

grassroots

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU

Vol. 7 No. 5 August 1986 FREE!

UDF hits out at emergency

THE state of emergency - imposed by P W Botha on Thursday June 12 - has come under more and more pressure in the last few weeks.

Organisations like the United Democratic Front and the Metal and Allied Workers Union have successfully challenged certain emergency regulations in the Supreme Court and a number of detentions under the emergency regulations have been declared unlawful.

And, in an apparent attempt to prevent further Supreme Court rulings against his government, Botha has changed some of the regulations - in spite of protests from opposition organisations, inside and outside parliament.

The court challenges against the state of emergency began early last month with an application by MAWU to have the emergency declared illegal by the Natal Supreme Court.

The judges ruled that certain clauses of the regulations had to be deleted. They also ruled that detainees had a right to visits from their lawyers.

At the same time, a number of urgent applications to the courts for the release of emergency detainees were being heard or planned.

A number of other applications were withdrawn at the last minute as detainees were released pending the applications for their release.

Last week, the state of emergency suffered a number of blows in the courts.

On Monday, the Rand Supreme Court declared it unlawful for divisional commissioners of police to issue orders in terms of the regulations.

This effectively invalidated a number of orders imposed by divisional commissioners, including curfews and bans on funerals and meetings by the UDF and other organisations.

The order was brought by the UDF to challenge the banning of a meeting by the Soweto Divisional Commissioner of Police.

The Western Cape UDF immediately announced it would challenge orders imposed by the Western Cape divisional commissioner of police, Brigadier C. Swart. These include a ban on meetings and publications by the UDF and more than 100 other organisations.

On Tuesday, The Grahamstown Supreme Court declared invalid a number of curfews, bans on public meetings and restrictions on funerals in the Eastern Cape.

On Wednesday, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) reached an out of court settlement with the government allowing them to hold meetings in the Western Cape.

The same night, Brigadier Swart announced the lifting of the all the orders he imposed since the emergency was declared. For the first time in two months the UDF could hold meetings, bring out pamphlets and be quoted in the newspapers.

On Friday, Botha changed the regulations to give Divisional commissioners of police the power to make orders in terms of the emergency regulations.

No news is bad news

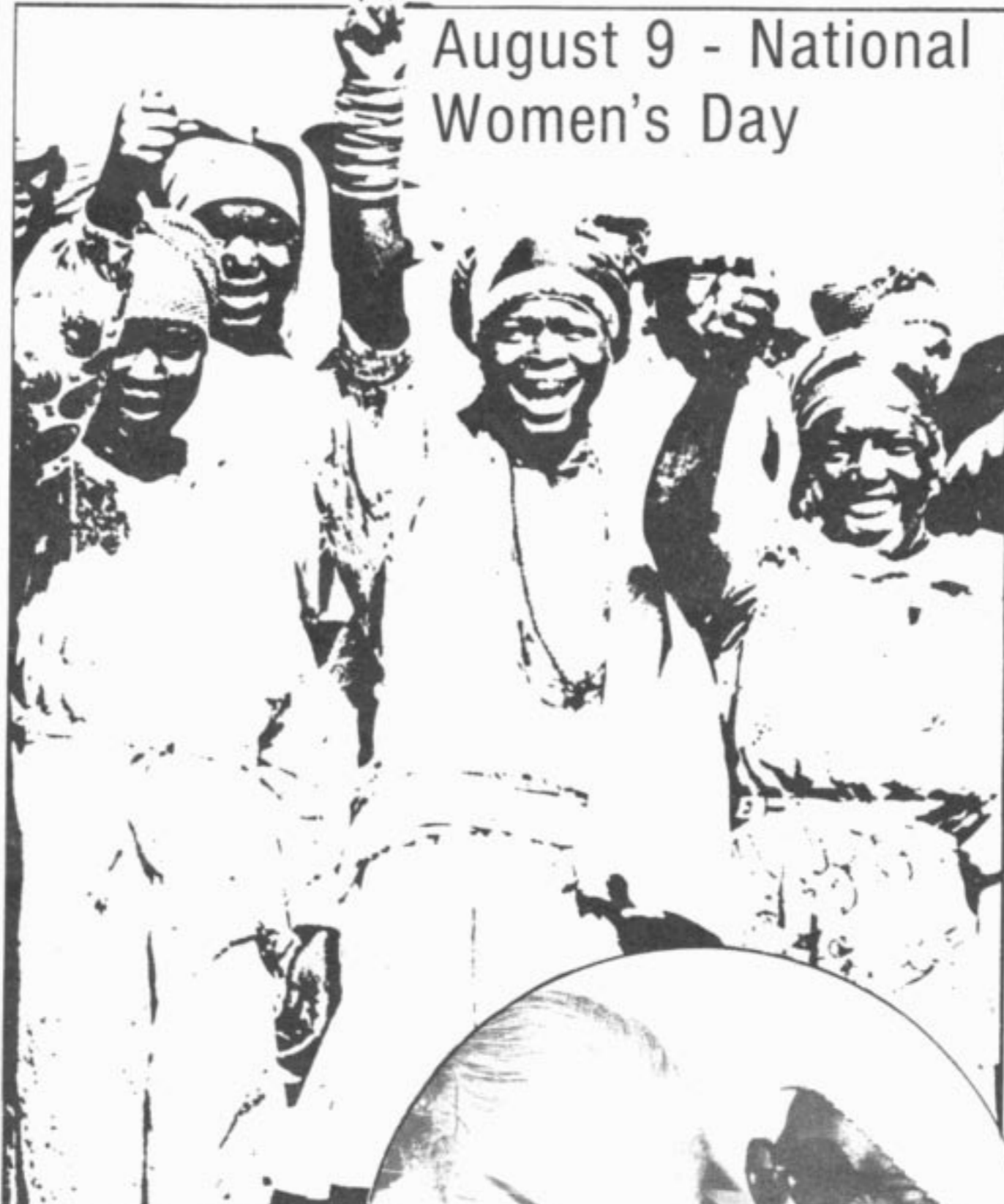
WE apologise to our readers for the little news in this issue of Grassroots. Because of the state of emergency, it is difficult to publish much.

