



Families of detainees at a press conference at St. Georges Cathedral earlier this month

UNLOCK THE JAILS OF APARTHEID

THE detention of ordinary South African citizens, men and women, children and pensioners, workers, students and teachers - has become an everyday occurrence in our country.

In the last two years, more than 50 000 people have been held for varying periods in apartheid prisons.

These detentions have however, never gone unnoticed.

In recent weeks nume-

rous organisations have intensified the call for the release of all detainees.

The UDF, NECC, Cosatu, UWCO and other organisations condemned the system of detention at a recent press conference held at St Georges Cathedral in Cape Town.

At the press conference UDF spokesperson Mr Joseph Marks announced that various organisations would be having programmes in which the

plight of detainees would be highlighted.

These included panel discussion and detention programmes, and candle-light vigils in areas like Grassy Park, Mitchells Plain Bonteheuvel and Wynberg.

The UDF said: "detention without trial is one of the most brutal forms of repression on human beings. We view detention as violence committed against individuals and their organisations.



Mrs P. Jacobs, mother of Section 29 detainee Peter Jacobs

I cannot explain in words what a terrible and horrifying experience it is.

I dont know what his mental and physical condition is. Whether he is getting enough food.

I think of him as a good young man, very promising, high ideals - what he did, he did for his fellow man.

'Trojan horse' victims remembered



An Athlone resident points to the spot where one of the young boys was killed two years ago

THOUSANDS of people remembered the tragic shooting of three youths who were shot dead in the "Trojan Horse" incident on October 15 1985.

Although two years have passed since their deaths, the memory of their cold-blooded killing is still fresh in the minds of their families and the community.

1985 was a year when students, youths and communities took to the streets and were involved in running battles with the police and SADF.

Athlone became a fierce battle ground and in one week more than eight people were killed and hundreds were injured.

On October 15, at about 3.45 pm a SATS truck was seen cruising

slowly down Thornton Road. The back of the truck was empty.

About 10 minutes later the same truck was seen driving towards Hewat Training College. This time there were wooden crates at the back of the truck.

As the truck neared St Simons Road, a group of youths stoned it. Bricks smashed through the windscreen and the driver who was wearing a brown overcoat, threw his arm in front of his face.

A bystander, who was near St Simons Road when this happened said: "Suddenly, soldiers and policemen jumped out of the crates with shotguns in their hands and began shooting wildly".

"When the smoke clea-

red, we saw these two boys lying in pools of blood. One was lying on the lawn in front of a house and the other was lying face-down on the pavement".

They were left there while the police chased after everyone who was standing in the vicinity".

More than 20 people were arrested that day and charged with public violence. The charges against them were later withdrawn.

However, no-one was charged with the murder of Shaun Magmoed, 16, Jonathan Claasen, 15 and Michael Miranda, 12.

The people who shot and killed them from the back of the SATS truck were never brought to court.

This newspaper has been censored in terms of the emergency regulations.

SECTION 29 IS BARBARIC

MRS ANDRINA Forbes, whose son Ashley has been held since May under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act recently addressed a panel discussion on detention.

This is an extract of her speech which expresses the fears and anguish of a parent cut off from her son:

"I speak on behalf of my son and Begum Pandy whose daughter Yasmina is also being held under Section 29.

"Detention is harmful. Children see police vans, dogs and guns. They see their family and neighbours taken away handcuffed - never to return.

"The chair at the table is empty, the jeans are folded up and packed away.

"Parents minds, health and home are disrupted because one half of you is outside and the other in jail with the detainee.

"Brothers and sisters cannot concentrate on their work at school, nor the father at the workbench.

"Section 29 is barbaric. What it does to people inside and out is horrifying and unnatural.

"Parents minds, health and home are disrupted because one half of you is outside and the other half is in jail with the detainee."

"The detainee is held in a cell entirely alone with no-one to speak to, from minute to hour, day to day, to month in and month out.

"The only people they see are their interrogators, who resort to every possible means to extract information. He is forced to speak in a way that only they are acquainted with.

"The detainee is held behind closed doors where no parent, priest or lawyer is allowed access. Imagine being surrounded by family, friends and society all your life then suddenly plucked and placed in a square concrete and iron box of silence and loneliness.

"What of the anguish and the uncertainty of all outside? No one knows where they are. How they are.

"Are they sad? Are they sitting exercising, thinking, afraid, having nightmares, going crazy, tummy ache, headache? What? What? What?

"Even their parcels of food, toiletries and clothes are refused. Before, at least they had this precious link with their parents.

"For six weeks now our parcels were refused. We were checked, humiliated and had the door banged in our faces. We stood in the rain confused. We stood in the hot sun and sang the anthem.

"Everything is so quiet. What is happening to the detainees, the prisoners, fugitives and exiles? Why are they in captivity, why on the run, why in exile?

"For their beliefs and principles. For justice and equality. So that every human being can be free before heaven. Free."



Mrs A. Forbes (in front) and Mrs B. Pandy, parents of Section 29 detainees Ashley Forbes and Yasmina Pandy

RURAL FOCUS

A grassroots special report

THE tiny rural towns of South Africa are usually overshadowed by the large cities. To many a city dweller, these towns are completely unknown or simply names on a road map.

Yet, tens of thousands of our people live there most under the worst conditions imaginable.

Poverty has become commonplace in these towns. Unemployment, cheap labour, and the brutal oppression of the rural people is becoming worse by the day.

In addition, the Government has attempted to crush the people's resistance in the most brutal and vicious way.

The security forces control people's lives and movements. The hated Katskops are conducting a reign of terror in the townships. Many residents have been forced to flee from the police and army. Hundreds of youth have been imprisoned after

being convicted on charges of arson, public violence and subversion.

A Grassroots team visited some of these areas. We wanted to hear what the people of Beaufort, Richmond, Aberdeen, Graaf-Reinette and Victoria West had to say. We went to dig out the truth about events in places like Oudtshoorn, George, Ashton and Saldanha.

