

Zac Yacob speaks about treason

# 'OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY IS ON TRIAL'

**THE treason trial is much more than just a trial of leaders, says blind Durban advocate Zac Yacob.**

"It is the democratic community and our methods of struggle which are on trial," said Yacob, who represented five of the treason trial accused during the Durban Consulate drama last year.

He was speaking at a meeting in Athlone recently.

Mr Yacob said that by holding the trial in Natal, the government was hoping that the people of Cape Town and the rest of the country would not show support for the sixteen leaders on trial.

"By having a treason trial in the first place, they are trying to frighten people. We need to demonstrate clearly that we are not afraid. We must continue the struggle.

"The only way to do this is to ensure that the treason trial is part of whatever campaigns we take up. The treason

trial is not unrelated to what has happened in the Vaal Triangle, Crossroads or Uitenhage.

"The government tried different methods to control our struggle. They use bullets, batons, the courts, the army and their education system.

"In the same way, we need to use all we have to beat the govern-

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ment. We need to demonstrate. We need to protest against the government's attempts to declare our methods of struggle illegal."

Mr Yacob said the government was clever to charge people with high treason first and then under the Internal Security Act.

"High treason is considered a crime everywhere. Any subject of a country can be charged with high treason.

"But the South African government is illegitimate. We did not vote for them. We owe our allegiance not to the government, but to the country of our birth."

Mr Yacob said people are fighting for

government wants to create for their puppets to move in.

"We must let all our people know about and understand the treason trial.

"We must make sure that things which are happening in this country are known about internationally.

"We must show the link between the treason trial and other atrocities committed by the government. This can be done through hard work and action only.

"The fact that the government is behaving so badly is not a sign of strength, but it is a sign of absolute weakness.

"It is during times of such weakness that we need to act because the government is most vulnerable now. Whatever happens, our struggle must continue. We will win."



CHURCH and UDF leaders were among more than 200 people arrested recently during a march on parliament.

## 'For those in jail . . .

WHEN 300 people held a Good Friday service outside Durban Central Prison, the prisoners joined them in song from inside the prison.

The 16 UDF leaders facing charges of high treason are held at this prison.

Some of their wives and children were part of the service outside the prison walls.

The service was held after church leaders carrying a two metre wooden cross led a

traditional procession through the streets of Durban.

The churchgoers, led by Archbishop Dennis Hurley and the Reverend Wesley Mabuza, prayed for all those suffering in South Africa, and for all prisoners of apartheid, particularly those on treason trial and those on Robben Island.

A similar march was held in Johannesburg, led by Bishop Desmond

Tutu.

At a march of more than 300 in Cape Town, 262 people were arrested. They include Dr Allan Boesak, Dr Beyers Naude, Rev Abel Hendricks and several of the UDF leadership in the Western Cape.

They have all been released without bail and are appearing in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court on June 3, 4 and 5.

## Jail, bomb shock for banned Issel

The harassment of community leader Johnny Issel continues.

Recently, he was arrested for breaking his banning order — and a few hours later a car burst into flames outside his house in Athlone.

Mr. Issel was arrested on Tuesday April 2 at the offices of the Churches Urban Planning Commission (CUPC) in Observatory.

In terms of his banning order, he is not allowed to leave the Wynberg Magisterial District. Within two hours, Mr. Issel was taken to the Cape Town Magistrate Court where he was charged with breaking his banning order.

To shouts of *Amandla* and other slogans from the crowd in the court, he was



released without bail and asked to appear again on May 10.

Later that evening there was more drama in the Issel household.

Soon after midnight while he was watching videos, Mr Issel suddenly realised that a car had burst into flames outside his house.

Afterwards they found a petrol bomb under the car's tank. Petrol had been thrown on the car.

The incident has not been reported to the police.



## Crossroads victims laid to rest

TEARS flowed freely when Crossroads laid many of its brave sons and daughters to rest recently. But more than the tears, was the resolve to "take forward their fight".

The deceased were victims of police violence during the recent unrest in Crossroads. Police has opened fire on protesting

people. Eighteen people were killed and hundreds injured.

The protests started when people heard that 600 Venda-speaking work men had been brought to Khayelitsha in February.

"These people are here to force us to move to Khayelitsha," said the people of Crossroads.

They decided to stay at home on February 18 to protect their homes.

The police moved in. Within hours the area was like a war zone and the dead bodies were being counted.

Most of the funerals were organised by the people's organisations, like Crossroads Commit-

tee and the United Democratic Front (UDF).

Oscar Mpetha, outgoing president of the UDF, spoke at the mass funeral in Crossroads on Saturday March 16.

The message from the people of Crossroads remain the same: "We will not move to Khayelitsha."