There are many things happening that we wanted to write about, but we had to leave out vital information to avoid breaking the emergency regulations and to bring out a legal Grassroots.

In terms of the emergency regulations, we may not report on the actions of the police or army. The government's Bureau of Information in Pretoria is the only official source of "unrest-related incidents".

Obviously, in the government's eyes "no news is good news". But we all know that protests against apartheid are continuing all over the country - even though the government does not want us to hear or write about it. Hiding information about anti-apartheid protests will not make these protests disappear.

August 9 - National Women's Day



ABOVE: PEASANT women protest against the issuing of Passbooks to women, in Zeerust, Western Transvaal, 1957.

RIGHT: Two 'mothers' of the struggle - Helen Joseph and Dora Tamana. Both dedicated their lives to the struggle against oppression and exploitation in South Africa. Helen Joseph is now over 80 years old, but she continues to address meetings and voice her demands for freedom and justice. Dora Tamana died in 1982, after a lifetime of resistance to apartheid.



Women on the road to freedom

"YOU have struck a rock, you will be crushed" This is what 20 000 women told Prime Minister J.G. Strijdom on August 9, 30 years ago. The women had marched to Pretoria in one of the biggest anti-pass demonstrations in our history. This day is remembered as National Women's Day.

In the 30 years since that time, women have continued to show great strength in resisting oppression.

Women have suffered great hardships since 1956. In Crossroads, in the homelands, in the ghettos of the Cape Flats, women are the ones who have to

keep their homes and families together in the face of poverty, oppression, forced removals. They have shown great courage and determination despite these hardships.

Women have also shown that they are determined to shape the future of our country. Despite heavy responsibilities of work and family, they have found the time to work in organisations, and to resist the unjust laws of apartheid in whatever way they can.

GRASSROOTS salutes the women of South Africa on August 9, 1986, the 30th anniversary of National Women's Day.

Flood-hit Heideveld says no to Hendrickse

THE Reverend Allan Hendrickse's Labour Party was given a hostile reception when they tried to have a meeting in Heideveld last week.

Soon after the meeting started at the Dagbreek Primary School, members of the Heideveld-Manenberg Crisis Committee (HMCC) fired a number of questions at the three Labour Party MP's present.

Mr Abe Williams (Mamre), Mr Nic Isaacs (Bishop Lavis) and Mr Andrew Johannes (Heideveld) were accused by victims of the recent Heideveld floods of trying to make political capital of the peoples' suffering.