We discovered that though organisations had been crippled, the people's will to resist had not been broken. The youth, especially were in the forefront of rebuilding organisations. Trade unions were expanding into some of these areas. In the Southern Cape, the churches and the community had organised a service in George which 3000 people attended.

On these 4 pages we report on what we had discovered.



Young children sing freedom songs and dance in the streets of the tiny fishing village of Diasville Saldanha

No songs for Minister Viljoen

SOME teachers at the Bhongoletu Primary School in Oudtshoorn fear that the authorities may act against them after pupils at the school refused to sing and dance for the Minister of Education and Training, Dr Gerrit Viljoen.

Dr Viljoen was snubbed by the determined youngsters at the schools opening ceremony this year.

One of the teachers involved Mr Zoalile Jingqi has been asked by the authorities to give written notice as to why the students did not participate in the activities of the day.

Mr Jingqi, who had been given responsibility for the choir, told Grassroots: "I called the choir and told them that we must rehearse because the school is to be officially opened. They said that they will not sing. I reported this to the principal who said that he will speak to them the following morning at Assembly. He spoke to them and encouraged

them to sing with the help of other teachers.

The pupils were even called to the staff-room where they stated very clearly that they will not sing for a person who was part of banning their organisations and declaring the state of emergency.

After that meeting some teachers said that there are people who were influencing the children and that these teachers had already completed their studies.

A parents committee meeting was then called but even the parents could not convince the young pupils to change their minds." According to Mr Jingqi, who has been detained on several occasions, the Regional Inspector had arrived at the school one day and said to him: "You are walking on thin ice."

He said that he and the other teachers involved had consulted their lawyers on the matter.

MASS PROTESTS IN SALDANHA

DIASVILLE, Saldanha has been the scene of protests on the West Coast for the past month.

Most people of this small conservative community work for Sea Harvest where fish products are processed mainly for export.

The community is completely dependant on the income which they earn from the fish industry there. But as in all our factories, the bosses get richer but the conditions at the homes of the workers get worse- their rents increase, food prices go up and they suffer more and more.

About 1 month ago this town was overtaken with events as workers and students

protested against the bosses and the Apartheid state. On 7 September 1987, 280 workers at Sea Harvest went on strike after a dispute about wage negotiations.

To date there are about 518 out of 700 workers on strike. This stirred lots of anger about many other things. The rugby field can be used by Federation clubs only. This is one of the many desperate ways in which the state tries to break SARU, the SACOS affiliated rugby union. SARU members went to the field on 13 September 1987 where arguments started. As a result Maxwell Moss and two others were detained. Later a 14 year old, std

4 pupil Abraham Julies, who was walking home was shot and killed by the police. This angered the community. His funeral was attended by about 600 people from Diasville.

As the minister at

the funeral said " 'n kort tydjie terug was ons 'n rustige gemeenskap."

Since the funeral of Abraham Julies, 2 or 3 people in Diasville are being detained every week.



Family members at Abraham Julies burial



GENEVA CONVENTION UNDER SPOTLIGHT

WHEN ANC guerilla Mxolisi Petani appeared on charges of terrorism in the Cape Town Supreme Court recently, he refused to plead saying that he was protected in terms of the Geneva convention.

This put the spotlight on the Geneva conventions of 1949 and their protocol 1 of 1977 on the humanitarian conduct of war.

In 1980, Oliver Tambo led a delegation of the African National Congress to Geneva where the ANC became a signatory to the Geneva convention.

This took place at a ceremony at

the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr Tambo signed the declaration on behalf of the ANC's national executive committee and the ANC's military wing, Unkhonto We Sizwe.

In so doing, the ANC then undertook to treat members of South Africa's regular armed forces if captured by Unkhonto We Sizwe, as prisoners of war and to be bound by other regular provisions of the conventions.

The South African Government has however failed to become signatory to the convention.

Many observers have said that agreeing to the terms of the convention would be a bitter pill for the Government to swallow. It would mean that the South African Government gave recognition to the justness of the liberation struggle.

The South African Government is coming under increasing pressure internationally to formally declare its adherence to the Geneva convention.

The United Nations and the International Committee of the

Red Cross developed the law so as to extend the concept of an international armed conflict to cover wars of national liberation in which in the language of protocol 1, "peoples are fighting against colonial domination and alien occupation and against racist regimes in the exercise of their right of self-determination."

The two additional protocols of 1977 were an attempt to extend civilian protection and extend the definition of "prisoner of war" to guerillas carrying arms.

Oliver Tambo, signed the Geneva Convention on behalf of the ANC

UDF RESPONDS TO POLICE SURVEY IN BONTEHEUWEL

THE police has for the last four weeks been conducting a door to door survey in Bonteheuwel.

They have told residents that the high crime rate in Bonteheuwel has developed into a crisis situation and the survey is an attempt by the police to gain control over the township.

According to members of UDF affiliated organisations in the area, however, the police are asking questions

which seem to contradict this.

The UDF organisations, which enjoy tremendous support in the area, said that very little was being done about crime in the area. Instead the survey seems to be enquiring about the activities and the whereabouts of members of community organisations like the UDF. A UDF spokesperson said, "They are offering people money to give them information,

People are being promised that the police would assist them if they had problems with the City Council. They are also proposing that mobile police stations be set up in the area".

The UDF said that it would support any genuine efforts to counter the high crime rate in Bonteheuwel.

"We have, however, seen a number of gang fights about which the police did very little. They are spending most of their time harassing our students and detaining people who are concerned about the hardships and suffering of the people of Bonteheuwel. Just two weeks ago 18 people were detained in Bonteheuwel. Amongst them were two 14-year-old boys and an advice office worker.

This has confirmed our suspicion as to the motive

of the survey," the UDF spokesperson said.

