

Black-on-black violence mounts as Inkatha members and others are murdered, assaulted, and homes and property destroyed.

WHO IS TO BLAME?



An Inkatha member stoned and burnt to death in Lamontville near Durban in 1985 following a Shaka's Day celebration addressed by King Goodwill Zwelithini and Chief M G Buthelezi. Inkatha members going to the rally and returning to their homes were waylaid and attacked.

Following the ANC Mission in Exile's call for its supporters to make South Africa "ungovernable" and to "eliminate" those who oppose its policy of violence, numerous members of Inkatha and their families have been murdered and others assaulted. Homes and Government property have been destroyed worth millions of rands.

Documentary evidence attesting to this is irrefutable as are British Broadcasting Corporation transcripts of radio broadcasts by the ANC Mission in Exile calling for an escalation of violence. And yet, a carefully orchestrated media campaign mounted by the ANC Mission in Exile and the United Democratic Front has cynically attempted to lay the blame for some of this violence and

counter violence at the feet of Inkatha.

UDF patrons and supporters, for instance, go to great lengths to attempt to show the foreign Press, in particular, that it is the UDF who is the "innocent" and "injured" party. This is clearly factually incorrect. Does the UDF actually deny that it supports the ANC Mission in Exile? Does it believe that it is blameless in the tragic saga of violence?

A book has been published in which the author, who clearly appears to support the UDF, Mr Nicholas Haysom, attempts to largely blame Inkatha for various incidents of violence. Scant mention is made of the UDF in this regard.

The irony of this is that Chief Buthelezi and Inkatha are deeply committed to non-violent tactics and strategies.

Inkatha was launched in 1975 and in its 11-year existence has faithfully attempted to pursue its commitment to peaceful change.

The UDF was launched three years ago and almost overnight ghastly orgies of violence erupted as the UDF and its affiliates attempted to make parts of Natal and KwaZulu "no go" areas for Inkatha and Chief M G Buthelezi.

A typical example of this was the unsuccessful campaign run by the Rev. Mcebisi Xundu, an executive member of JORAC (an affiliate of the UDF), to drive Inkatha and KwaZulu out of Lamontville. Inkatha members had their homes petrol-bombed (including Mr Robert Sikhakhane, chairman of Inkatha in Ward 2 of Lamontville) and others (including Inkatha member

Mrs May Ngubane) were assaulted. (The Natal Mercury, September 12, 1984).

It is the ANC Mission in Exile which pursues violence as a matter of policy and receives arms and ammunition from the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc for this purpose.

It is a simple statement of fact that since the formation of the United Democratic Front and coupled with the ANC's call to make the country "ungovernable", large scale reports throughout the country of

black-on-black violence and counter violence have escalated.

Newspapers are filled with stories of violent attacks on the homes of Inkatha members. Black-on-black attacks have also been made on the persons and property of UDF members. It is relevant that in areas where Inkatha has no presence whatsoever, the death toll relating to black-on-black violence is even higher than in Natal/KwaZulu and the Transvaal.

Official figures show, for instance, that the so-called "necklace" has claimed the lives of 335 people in South Africa since last year — and 269 people were burnt to death by other methods. (City Press, August 24, 1986).

The Eastern Cape, Lebowa and the Northern Transvaal are the areas where "necklaces" have been used most. The UDF and AZAPO and other student organisations operate in these areas, Inkatha does not.

The following are brief reports highlighting some of the attacks made on Inkatha supporters (as well as other well-known incidents) during the past year.

... In July 1985 Inkatha supporters Themba and Zakhele Msani fought off a stone-throwing mob of more than 100 people who attacked their Lamontville home screaming "Gatsha is a dog, you are the dogs of Gatsha." (A

reference to Chief M G Buthelezi, whose middle name is Gatsha). (The Natal Mercury, 1985)

... Soon after, following three consecutive nights of violence, Mrs Tryzinia Msomi, Mrs Phumephi Mngondo and Mr Mbisusiwe Msomi, also Inkatha supporters, were photographed in their gutted home following a petrol bomb attack the previous evening. (The Daily News, July 17, 1985)

... In August riots broke out in areas around Durban following a UDF demonstration protesting the murder of Durban lawyer Mrs Victoria Mxenge. More than 20 people died and millions of rands worth of property was destroyed. (The Natal Mercury, August 9, 1985)

It is worth noting that during the August 1985 riots, UDF supporter and Natal Indian Congress leader, Mr Mewa Ramgobin, described how Indian vigilantes attacked homeless blacks who had moved into the historic Gandhi settlement founded by Mahatma Gandhi at Phoenix.

The settlement was destroyed. "I nearly died there," said Mr Ramgobin, who fled from the mob which he described as "... about 300 armed Phoenix vigilantes attacking the blacks ..." Mrs Fatima Meer also, at the time, described an Indian attack on the settlement.