The angry residents wanted to know why the Labour Party had taken more than 3 weeks to respond to the crisis.

After about 30 minutes, 50 of the 70 people present walked out of the meeting in sympathy with the HMCC.

The HMCC was formed a day after the disaster in which 300 families were left homeless by a burst water pipe. The committee was formed at a meeting of about 400 people.

The committee consists of 14 people, 2 from each street affected by the flood.

It was delegated to see the mayor to find out the cause of the floods, and to ensure that people are paid out for damages and loss.

The committee has held regular meetings in the area, where the people themselves decide on what action they want to take. It has appointed a lawyer to see whether people can be compensated for their losses.

The HMCC has also ensured cars damaged in the flood are repaired.

The rejection of the Labour Party comes about two years after the party was forced to stop having meetings in the Western Cape because of the people's anger.

UDF to hold mass rally

The UDF is planning to hold a meeting at Hanover Park Civic, on Wednesday 13 August at 8 pm. This follows repeal of the ban on meetings last week. Possible speakers at Winnie Mandela and Dr Allan Boesak.

Wectu tells court:

'Forced to teach at gunpoint'

SCHOOLS in Bonteheuwel are occupied by police daily and teachers are expected to teach at gunpoint.

This was said in an affidavit to the Supreme Court by Yusuf Gabru, the president of the Western Cape Teachers Union (WECTU) in support of an application last week to have orders made by the Division Commissioner of Police, Brigadier C Swart, declared unlawful. The application was brought by WECTU and the UDF.

Less than 48 hours before the application came before the court, Brigadier Swart withdrew the orders banning meetings, placing curbs on funerals and banning the UDF, WECTU and more than 100 other organisations from bringing out publications or being quoted in the newspapers.

Both the UDF and Wectu argued in their affidavits that they needed to hold meeting urgently to discuss how to operate lawfully under the state of emergency.

Mr Gabru said in his affidavit: "Events have

taken place at various schools. For example, in Bonteheuwel schools are daily occupied by security forces during school hours. Teachers are expected to teach with security forces armed with rifles in attendance all the time.

"School attendance and class lessons are being enforced at gunpoint and teachers are expected to teach at gunpoint.

"Considerable fear and unhappiness about the situation exists amongst Wectu members. Many teachers and pupils live a life at school of constant fear of arrest and detention by security forces.

"Our members say that a large number of schoolchildren who were given permission by their school principals to leave schoolgrounds either to go to a shop or to attend to some or other lawful matter have summarily been arrested on the streets simply because they were on the streets and not at school.

"Parents, teachers, as well as pupils are outraged and gravely concerned about these arrests and

we live in daily fear that our children will be arrested for no other reason but that they are walking on pavements along public streets. The situation in this regard is extremely grave.

"...Normal schooling is in a desperate crisis and is becoming more and more impossible," Mr Gabru said.

Mr Trevor Manuel, Cape regional secretary of the UDF, said in his affidavits that the UDF wanted to have a meeting to discuss the effects the state of emergency has had upon the UDF and its affiliates.

They also wanted to discuss "details of attacks launched against the organisation by Chief M Buthelezi of Kwazulu

The UDF also wanted to discuss "a smear campaign which is being conducted against the UDF by unknown elements through leaflets issued and distributed by unknown persons or groups and how to respond thereto," Mr Manuel said.

The case has been postponed to a date still to be decided for a judgement on who should pay the costs of the application.

Two Months of the Emergency

THEY promised that the Emergency would bring "law and order", "peace" and "stability". Grassroots looks at some of the events since June 12 - and leaves our readers to draw their own conclusions...

- There were 174 deaths between June 12 and July 24, according to the Bureau of information. These do not include deaths in the independent homelands.

- An estimated 10 000 people have been detained under Emergency regulations. This includes a number of mass detentions - such as the detention of a church congregation in Elsie's River, and another church congregation in Graaf Renit. About 1 000 workers were detained at a meeting in Tembisa.

- Of the 4 500 known detainees, 69% are members of the UDF, 23% are union members and 5% are members of Black consciousness groups and the National Forum.

- Other detainees have included a number of clergy and students.

- There have been a number of people deported - including some who have lived here for several years Dominique Souchon, a Port Elizabeth detainee facing deportation orders, has been in South Africa for 25 years.