Last month Labour Party MP Pat Mc Kenzie praised the police for their actions in Bonteheuwel. He claimed that the ANC was trying to make the area ungovernable.

UDF organisations have responded by saying that the police represents repression to them and most of Bonteheuwel's people. "They are the ones who shoot teargas into our parents' homes, who drag students out of schools and who shot and killed Ashley Kriel, one of Bonteheuwel's finest sons. The UDF once again reminded Mc Kenzie that he represents very few people - he was elected on a 9 percent poll.

The UDF also pointed out that the MP does not live in the area any longer and has not been seen there for years.



Mitchells Plain students show their support for Mr Carelse

Massive support for demoted principal

SINCE it became known that Mitchells Plain principal Mr P.E. Carelse was to be demoted, the community has rallied to his support.

Tremendous pressure is being put on Mr Carter Ebrahims Department of Education and Culture (DEC).

Students, teachers and parents in Mitchells Plain have united to call for his immediate reinstatement.

The last two weeks has seen protests at most of Mitchells Plain High Schools as well as a well-attended mass meeting at the Lentegour Civic Centre.

Mr Carelse has been backed to the hilt by organisations such as the United

Democratic Front (UDF), the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC), the Western Cape Teachers Union (Wectu) as well as various other organisations.

Mr Carelse the principal of Glendale Secondary School regards the Departments' latest action as an assault on the teaching profession.

He is to be transferred to a primary school where he will take up the post of deputy-principal.

The UDF area committee of Mitchells Plain said that the action "was indicative of the departments fear for people like Mr Carelse who are prepared to act upon their convictions."

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SHOP AT ELITE IT MAKES CENTS

Spekenham workers still on strike

600 workers at Spekenham refused the bosses offer of a week's salary if they go back to work. The workers told the bosses that they will continue with the strike until their demands are met. The bosses again offered the workers a month's salary if they stopped the strike. The workers again did not accept the offer.

The Spekenham workers have been on strike for almost two months now. They spend most of their time during the day at Bellville South NG Sending church hall. UDF and COSATU supports the workers.

A concert was organised at UWC last month to support the striking workers. The strike started when the demanded wage increases and the recognition of their union (FAWU). They were earning between R49 and R70 a week. The bosses refused to meet their demands.

Saamstaan survives despite attacks

THE Saamstaan community newsletter, based in Oudtshoorn and serving the Southern Cape and other rural communities has survived two emergencies and is still coming out.

The full-time workers of Saamstaan have just completed the sixth edition for the year and plan two more before December. Presently, two of the four full-time workers are out of action. Mbulelo "Spee" Grootboom, 27, was detained last month - only three months after he was released from a year in emergency detention.

Journalist Patrick Nyuka, 20, is recovering from pellet wounds after being seriously injured when Kitscops shot him on September 18. Nyuka had refused to hand over his camera and notes to the controversial policemen.

Project organiser Derek Jack-

son spent two months in detention under the emergency.

Saamstaan usually has eight pages but the last edition only had four pages due to the shooting and arrest of the two workers.

Presently an average of 8 000 copies of the newsletter is printed and distributed mainly in Southern Cape towns like Mossel Bay, George, Plettenberg Bay, Knysna, Oudtshoorn and Willowmore. There is also a demand for Saamstaan from other areas like Beaufort West, Victoria West, Graaf-Reinette, Ashton, De Aar and Aberdeen.

Saamstaan first appeared in February 1984 and almost immediately it won wide support from the residents of the poverty stricken rural towns. For the first time, the majority of people had a voice through which they could speak of their problems,

grievances and share their common experiences.

Area Committees of Saamstaan were set up in a number of Southern Cape Towns. The area committees make decisions on the policy and direction of the newsletter. In Oudtshoorn, about seventeen organisations came together to form the local area committee.

These organisations included youth groups, rugby and hockey clubs, residents committees and other welfare and cultural groups. In Willowmore, the area committee was made up of similar groups. Nine organisations constituted the area committee.

Peopel were inspired by Saamstaan. The residents of different areas read about what others were doing in their areas. This encouraged people to build organisations. Youth, student,

womens and civic organisations were formed.

From the start, the project has had to endure severe harassment. Saamstaan workers have been detained or arrested on several occasions. Former organiser and present organiser Humphrey Joseph and Derek Jackson were both detained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act during 1985. Mbulelo Grootboom has spent several lengthy periods in detention and is currently being held at George prison.

In 1985, three attempts were made to burn down the Saamstaan office in the coloured township of Bridgton, Oudtshoorn. The project has been severely disrupted at times. In 1986, for example only four editions could be produced due to detentions harassment and



The latest edition of Saamstaan the state of emergency in general. But it seems that only a total ban will stop Saamstaan.



Victoria West children huddle together outside a tiny shack

BITTER LIFE FOR RURAL CHILDREN

LIFE has become a misery for children in Victoria West. Their fathers work on farms for R70 a month and only return on weekends, while their mothers work in the town for R20 a week and only return home at night. A 10 year-old child told grassroots "we are hungry and have to wait for our mothers to come home

and give us food". The state has employed it municipal police (Greenflies) who are often drunk and hassle people.

Grassroots found children sitting outside shacks coughing badly and without food. The average family had 4 children and the size of the shacks were about two square meters. One

family lives in an old canopy of a truck. The conditions in Victoria West are very hot in summer and people have to walk 3 km for water which has to be boiled first. People obtain food on "the book" from shops and often have a difficult task to pay back since they earn very little. The prices of food are very high.

Workers Unite in Graaff-Reinet

DESPITE the state of emergency, the workers of Graaf Reinett have united and formed a workers union.

They told Grassroots that as Graaf-Reinett is a small town there are no big firms or factories. They organised domestic workers, people working in garages, some in shops and supermarkets into a General Union. Graaf Reinett Workers Union campaigned for May Day. The May Day stayaway was 100% successful.

