

# Law and order

"IF THE police had not acted in this way, then I personally would have been disappointed in them."

The Prime Minister.

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"I AM convinced that the police assault was a gross abuse of power. They dealt with the students as if they were beasts to be savaged; they acted with violence and aggression."

The Bishop of Grahamstown.

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"THE MOST horrific thing was the absolute relish on the face of the policemen. The savagery of it all . . . I saw a frail girl standing with tears streaming down her cheeks. She was saying to this policeman, 'I have no uniform, no weapons. I am just standing here and you assault me. How can you do that?' He replied by smashing his baton through her face . . ."

A bystander, Mr. Peter Visser. Sunday Times

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"I AM right behind the students in their peaceful protests and their furious reaction to the brutal treatment meted out to them by the so-called protectors of law and order. If anyone disturbed law and order on Friday it was the police themselves. From what I have heard, there is no doubt in my mind that it was the police who rioted, not the students. One of the most alarming features of this disgraceful matter is that the police appear to be using plain-clothes men to do their dirty work. I intend to find out who these men are."

Helen Suzman.

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"SUFFICE it to say that the police have a duty to maintain order, and that they, under the command of two senior officers, showed great tolerance."

The Minister of Police.

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"IF IT were necessary to nip in the bud what was being planned against South Africa and to do so with the use of a little violence and with rubber batons then this would be done."

The Prime Minister, as reported in The Star.