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We take this opportunity to apologise to our readership and subscribers for the irregular appearance of Arise/Vukani this past year. The general dislocation of life in a South Africa in turmoil has inevitably affected the operations of our magazine. Some of those involved in the production of Arise/Vukani have, like so many others, had to spend time behind the bars of the apartheid regime. We have been forced to undergo a process of reorganisation to deal with these problems, and our collective now feels confident that we will be able to publish a regular journal.

on violence

(Our position first mentioned in Arise/Vukani in *early 1985*).

Over the last few months, the repressive wave of state violence has been tragically punctuated by killings of political activists. There is much evidence to suggest that organisational disputes and sectarianism have in many cases become the main reason for these deaths. The idea of regarding political alternatives in the movement as "obstacles" that have to be physically removed needs to be urgently addressed by all progressive forces.

Such actions, without a doubt, can only strengthen the enemies of the black working class and its allies, and weaken the liberation movement. It is a well-known fact that the state has embarked on a systematic programme to remove opposition who are part of the liberation movement. Political activists have been brutally murdered whilst many in exile have been killed openly by the SADF. Under these conditions, to engage in any form of violence within the liberation movement is both counter-revolutionary and reactionary. Such activity makes one nothing but an agent of the state.

Violence is a means of self-defence against the capitalists, not a means of settling disputes within the revolutionary movement. Those who perpetrate violence against people in the movement must be treated with the utmost contempt, and their actions exposed at every turn. It is vital that the democratic right of all tendencies to exist, organise and constructively criticise be protected by all revolutionary socialists.

We in Action Youth fully support initiatives to stop further killings. Our membership fully endorses the campaign begun by the Electrical and Allied Workers Trade Union as a first step to bringing discipline to our struggle. We therefore reiterate their call to all organisations to commit themselves to the following pledges:

- (1) all organisations must defend each other against state violence.
- (2) all organisations must engage in joint unity-building campaigns and activities.
- (3) violence in the settlement of disputes or differences between progressive organisations must be outlawed, and those undisciplined elements should be exposed as working in the interests of the state's plan to create a South African Lebanon.
- (4) the right of all progressive organisations to exist must be respected, no matter how small they may be, because there is room for all in the broad liberatory movement.

We also commend the Eastern Cape region of COSATU for recently sponsoring the peace talks between AZAPO and the UDF in the Eastern Cape.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Cosatu launched its Construction and Allied Workers Union (CAWU) on the 31st January 1987 after months of organising and preparations.

It is the construction workers who have helped in literally building our country. They have built the shops, factories, houses, highways and skyscrapers. Yet many construction workers live in hovels. Construction workers work under bad conditions and earn miserable wages. In the rural areas construction workers earn as little as 97c an hour.

The unity of construction workers is therefore vital. Unity is not easy but is essential if we intend to make real and lasting gains. We believe it is in the interests of CAWU, all construction workers and the working class in general, if a single construction union comes into being. CAWU exists alongside the Building Construction and Allied Workers Union (BCAWU) with a paid up membership of 25000 members, and the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (BAMCWU) with a paid up membership of 75000. The latter two unions are affiliated to CUSA/AZACTU and are in the process of merging. We hope that the three unions will work towards a greater unity.

While we fight for better conditions of work and higher wages we must not forget our goal. This goal is to build a new society, a society controlled by workers, in the interests of workers and for the benefit of all. A socialist society.

CAWU, BCAWU and BAMCWU have a crucial role to play in this struggle.