- The meeting of over 100 organisations have

- been banned in the Transvaal, Free State and most of the Cape Province.

- There have also been curfew restrictions imposed on many townships in the OFS, and Eastern Cape. In the Western Cape, organisations have also been banned from issuing state ments or producing publications.

- Several thousand workers have been involved in industrial action in protest against the emergency regulations and the detention of unionists. National Union of Mineworkers Vice-President and COSATU president Elijah Barayi was released after over 16 000 mine workers engaged in strikes and go-slow strikes.

- There have been two major stayaways of workers and students. About 70% workers stayed away on June 16, in memory of the Soweto uprising in 1976. On July 14, COSATU called a National Day of Action. This was observed mainly in the Transvaal and the Eastern Cape, with 100% stay-away in Port Elizabeth.

- Kwandebele's entire civil service has been on strike in protest against the homelands forthcoming independence. Residents of KwaNdebele have been hard hit by vigilantes - 32 people have died in the area since June 12.

- There have been several bomb blasts - in Durban, Central Johannesburg, and Cape Town.

- The DET has introduced massive restrictions in African schools, including the forced re-registration of every student, compulsory ID cards for all students, and restrictions on the movement of students and teachers during school hours.

- Students have protested against this by refusing to attend classes in many parts of the country. At least 300 000 students are boycotting classes. Almost all students have refused to register, and many have burnt registration forms and ID cards.

- The affidavits submitted by Wectu also shows evidence of a strong police presence at schools in the Western Cape.

- 28 Townships are observing a total rent boycott - in some areas this has been going on for nearly two years. The government has lost about R250 million in rents. They have tried various means, including evictions, cutting of electricity and water supplies, to suppress the boycott.

- The Eastern Cape has been observing a total consumer boycott of white shops. This was re-imposed shortly before the emergency was declared.

The world says no to apartheid

MRS THATCHER and Mr Reagan have been making many fine speeches justifying their refusal to take sanctions against the South African government. Mrs Thatcher has sent Sir Geoffrey Howe on a desperate mission to prevent sanctions.

But Howe's visit seems to have been a miserable failure. He was rejected by governments of most of the frontline states. The

UDF and Nelson Mandela refused to see him. Even Mr Botha has not made much effort to boost his waning credibility.

And while Reagan and Thatcher are digging in their heels, the calls for action against South Africa have continued to grow. 32 countries have withdrawn from the Commonwealth Games in protest against the British government's stand on South Africa. The

European Parliament have called for sanctions.

People in the UK and the US have also engaged in a massive campaign in solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa. Millions of people have attended rallies, vigils and meetings in the last few weeks.

In London, over 100 000 people attended a 'march for freedom' last month. This

was the biggest anti-apartheid demonstration in London's history.

The EEC is due to meet early next month to decide on the sanctions issue. There is no doubt that Mrs Thatcher will argue for a 'soft' approach to the South African government. But people all over the world have shown clearly that they reject apartheid, and will use whatever power they have to end it.



Dutch Anti-apartheid march on the SA embassy in 1985. This is just one of the hundreds of anti-SA demonstrations in the last few months.

'CIA spy betrayed Mandela'

WHEN Nelson Mandela was arrested 25 years ago, he was betrayed by a CIA agent who was working as an American diplomat.

This was claimed by a retired senior police officer in Paris last month.

Mr Mandela was arrested after spending two years in hiding. At the time, he was dressed as a chauffeur, and driving a white man. They were stopped at a police road block at Howick - but no-one has ever explained how the police knew that he would be on that road at that time.

Now the ex-police officer has claimed that he was betrayed by an American CIA agent who was working under cover as a diplomat at the Durban US consul.

late. The ANC had trusted the diplomat to the extent of arranging a meeting between him and Mandela. He therefore knew the time and route that Mandela would be taking to meet him.

The diplomat traded this knowledge with the SA government in exchange for information on Pretoria's Bantustan plans.

This whole story would have remained a deadly secret had the diplomat not drunkenly boasted of his exploits at a small social gathering a few months later. The guests included the retired police officer, who related the story in Paris last week.

One of the guests reported the diplomat's

indiscretion to the US consul. He was immediately whipped off to Pretoria for questioning, and then sent back to an insignificant desk job at the US State Department in Washington.

Until now, even Mr Mandela's closest friends and colleagues did not know the true story of his arrest.

