's movements on the day of his murder.

During January two pupils, Sonwabo Madikane and Mandla Mal-

*Mr Monde Mtanga
- currently in
detention.*



muscles of both, especially their arms, were tender to touch and pressure while their wrists were lightly grazed and swollen. Mr Malgas had a bruise and swelling on his right jaw, while Mr Madikane had a bruise on his left chest, two ribs tender to pressure and a small burn on the surface of his right little finger.

The three tragic incidents as outlined above must be seen in the context of IDASA being exposed to a campaign of disinformation and regular security police harassment. Members of staff are periodically being contacted by security police who request to meet with them under dubious circumstances. To date such requests have been met

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