They told Grassroots that Graaf Reinett Workers Union will campaign for a living Wage. They said since most workers in "Graaf" are domestic

workers, they are the victims of high rents.

As most people get R60 per month the people decided to boycott rents. The boycott that was launched in 1985 was successful.

One resident said, "The Administration Board tried to break the rent boycott by saying that the pensioners should pay R10 per month. People were not fooled.

"For the unemployed people, Graafcom, the umbrella body of all committees set up a soup kitchen which was supported by business men. Students had their own SRC office in school for the first time in 1986."

Badly hit by emergency but . . .

CRADOCK REMAINS UNITED

A people united shall never be defeated. These words have inspired struggling people throughout the world.

The residents of Lingelihle township in Cradock have shown just how true these words are. The Cradock community is currently suffering under the second state of emergency in as many years. The people are struggling through a period which has seen the Government and its army and police go all out to crush all forms of resistance.

Meetings are banned in Cradock. The security forces conduct door-to-door raids. The council police or greenflies, as they are commonly called, patrol the township, beating and threatening people.

16 Cradock residents, mainly executive members of the Cradock Residents Association and Cradock Youth Association, are still in detention.

Despite the heavy repression, the community remains united. Grassroots interviewed Mrs Nyameka Goniwe, wife of murdered community leader Mathew Goniwe, a leading figure in the United Democratic Front (UDF).

She said, "The state of emergency has been very tough. More than 120 of our people were detained and 16 are still inside. It is difficult to do

anything in Cradock". She said that people's spirit had not been crushed.

She said that people from the community turned out in their thousands to bury two comrades in August. One was killed by the greenflies and the second man was an ANC soldier shot dead by police in Port Elizabeth. He was Sonwabo Mdenkazi.

"Mdekazi was buried first. The funeral was restricted to 200 people and there was a heavy security force presence ensuring that the restrictions were observed. Thousands of townships residents milled around outside the church.

We still see Graffiti on the walls in the township and pamphlets and posters still appear.

Groups of youth are sometimes seen toyi toying in the townships. This is mainly encouraged by events. On June 16, for example, 200 residents had a big procession through the township. They stopped at the homes of people who had fallen in the struggle, before moving on. The group eventually stopped and had a short open-air service."

None of the more than 30 greenflies were from Cradock, according to Mrs Goniwe. "They have a camp outside the township. They are not accepted in the community", she said.

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Retreat pensioner battles after water supply is cut

LIFE has become a nightmare for 70-year-old Retreat pensioner Mrs Margaret Dixon whose electricity and water supply has been cut off.

Mrs Dixon, who shares a two-bedroomed maisonette with twelve other people including five young children was informed by a City Council inspector in June that her water supply would be cut off because of mounting arrears.

For almost four months now the family has had to beg and borrow water from three neighbours.

Mrs Dixon told Grassroots she owed more than R200 for water when the supply was cut. She currently owes R120 as she had gone to the Civic centre to pay small amounts on the three different occasions.

To add to her problems the old lady has to make do without electricity which was cut off more than a year ago.

"Only two people in

the house have a regular income," she said. "And we are two pensioners."

We struggle without water. We have to ask water from our neighbours. People have given willingly but now some of them are starting to complain.

Everyday we have to fetch water in buckets."

I don't know what we will do if the neighbours don't help any longer. The council told that they can only put on the water when we pay the full amount.

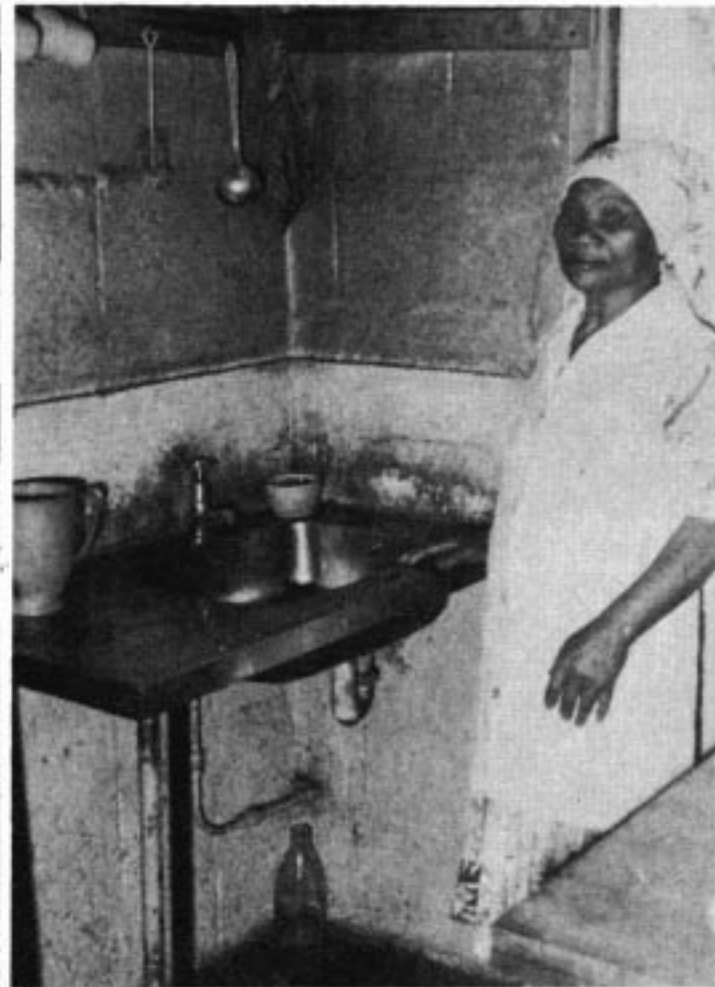
Meanwhile at least forty families in Mitchells Plain have also complained of their water being cut to workers at the Mitchells Plain Advice Office.