Meanwhile, calls for the release of Nelson Mandela have continued to grow. A world wide campaign has been mounted in several countries. Mr Mandela's daughter recently went on a tour of the United States, and addressed several meetings and vigils in his honour. She brought a message from her father which said, "I am in jail to see the

end of apartheid, and I will die in jail to see the end of apartheid."

On behalf of her father, Ms Mandela appealed to all Americans to pressurise the Reagan government to take action against South Africa.

"My father wishes to thank all those Americans who have shown their support for the blacks in South Africa. But this is not enough. We need much more."

Despite growing pressure from other countries, and from organisations within South Africa, the Botha government seems determined to hold Mr Mandela prisoner. But our people are determined that one day Mr Mandela and all other political prisoners will go free.

Mother, baby detained 2 months

PINA NCATA will probably never be able to forget the past four months.

- She was detained on March 23 with her then six-week-old baby and held for more than two months under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

- She is presently being treated at Valkenberg Hospital for the effects of the detention.

- And she has no home to return to when she leaves the hospital. Her Nyanga Bush shack was burnt down by vigilantes while she was in detention.

Ms Ncata's common-law husband, who was also detained on March 23, is still being held. He is one of about 13 people in the Western Cape being held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

Some of the people have already been held for more than three months. Their families' lawyers or doctors are not allowed to see them. The families also do not know where they are being held.

One of the detainees wives gave birth recently. She is not sure her husband knows he is a father. Another of the wives is eight months pregnant. She fears the same fate of her husband being in prison while she gives birth.

The elderly mother of another detainee has had two strokes since he has been detained.

Another woman had to come from Transkei when she heard that her migrant worker husband was in detention.

None of the families have been informed why their husbands or sons have been detained.

They also do not know when they will be released.

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'You can't break our spirit'

PEOPLE'S POWER is growing stronger in Port Elizabeth, despite the State of Emergency.

This is the view of PE residents who spoke to GRASSROOTS.

"Last year, our organisations were hard hit by the Emergency. Many of our leaders were detained, and there were serious problems with discipline and weak organisation", a resident told us.

"But when the leaders were released, they worked hard at building up democratic organisations and street committees.

"This year, the police have not managed to find most of the leaders. But they have detained hundreds of others - particularly members of street committees. About 4/5 members of each street committee have been detained.

"But this has not stopped us. We have learnt the lessons of democracy. We have continued to take whatever action we can to force the government to listen to our demands.

Action taken by the people includes a consumer boycott, which was reimposed earlier this year. There has also been a rent boycott, which was started after the State of Emergency was declared on June 12 1986. Both boycotts have been observed by almost all the residents of the African townships. Port Elizabeth workers and students also engaged in a 100% stayaway on COSATU's national Day

of Action on July 14.

In a desperate bid to stop the consumer boycott, the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce appealed to police not to detain UDF leaders at a meeting with the Chamber. The police refused to do this, and the meeting has not been able to take place.

The police have been doing everything in their power to stop resistance in PE. They have detained hundreds, including UDF leaders Stone Sinzane and Edgar Ngoyi. Recently, they completely sealed off New Brighton township with two metre high barbed wire fences. Several youth members have been shot by Security Forces in unspecified security force action.

PE residents have also been subject to attacks by vigilantes. One group of vigilantes have been going around singing freedom songs. When the 'comrades' came out to join them, they were severely beaten by the vigilantes.

"The police believe that they can break our spirit with bullying tactics. But they must understand that the action we take is not because of 'agitators' or 'intimidation'. It is taken by every man, woman and child in PE, because we the people are strong and united and determined to fight back in whatever way we can. The only way they can stop it is to detain every single person in our townships."



Repression is harsh - but suffering has always made the people of the Eastern Cape more determined to continue their struggle (Pic. taken at the funeral of Goniwe, July 1985)

Anger over 'spy' plan

WORKERS and unions are disgusted at the offer of a security company to provide spies who will inform management of plans for worker action.

The company, Investment Surveys, printed an advertisement in a magazine saying, "Group forming, lobbying, intimidation... when members of your staff force others to take action against your company's interests, it could lead to strikes, work stoppages,

violence and unrest. It is thus vital that you have prior knowledge of what is happening.

"Investment surveys will undertake covert investigations and surveillance. Our trained agents will be 'employed' by you in the guise of normal workers. They will report on plans and acts aimed against your company. This will enable you to take counter measures."

NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said that such spying could only lead to more

violence. If a spy is found, workers become extremely angry. "People using these poor souls should be blamed for worker action against them", he said.

Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA) said that they had found cases of informers suggesting militant actions to workers to test their responses.

"This kind of thing can only lead to anger, mistrust and confusion. It is just another method

that some employers are using to break worker organisation", a worker said.

"But companies wishing to use these methods must be warned that workers will not accept this infringement on their rights. We have struggled to build democratic worker organisation. We have a right to democratic organisation, and to take action to secure our rights if necessary. And we will not be intimidated into giving up this right."

'We are growing stronger' - UDF

GRASSROOTS speaks to UDF Western Cape Secretary, Mr Trevor Manuel.

GR: How does the UDF feel after two months of the Emergency?

TM: We are feeling confident. We have not been silenced. The emergency has not been able to stop us. We remain in contact with our organisations, and we are continuing to express the people's demands.

GR: Surely the Emergency has affected your work in some way?

TM: It has, of course. People have been frightened by the kind of arbitrary police action we have seen. Many have been detained, and it is hard to hold meetings.

But we are beginning to win some victories. The courts have shown that we have a right to exist. And the response from the people has shown that we are even more popular than before.

We are also finding ways to adapt to the new situation. We have to find new ways of keeping ourselves in touch with the people. We need to rely more on the people themselves. We are determined to get more people into our organisations and build resistance to the emergency.

GR: Botha has warned that he has 'not even lifted his little finger'. What do you think of this?

TM: We do not expect things to be easy. But Botha has never been so weak politically. Sanctions are on the cards and he knows it. Businessmen have no confidence in him - though we still have not seen

business put its money where its mouth is. Even the so-called moderates see no plan in Botha's actions. Apartheid is despised everywhere.

Above all it has been the unity of our people that has isolated Botha. A united people can never be defeated.

GR: Has the UDF got a message for the people?

TM: Yes. The workers especially have a great role to play in our struggle for liberation. The students are already showing their resistance to ID cards and police interference at school. Whether you are a worker, a student, a housewife, a teacher or unemployed, the message is the same. We will have to set ourselves free! Only our own efforts will end our sufferings under apartheid.

The UDF calls on all our people to continue the struggle for a peaceful future in a non-racial democratic South Africa.

A GUGULETU man, whose whole family was detained last year, has been convicted for harbouring an ANC guerilla.

Ntozelizwe Thomas Talakumeni, 27, was sentenced in the Cape Town Regional Court to five years imprisonment, two years suspended for five years. He was found guilty of harbouring trained guerillas between April 1 and June 19 last year.

Talakumeni was arrested on June 19 last year when he went to inquire about the detention of about ten family members, including his mother, father, a two-year-old baby and some cousins who had been at their house.

He was held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act until his first appearance in court earlier this year.

His half-brother, Titus Selepe (who was detained for 22 days under Section 29) told the court that their brother China had told

Rule of the gun

AT LEAST one in every two white households have a gun, a recent survey found.

The survey also found that more and more whites were buying guns. Blacks are not allowed to own guns, unless with the permission of the police.

Man jailed for helping guerillas

them in Lesotho that the ANC wanted to free them from the white man's regime. They had gone to Lesotho after they received a secretive message from China.

The court found that Talakumeni had harboured two guerillas who were connected with a number of grenade attacks in the Western Cape, including those on Labour Party Deputy-Minister of Population Development, Luwellyn Landers, LP MP Fred Peters, and at least three community councillors.

The guerillas were identified as Joseph Mayoli (alias Themba Hector, Tsepho or Siphon) and Glenville Peters (alias John).

Talakumeni had failed to report their presence to the police, had transported them, had given them food, allowed them free access to his home and had been trained in handling a weapon.



Mrs Primrose Talakumeni, mother of the convicted man.

Mr Selepe said they had never received training on how to handle a gun while in Lesotho.

He said he had seen Temba and John in Cape Town almost a year after they had returned from Lesotho.

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Motler, baby detained 2 months

NA NCAT will probably never be able to target the four months.

She was detained on March 23 with her then 10-week-old baby and held for more than two months under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

She is presently being treated at Vlekenberg hospital for the effects of the detention.