(Sunday Times, August 11, 1985)

NOW THE UDF IS ATTEMPTING TO BLAME INKATHA FOR THE ATTACK.

... In September a bomb exploded in the toilet of Umlazi's Executive Hotel and sprayed shards of glass into groups of black children. The hotel is owned by a senior

member of Inkatha. (The Natal Mercury, September 30, 1985)

... Also in September six people died in clashes in Lamontville following a Shaka's Day celebration. Inkatha and non-Inkatha people were involved.

... The home of Mrs Gertie Ngubane, an Inkatha member and Ningizimu Community Councillor for Ward 1 in Lamontville was stoned and windows were smashed. "Mrs Ngubane was the third Inkatha member to be attacked this week." (The Natal Mercury, September 14, 1985).

... A month after this Mr Francis Dhlamini, KwaZulu Legislative Assembly member and Inkatha central committee member, was brutally gunned down as he fled his petrol-bombed home. Mr Dhlamini died instantly. His wounded son managed to escape. (The Daily News, October 29, 1985)

... In November two youths were shot after the home of Umlazi councillor and Inkatha official, Mr Josiah Cele, had been stoned and set on fire by a group of youths. (The Natal Mercury, November 19, 1985)

... In February this year two grenades were thrown at the home of the chairman of Ningizimu Community councillor and life chairman of the Inkatha Women's Brigade, Mrs Ella Nxasana. (The Daily News, February 17, 1986)

... In March the life's work of Professor Lawrence Schlemmer, secretary of the Buthelezi Commission, was destroyed when his office at the Centre for Applied Social Sciences at the University of Natal was set on fire. (The Daily News, March 24, 1986)

... In April the home of KwaZulu Legislative Assembly member and Inkatha central committee member, Mr Winnington Sabelo, was petrol bombed. (The Natal Mercury, April 28, 1986)

... The same month arsonists struck the Sugar Milling Research Institute in Durban and painted "Sugar Supports Buthelezi" on the walls. (Sowetan, April 24, 1986)

... Soon after houses, cars and a petrol station belonging to a former member of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, Mr Gobizizwe Bhengu, were destroyed when youths went on a rampage. (The Daily News, April 28, 1986)

... In June two people were killed and more than 40 people were injured when petrol bombs were thrown at buses carrying Inkatha supporters from a rally in Soweto addressed by Chief M G Buthelezi. A time bomb was placed behind the stage of the stadium earlier in the week. (The Star, June 30, 1986)

... In August Mr Winnington Sabelo's wife, Mrs Evelyn Sabelo, was killed and her three children seriously injured when a hand grenade was hurled at their home and they were fired at with AK 47's in Umlazi. The Sabelo's were previously attacked in April (see above). (The Daily News, August 23, 1986)

... The same weekend, Siphokazi, the five-year-old daughter of Inkatha member and Imbali councillor, Austin Kweyama, was killed in a hand grenade attack on her parent's Maritzburg home. (City Press, August 31, 1986.)

And so it goes on and on. Space does not permit a more comprehensive account of attacks on Inkatha supporters and members of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly and their families.

Inkatha deplores this violence. It does, however, maintain that its members have a right to defend themselves. The actual situation is that UDF and AZAPO members are killing each other and Inkatha members. There are also UDF and AZAPO members who



The August 31, 1986 funeral of Mrs Evelyn Sabelo, murdered wife of Inkatha Central Committee member and KwaZulu Legislative Assembly member Mr Winnington Sabelo. Mrs Sabelo died in an AK 47 gunfire and grenade attack at her Umlazi home. Three of the couple's children were seriously injured in the attack. The home was petrol bombed in April.

have died at the hands of Inkatha members. Inkatha's position is that the ANC Mission in Exile and certain organisations including the UDF have provoked a level of violence in Natal/KwaZulu which was not previously known.

Commenting on the brutal murder of Mrs Winnington Sabelo in August this year, Chief Buthelezi said: "It is not African for women and children to be targets in a war and I am concerned about the extent to which this kind of crime will brutalize those who are on the receiving end of this dastardly violence. "The black civil war I warned

about has now materialised. I cannot see what can break the spiral of violence in the light of the reluctance of those who have opted for violence to talk to us.

"I fear it seems that the only language we can expect in the circumstances is that of the gun, grenades and bombs. It is clear that the stakes are loaded against those of us who are committed to non-violence ... " At the annual conference of the Inkatha Youth Brigade in Ulundi in August, a minute of silence was held in memory of all the members of Inkatha and others who had died at the hands of fellow black South Africans.



The November 1985 funeral of Inkatha Central Committee member and KwaZulu Legislative Assembly member Mr Francis Dhlamini. Mr Dhlamini was gunned down as he was fleeing from a busload of armed men who petrol-bombed his home at KwaMashu near Durban.