"People come in regularly to the office to find out what they can do about the problem," an advice office worker told Grassroots.

Mr Ted Doman, Public relations officer for the City Council said however that it was not Coun-



Mrs Margaret Dixon, 70, with her family in their home



Mrs Dixon stand next to the tap in her kitchen

cil policy to cut peoples water supply completely.

"I would be very surprised if people's water was

cut off completely. The Medical Officer of Health does not like the idea of people not having water.

It is very unhygienic." Mr Doman said that what the Council did do was to put a disc in the water meters

to reduce the water flow to a trickle.

He said the council made special arrange-

ments for unemployed people, and those had sick people living in their homes.

UCT student to be sentenced next month

IN less than a month University of Cape Town law student Andrew Brown will know whether he is to go to jail or not.

The 21 year old student was convicted on a charge of public violence earlier this month.

He pleaded guilty in the Wynberg Regional Court to throwing stones at police on campus on April 24 this year.

He told the court that he had also thrown a stone at a police van on De Waal Drive.

Brown said in mitigation of sentence that he was overcome with anger and frustration when he witnessed police sjambokking students on campus after a peaceful picket protest.

The arrest of two students the following Monday together with police action on campus and his own experiences at the hands of the police made him "very angry indeed" and he momentarily lost control.

He told the court that he had been detained four times without trial and assaulted in police cells.

In 1985 he was detained for two weeks and kept in solitary confinement with only a Bible to read and without resource to a lawyer, Doctor, or his parents, except for one visit by his mother.



Andrew Brown - could go to jail next month

He was then released without being charged.

"I found my treatment particularly aggressive and abusive and totally unnecessary."

He said the stones he threw would not have hit members of the public or cars on De Waal Drive.

A teacher at Westford High School where Brown matriculated in 1984 described him as an intelligent pupil as well as a sensitive and compassionate person.

She knew Brown as a

person who always maintained a balanced perspective in spite of his strong political views.

Dr Ramsay Karelse, a psychiatrist, told the court that Brown had suffered from post-traumatic depression, insomnia and other problems on his release from detention.

"Although its uncharacteristic for him to be violent, I can understand why he did this thing.

The case was postponed to the 16 November.



These Belhar women are determined to carry on the struggle for "rents we can afford".

RENT VICTORY BUT BELHAR RESIDENTS TO FIGHT ON

RESIDENTS in Belhar are saying that their struggle against high rents is far from over. Divco (divisional council of the Cape) recently postponed the new rent increase after heavy protest from the residents but residents are not satisfied by this.

They want the rent increases to be scrapped and the entire rental system to be reviewed. "Postponing the rent is just a drop in the ocean of what we really fighting for. There is still along list of problems that council needs to address and postponing the rent increase means that they can implement it when things have quietened down and there is no resistance", a resident said.

Residents also spoke out against the local housing manager on how he treats people when they go to the rent office.

Mrs Gobi who stays in one of the houses said that the housing managers threats and intimidation has increased since the protest marches against high rents and it is particularly directed at those who were involved in organising it.

Mrs Pienaar who is still mourning her husbands

death told Grassroots how Mr Cornelius rudely interrupted her on the day of her husband's burial.

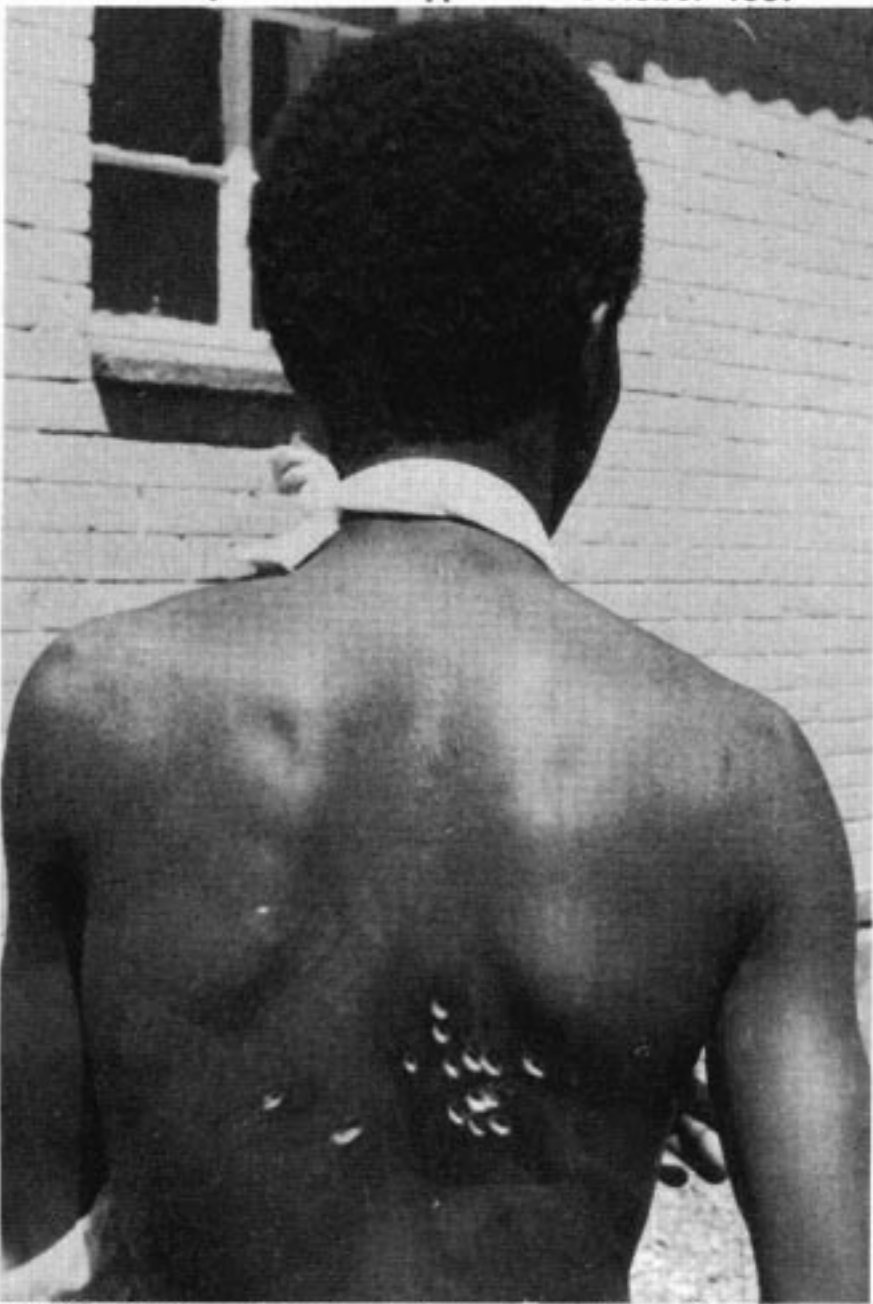
"This man does not have any respect for the dead. He barged into my house and demanded that I fill in the blue survey form or face the consequences of having to pay more than R200 rent".

