

SAVE THE SIX - Don't let them hang

"Mother nothing will change my heart. I believe in freedom for our people."



"I praise your love your spirit your unity"



I greet you beloved friends. I praise your love, your spirit and your togetherness. I am one of the parents of the children who are going to the hangman's noose.

Mrs. Mosololi, speaking at the AZASO meeting.

"THEY do not deserve to die for what they believed was right. They believed in a non-racial, democratic South Africa, free from oppression and exploitation".

The meeting opened with a speech by Rev. Chris Nisson of the Lutheran Church. He challenged the Church's role in the fight for justice in South Africa.

"Is it the duty of the Church to merely comfort and bury the victims of the army and police, or is it our duty to destroy the system at its roots?" he asked.

This was the message voiced by the people at a mass meeting called to demand a stop to the execution of six young blacks convicted of treason.

"If we remain quiet, then we will fail Jesus. Jesus came to bring good news to the poor, to free the prisoner, to set free the captive. The Church should not only heal but should also take up the scissors to cut open the wound and remove the disease. Every Christian has to make a choice. There is no middle road. One is either for the Gospel or against the Gospel. One is either for justice or against justice".

Choice

The mass meeting, held on March 26th, was organised by the Azanian Student's Organisation (AZASO). The meeting was attended by more than 700 people from all over Cape Town.

Every person in the hall rose as Jerry

Mosololi's mother, stood up to speak. They sang a song in praise of her strength. "The voices of young and old could be heard on the streets of Hanover Park as the crowd sang: 'I gamaleka Mrs Mosololi, Malibongwe' - The name of Mrs Mosololi, be praised.

Despair

She told of the despair she felt when her son disappeared for six years. Of her fears when she suddenly heard that he had been arrested while in possession of arms.

But, after seeing him she gained strength from his courage and commitment to the struggle for justice.

There were other speakers. Mrs Helen Joseph, a founder member of the Federation of South African women touched many with her strength. She may not be quoted as

she is a listed person.

Mr Essa Moosa, an Athlone lawyer said that the death sentence "passed on the six was a sad judgement on life in our country. How can we respect a government which is not based on the will of the people?"

Messages of support came from more than 30 organisations, including civics, youth, trade unions, the churches and many others. A youth member said "this shows clearly what broad support exists in the community for the just cause of the six men".

The meeting resolved to demand that the executions be stopped. It called on all Progressive Organisations to support the fight to save the six.

The meeting also resolved to continue the struggle for a free and democratic South Africa based on the Freedom Charter.

Students demand accommodation

STUDENTS at the University of the Western Cape are determined to fight for proper accommodation for all the students.

The students recently had some of their short-term demands met after more than 1000 students marched to the administration block where members of the Students Representative Council and the Hostel Committee handed over a list of demands to the Rector, Professor Richard van der Ross.

After van der Ross gave in on their short term demands, the students said they would start campaigning for their long-term demands.

A step in this direction was taken recently when the students met with the Rector to discuss these demands.

About 70 students are continuing to live in tents on campus be-



Students living in tents because of lack of accommodation.

cause of the lack of accommodation. Some of these have rooms in the hostels, but are lending their rooms to students without accommodation.

The march was the second time in two weeks. It followed on a lunch-time mass meeting where students said they were dissatisfied that the Rector did not

reply positively to a memorandum they had handed to him earlier.

The meeting was called to discuss what action should be taken to have their demands met, but students felt they could not decide on anything without having a clear answer from Professor van der Ross.

They decided to march to the administration

block to demand a reply from the Rector. Students handed over their demands to the Rector and reported back immediately to the other students to decide on further action.

While the delegation met with the Rector, the rest sat outside the administration block, singing freedom songs.

After a while, some

students became impatient and decided to go up to Professor van der Ross's office to fetch the delegation.

The delegation told the students outside that they had scored an "absolute victory" on their four short-term demands.

They said Professor van der Ross had agreed to stop the harassment of "squatters" (students who are living illegally on the hostels because they cannot find or afford other accommodation).

Professor van der Ross accepted, in principle, the autonomy of an elected hostel committee.

Students could also appoint a dietician of their choice to help improve the quality of hostel food.

The rector said he would not renew the lease of the campus cafeteria to the present lessee unless students were satisfied.

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