And she has no home to return to when she leaves the hospital. Her 10-year-old daughter, Yanga Bushack, was burnt down by vigilantes while she was in detention.

Ms. Ncata's common-law husband who was also detained on March 23, is still being held. He is one of about 13 people being held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

Some of the people who have already been held for more than three months. Their families and lawyers or doctors are not allowed to see them. The families also do not know where they are being held.

One of the detainees' wives gave birth recently. She is not sure her husband knows he is a father. Another of the wives is eight months pregnant. She fears the same fate as her husband being in prison while she gives birth.

The elderly mother of another detainee has had two strokes since he has been detained.

Another woman had to come from Transkei when she heard that her migrant worker husband was in detention.

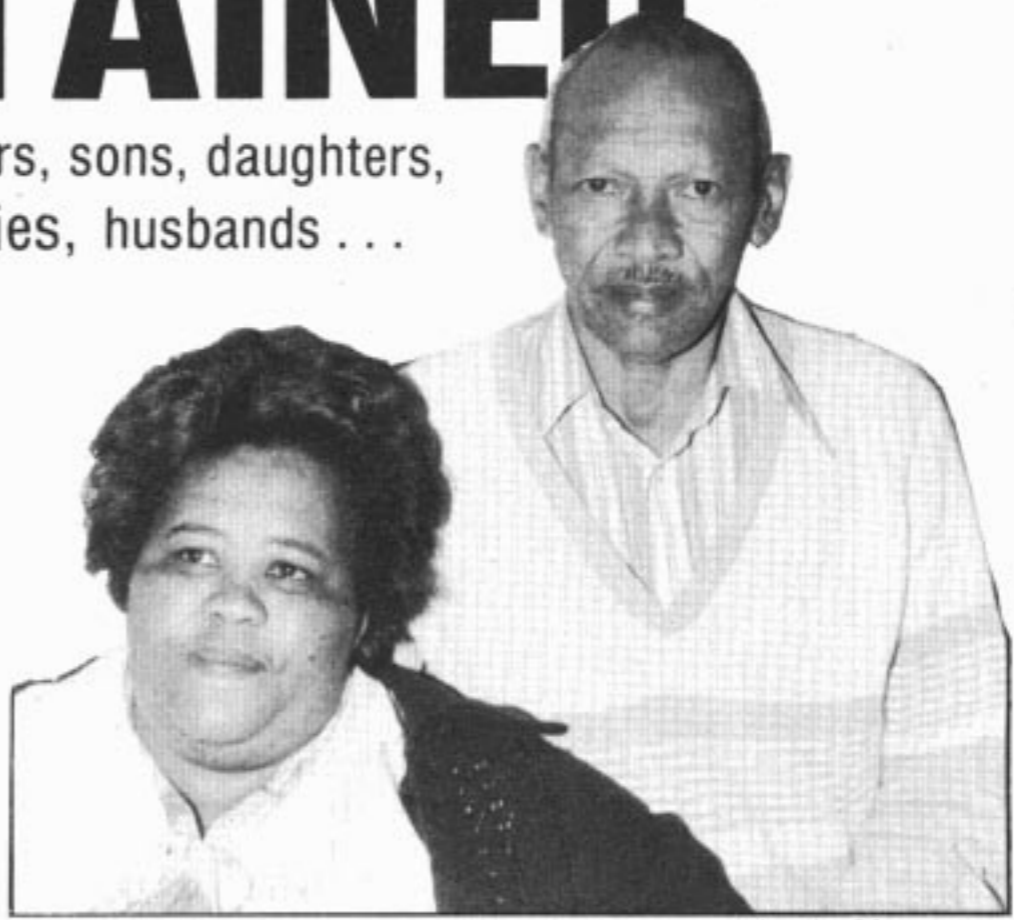
None of the families have been informed why their husbands or sons have been detained.

They also do not know when they will be released.

Since the Emergency was declared on June 12, an estimated 10 000 people have been detained. These have included young children and old women, priests, doctors, housewives, unionists, nuns . . . no-one is safe from detention it seems! The recent court applications have led to the release of many detainees although thousands are still in jail. GRASSROOTS looks at the experiences of some of those who have been released.

DETAINED

Mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, grannies, babies, husbands . . .