Residents in the area are presently busy with a petition and affidavits to get council to remove Mr Cornelius out of the area.

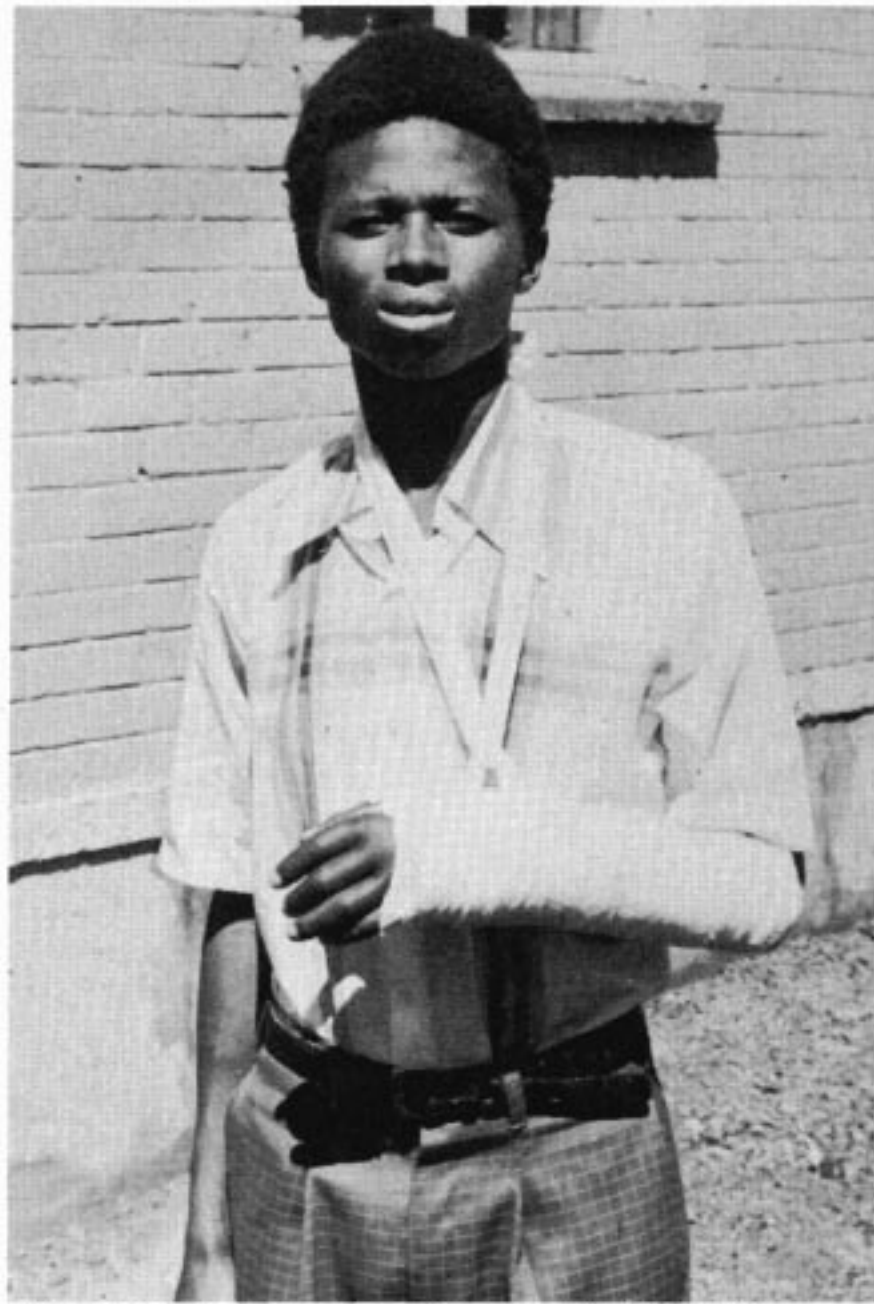
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Patrick Nyuka is recovering from 13 pellet hole in his back



The Saamstaan journalist a few days after his release

Kitscop terror

PATRICK NYUKA, a journalist at the Saamstaan community news-letter in Oudtshoorn is recovering slowly after being shot by kitskonstabels more than a month ago.

Mr Nyuka, 20, still has 13 pellet wounds in his back, marks on other parts of his body and his arm is in plaster.

He was shot by Kitskonstabels in the township of Bhongolethu on Saturday 18 September outside a church hall. A celebration party was taking place for two young men released after serving two years sentences for public violence.

About 200 members of the community

were present in the hall. Sources in Oudtshoorn claim that Nyuka had refused to give two Kitskonstabels his film and notes which they had demanded.

