

Inkatha patrols help bring peace to townships

# Pupils return as violence subsides

**Mercury Reporters**  
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**THOUSANDS** of Black children returned to school today after rioting broke out in Durban's townships last night. The returning children had just the gasp of houses and homes destroyed in a week of violence. Two more deaths yesterday brought the toll to 17 killed and more than 1 000 injured, mainly in Inanda, KwaMashu and Umlazi. A police spokesman in Pietermaritzburg said it was all over in the three townships last night. However, violence and looting continues elsewhere.

**These are thugs, not liberators says chief**

**Vigilantes out as riots spread**

**Inkatha groups gather to quell violence**

**Daily News Reporters**  
VIOLENCE and STRIFE with a continued death toll of 17 and more than 1 000 injured.

Letters, telegrams and phone calls expressing the gratitude of Blacks, Indians and Whites have been pouring into Inkatha's head office in Ulundi following the role the movement played recently in helping to restore peace to Durban's riot-torn townships.

More than 50 Indians and Blacks lost their lives and more than 1 000 were injured and lost their homes and businesses in Inanda, KwaMashu and Umlazi when politically-motivated elements began running riot. Hooligans and looters also moved in. The cost is estimated at R20-million.

Damage amounting to more than R2-million was also caused when KwaZulu Government schools, offices, sub-stations and other property were burnt down.

What started as a so-called "peaceful" boycott of classes by Black pupils following the brutal slaying of a Durban lawyer and UDF activist, Mrs Victoria Mxenge, soon plunged the townships into chaos.

When it became clear that the security forces could not control the situation, Inkatha — with thousands of its members patrolling the streets of the townships — soon restored peace by routing trouble-makers.

It managed, in some instances, to return looted goods to their owners.

Several Press reports quoted Indian and Black residents as saying that some of the rioters were definitely not from Natal as they did not speak Zulu — clearly indicating that some of the trouble-makers had been "imported" into Durban.

In a long statement deploring the outbreak of violence in the Greater Durban area, Chief Buthelezi noted that the State of Emergency in South Africa had had the effect of "scatter-

ing" those who championed violence and were intent on making the country ungovernable.

The Greater Durban area (which does not fall under the State of Emergency declared by the State President as it had not been the scene of any previous unrest) may well have provided the "greener fields that these purveyors of death and violence have been seeking..."

In a clear warning to the UDF, Chief Buthelezi said that those organisations which were attempting to make the country ungovernable, did not understand that Natal would not be "intimidated" by death and violence.

"We reserve the right to defend our persons and our property against the onslaughts which are now being

mounted against us."

The Press, too, praised Inkatha's decisive action when it mobilised its members to move into the townships en masse to protect the lives and property of both Indians and Blacks.

The Secretary-General of Inkatha, Dr Oscar Dhlomo, said at the time that although Inkatha was a non-violent organisation it had the right to look after the safety of people.

Reactionary elements who attempted to interpret the outbreak of violence as a Black/Indian confrontation were knocked off course by Inkatha's swift action.

As the indiscriminate violence spread, a prominent UDF supporter and well-known opponent of Inkatha, Prof. Fatima Meer called for police



Smoke billows from a looted building in the Inanda area. It has been estimated that losses will amount to more than R20-million (\$40 million).





*Under a hail of stones, members of Inanda's Indian community pictured fleeing the area during recent unrest.*

*"Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha organisation scored a major propaganda coup by appearing in the media as the 'saviour' of the townships.*

*"When violence broke out in the townships last week, the UDF seemed unable to act..."*

*"The UDF leadership claims that 'hooligans took over the peaceful and legitimate protest of the students.' But while Inkatha was able to deal with the hooligans, the UDF was not, or could not..."*

**— The Weekly Mail**

*"In the present unrest in Durban, many Indian people openly accused UDF elements of unleashing violence against them. This was so even at the Mahatma Gandhi settlement.*

*"They stated this weeping on television..."*

*"Members of Inkatha have, for more than two years, been at the receiving end of violence from the UDF. The Natal chairman of the UDF, The Rev. Xundu, even attempted, unsuccessfully, to make Lamontville a 'no go' area for me..."*

**— Chief M G Buthelezi.**

help when a mob threatened the Mahatma Gandhi Settlement in Phoenix.

She complained later that the security forces who arrived with soldiers in a Casspir did not stay long enough. The settlement was burned down later.

Prof. Meer's reaction, immediately thereafter, to Inkatha's peace-keeping efforts appears to be no less than mischievous. In one interview she slated Inkatha for acting as a "quasi-police force..." and, in another, appeared to be trying to blame Inkatha for the trouble.

Chief Buthelezi, responding to Prof. Meer, said many Indian people (some filmed sobbing on television) had openly accused UDF elements of unleashing violence against them.

The KwaZulu Government (which is run by Inkatha) had also lost millions of rands worth of property.

"She and her brother, Dr Farouk Meer, are trying to use Inkatha to cover up UDF violence ... they have developed the art of speaking from both sides of their mouths..."

Press reports came out clearly in favour of Inkatha's action.

An article in the Sunday Tribune commented: "The chances of a single KwaZulu/Natal government may have been boosted by Inkatha's powerful role during the past fortnight in restoring order to the Durban area..."

The Natal Mercury said: "...Inkatha members ... determined to bring the criminal element under control and protect homes of both Black and Indian people ... stepped in.

"Inkatha patrols helped bring peace to the townships..."

The Daily News commented: "The unrest is, as elsewhere in the country, confined to Black communities and, as Chief Buthelezi correctly points out, in no way contributes to the achievement of political rights.

"It remains for the UDF leadership to not only dissociate itself but to play a similar pacifying role. It could otherwise be thoroughly discredited..."

The Weekly Mail, in a double page analysis of Durban's riots, commented that the hardest-hit "victim" was the UDF.

"The United Democratic Front in Natal faces the toughest challenge of its two year history following the violence in Durban," said the article.

"When violence broke out in the townships last week, the UDF seemed unable to act..."

"A major flaw on the local UDF — its lack of depth of African leadership — was revealed.

"The UDF claims that 'hooligans took over the peaceful and legitimate protests of the students'. But while Inkatha was able to deal with the hooligans, the UDF did not — or could not..."