Mrs Hester Benjamin and her husband - first separation in 21 years

'We cried openly when we were released'

MRS Hester Benjamin's 21 days in detention was the first time she was separated from her husband, Peter, in 21 years of marriage. Mrs Benjamin, of Lavender Hill, was detained under the emergency regulations on Friday June 20 and released on Friday July 11.

"The first night in detention is the worst, when you suddenly find yourselves alone, without your family.

"My main concern was my family. They did not know if I was okay and I did not know how they were affected by my detention. I only saw my husband two weeks after I was detained, when he received per-

mission to visit me at Pollsmoor," said Mrs Benjamin.

Mr Benjamin, a quiet and sickly person, said: "We tried to carry on as normal in the house, but missed her a lot. Especially at night when we ate, I thought about her. I wondered what she was eating.

"Whenever it was raining or windy, I wondered if she had enough warm clothes."

Mrs Benjamin said she was happy to be released but she felt sad to leave others behind.

"There are people in detention from Paarl and other places who don't get money or anything from home.

"We cried openly when we were released. It was almost like being taken away from one's

own family. Mrs Benjamin said she was warmly welcomed by the pupils and staff at Lavender Hill High School where she is on the domestic staff.

"I don't know why I was detained. I have not been charged or given any explanation why I was detained. Most people inside don't know also. We often asked: "We are not murderers or thieves. Why must we be locked up?"

Mrs Benjamin said she could not sleep the first few nights after she came from detention.

"I kept on waking up my husband at all hours of the night," she said.

'If one is taken, it affects the rest'

"WE ARE a very close family. If one is taken away, obviously, it will affect the rest."

This was said by former UDF vice-president, Joseph Marks, when asked how detention without trial affected his family.

Mr Marks, 50, has been detained 3 times in the past year. He was detained for 18 days under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act in August last year. He was later detained for 14 days under the state of emergency.

His son, Joey, 23, was also detained for 14 days under the emergency regulations last year.

On June 14, both were detained again under the latest state of emergency. Joey was held for seven days and Mr Marks for 14 days.

Mr Marks' daughter, Brenda, 22, was detained on June 13 under the state of emergency regulations. At the time of going to press she was still held at Pollsmoor Prison - more than seven weeks.

The Marks family live in a small council house in Steenberg. They live off Mr Marks' earnings as a hawker.

They have learnt that detention without trial is part of the price to pay for freedom.

"We understand the

struggle we are busy with is for democracy. If need be that we suffer for that principle, we are prepared to do so.

"Until such time as there is a government based on the consent of the majority, our country will be in turmoil.

"Our biggest hope is for peace, calm and prosperity in this beautiful country of ours. This can only come about if the people are in control of their own destiny," said Mr Marks.

Asked how he felt about those still in detention, he said: "I must quote the great man:



The Markses - a 'very close family' with a daughter still in detention.



Some detainees released from Pollsmoor recently. (L to R: John Zachariades, 24 (engineer); Tennyson Lee, 30 (doctor at Bellville Clinic); Mike Evans, 28 (Ex-chair End Conscription Campaign); Clinton Light, 24 (Legal Resources Centre).

Preganant woman harassed

A SIX-MONTH pregnant Grassy Park woman has spoken of her anguish and fear in the last few weeks after she noticed on several occasions that her home was being watched by strange men parked in cars nearby.

Mrs Ruth Aboobaker also claims that she has received several phone calls in which the caller remained silent.

Mrs Aboobaker is the wife of Goolam Aboobaker, an executive member of the Western Cape UDF. Mr Aboobaker has been forced into hiding since the emergency was declared nearly two months ago.

Mrs Aboobaker told GRASSROOTS that she had frequently seen three men in a green Opel Kadette watching her house in the evenings. She had also seen men in a red Cross-ida.

"I normally have a friend to stay with me" she told us. "These incidents are very unsettling.

"I feel afraid for my safety. I think of bricks and petrol bombs coming through my window. I have even moved my bed from the window.


Many other wives of UDF executive members have experienced similar problems over the last few weeks. Those with young children are particularly concerned for the safety of their families. "Its enough that our husbands cannot be with us", one woman told GRASSROOTS. "Why must the keep on hounding us like this?"

☆☆☆☆

If you need advice with detentions, contact The Advice Office Forum, Town Centre, Hanover Park (Ph.: 637-2898). Repression Monitoring Group, 1 Queen Victoria St., Cape Town (Ph.: 24-3782).

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