In the resulting argument, Patrick was shot as well as a 38 year old woman Ms Lindiwe Phillips who is still in George Hospital with a broken leg and arm and several pellet wounds in her body.

Nyuka was taken into police custody from the George Hospital on September 24 and held for five days before appearing on a charge of public violence. He has appeared in court twice and is out on bail of R400.

The shootings have

once again focussed attention on the activities of the kitskops in many rural towns. Residents have made several allegations of assault, threats and harassment against the Kitskops.

The shooting of Mr

Nyuka and Ms Phillips occurred only weeks after the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok gave an undertaking that Bhongolethu's 16 Kitskonstabels would not act unlawfully.

In terms of the undertaking in the Cape Town Supreme Court the Kitskops may not unlawfully assault, arrest, detain, intimidate, insult, confiscate possessions of or enter houses of residents.



Mr Michael Notyke outside his burnt out home in Lawaaiikamp

BLINDED BY SHOOTING MYSTERY FIRES IN LAWAAIKAMP

KWA-MANDLENKOSI residents in Beaufort West live in fear after one of their respected residents was blinded when he was shot at by a Kitscop.

Grassroots spoke to Sydney Yabo, 22, who described how he was shot by his kitscop neighbour.

He said: "On the 20th of June this year I was coming from a dance at about 9pm. I saw a group of kitskops approaching me. One of them who is my neighbour just shot at me without asking me any questions.

"The next thing I knew I was in hospital under police guard, I was completely blind. I spent three weeks in hospital. I was then discharged from hospital and arrested and charged with public violence.

"I was kept in police cells for two days. I was then released on free bail. When asked if he has any source of income, he replied. "My parents died. I live with my girlfriend and none of us work."

"Neighbours give us food everyday. If it was not for them I would have died of hunger. I applied for pension but I have not received any reply. I laid a charge against the kitscop. We are going to court on the 28th of October."

LAWAAIKAMP residents are puzzled by the mystery fires which destroyed about seven houses in the squatter camp. The owners of the houses do not know the cause of the fire.

Mr Michael Notyke, 51, said, "I have stayed here for more than 25 years. I have never seen anything like this before. Our houses suddenly just burnt. For example when my house burnt there was no stove or anything else that was on. I was in the bedroom with my wife.

My wife smelt something like smoke and I heard a crackling noise. I went to the kitchen to investigate. As I opened the kitchen door, I was confronted by big flames. We all ran out without taking anything with us. The house was completely destroyed."

One resident who also had his house destroyed said, "Our houses started to burn after we united against removals. When we went to the authorities for help they told us that they are prepared

to help only when we agree to move to Sandkraal. We were supposed to have moved on the 31st of September. We are not going to move. We have stayed here for more than 40 years. Our demand is that Lawaaiikamp be upgraded. The town clerk told us that upgrading is not negotiable.

Meanwhile, Mr Notyke's children stay with friends and relatives. He and his wife stay in a little shack which they built as a store-room.

Defend, Consolidate Advance says the UDF

IT is common knowledge to all that the struggling people of the rural areas, facing brutal repression from the side of the Government has made great contributions to the struggle for a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

More specifically, the people of the rural areas have played and continue to play a major role in building the United Democratic Front

The rural people have had to withstand the most brutal attacks against entire communities since the national state of emergency was declared. The police and army occupy many tiny townships, controlling people through the barrel of a gun.

That their spirit has not been broken is testimony to the bravery and courage of our rural people.

Right now our most important task is to slowly and systematically rebuild our organisations. We must gradually draw the youth into youth structures, the women into womens organisations and residents into trade unions and civic organisations.

The UDF nationally has adopted the theme defend, consolidate and advance as the basis of all its future work. We must defend the gains we have made, we must consolidate our work and at the same time we must move forward.

It is obvious that we cannot achieve this by using old methods. No longer can we meet in big groups at mass meetings or general councils. It is important and necessary for us to meet in smaller groups while at the same time drawing in people to our structures all the time.

We must particularly look seriously at the formation of trade unions or organising committees of workers to join existing national trade unions under the banner of Cosatu.

Through struggle the UDF and Cosatu has developed a close working relationship and in many parts of the country the message is: "Every UDF activist a Cosatu member and every Cosatu member a UDF activist".

While rebuilding the structures in our areas, it is important to broaden the front. To get more and more people involved in actively running our UDF affiliates and also to draw new organisations into the UDF - organisations like sports clubs, cultural groupings and workers committees.

It is essential to build unity at all levels. We can learn lessons from the people of Cradock who remain united despite severe repression. Let us devise new ways of not only rebuilding in our own areas but once again establishing our structures of communication with other areas in our regions. It is important that we do not isolate our struggles.

During this period we need to seriously look at what kinds of media we can use. Media is sometimes our only channel of communication with our people.

Be careful of the Governments attempts to win over our support by mending pavements and fixing a couple of roads. The Government recently introduced a sophisticated system of Joint Management Centres. There are over 600 of these committees all over the country. They are mostly controlled by the army.

These committees try to keep a close watch over different areas and try and ensure that the people do not resist.

Nationally the state of emergency dealt a serious blow to progressive organisations. But it was not long before thousands of people under the banner of the UDF and Cosatu hit back. In the last 6 months, hundreds of thousands of workers have gone on strike in support of their demand for a living wage. The biggest was the strike by more than 200 000 mineworkers two months ago.

More and more organisations continue to affiliate to the UDF and at every level our people are fighting back. It is in this spirit that we must advance.

VICTORY IS CERTAIN.

grassroots
comment

Finding peaceful solutions

FINDING peaceful solutions to South Africa's critical problems is of utmost importance to anti-apartheid organisations struggling for a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

The major stumbling block to peaceful change has however always been and still is, the South African Government.

All peaceful protests have been met over the years with violence and repression. The detention of more than 50 000 of our people in recent years makes a mockery of the Government's call for peaceful reform.

Peaceful change can only come about if the people's demands are met. These demands are very reasonable. They include the release of all detainees, the unbanning of banned people's organisations like the African National Congress, the return of all exiles, the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners, and the dismantling of all forms of apartheid.

While talking about peaceful change on the one hand, the Government is using an increasing amount of force to ensure that people don't make the above demands. It appears that meeting these demands are out of the question as far as the Government is concerned.

Peaceful reform seems to be nothing but a suitably strategy intended to ease world pressure against the apartheid Government.

Calling on the Government to meet these simple demands appears to be futile.

We must however pursue with making our demands and place pressure on those in power in whichever way we can.

Reclaiming our culture

Goema-Goema and potjiekos . . .

GOEMA GOEMA music, boere leëries and freedom songs, potjiekos and steaks, rugby and borrows are all part of the rich cultural tradition of South Africa.

The Government uses culture to divide people, thus making apartheid stronger. They emphasise the difference between black and white, Xhosa and Zulu, Tswana and Sotho.

South African culture is looked down upon and youth idolise American superstars like Michael Jackson and Madonna.

Lately, there have been moves to encourage a culture which is truly South African.

More and more youth groups, trade unions and community organisations are using culture to express their experiences of struggle, to tell of their vision of a non-racial and democratic South Africa.



Winston of Winston's Jive Mix p. mixing some music for liberation

Interpret and express our lives

OVERHEARD in a bar: "Don't do that man! Geez, you've got no culture boy!"

"How do you know if you got any culture - you don't even know what the word means?"

What is culture? It is good manners and behaving properly, or is it what artists poets and singers do? Or is it broader than both of these things something we all have and do. That is, the way we understand our lives and the things that happen to us, and the way we interpret and express these experiences.

For example, one of the main things going on in our lives is the struggle between the government and the people. All of us have experienced school boycotts, stay aways, protest marches and strikes. Depending on how you experience these events, you will interpret them in different ways. Bosses often interpret the demand for a living wage as the work of 'communist agitators', students interpret the actions of teachers as 'reactionary and unfair', some people at a protest march might see the action of the SAP as a struggle between white and black.

Integrating our lives
As soon as you interpret experiences in your life, you begin to create a culture, or a set of values and ideas which give meaning to the people around you and affects the way that they interpret their experiences.

Artists or cultural workers spend time interpreting their lives and ours, through songs, plays, dances,

pictures and poems-often in very imaginative or unusually perceptive ways. But culture is already present in our language, traditions and way of life. Artists are not the only ones who interpret or make culture, we all do. We make it with our own experiences, in our day to day lives and from the understandings we have come to or were given by our parents and grandparents, as we try to interpret and express and change our lives.

In a situation of conflict, culture becomes a struggle. People fight to make one interpretation of society dominant, and try to discredit and squash other interpretations.

SABC propaganda

So the SABC tries to force us to believe that the Nationalist government is good and that all opposition groups are 'terrorists'. Their programmes show good-looking boys in SADF uniforms saying good-bye to their sweethearts and bravely going off to fight for "Christian standards and Western Civilization". They show members of their puppet governments, like Sebe and Gubbie doing all kinds of good deeds and talking about how they are improving the lives of the people. In fact the majority of the people experience daily the brutality of the SADF and the SAP as well as the misery of life in the economic wastelands that are the townships.

Our songs reflect this reality as we sing of:

Margaret's Gatha Buthelezi-potjiekos
Sibho nangika yintaba

Lenore's Sebe nyekankakoyintaba
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Dabweng's Isitiro Matanzima yintaba

The struggle over culture is in a way a struggle over truth. In order to make it oppression culture dominant the government uses agents like the SABC, the press, school curriculum and even the ministers of religion spread lies and distortions about reality or to create a 'Culture of silence' where nobody knows anything and nobody asks any questions.

They are advertising to make us spend all our money on luxuries, trying to look like the latest American stars, giving our hair, having nice cars etc. The soap operas on T.V. make us think about the latest problem in Faye and Bobby's life instead of our own problems.

Culture of silence

Basic education and Christ National Education teach us never to ask critical questions, to be obedient to anyone in authority regardless of how everyone in authority regardless of how deplorable that authority.

They tell us that we have no history here: they 'discovered' South Africa; that all progress since then has been because of colonialism, and that all victories have been 'Box victories over barbarism'.

Conservative priests and ministers focus a individual spirituality and the gift the sky stars waiting

for you when you die. Instead of caring for your neighbour and involving yourself in the community which is what Christ really taught.

Often elements of our own culture will be co-opted into the oppression culture. The cover festivals could be one example where the peoples tradition of celebrating a new year has been taken over and commercialised into a meaningless ritual that many people are ashamed of to see.

Co-opting our words

Lately they have even begun using our language like 'non-racialism', 'community organisation' and 'grassroots work' to make their ideas acceptable to us and confuse us into thinking that they are changing their policies.

As progressives we also struggle to make our understanding and interpretation of our lives dominant. The difference is that we have truth and justice and the interests of our people on our side.

We want people to talk about their problems like hunger, overcrowding and long working hours and work out how to change this. We don't want to pretend that these problems don't exist. We want people to have the power to their hands to change their lives, not make them feel powerless and that they can do nothing. And we want people to feel proud, to sing, to dance, to join for the love of living and their people, not to be forced!

lured in our schools and make people want to look like and be like Americans. We want people to know and be proud of our history in this land as a history of courage and resistance.

We have begun to develop this kind of culture and we have come very far.

If we look at the culture of the 1950's and 60's we can see people creating a culture which expressed the realities of their lives in Sophiatown and District Six and since then we have developed a whole lot of people of freedom songs, praise poems and plays.

The idea of art as the process possession of artists is changing to artists and cultural workers are more and more identifying themselves with the struggle and making their work available for the meetings, rallies and services. Also more and more of our organisations are coming together to write poems and compose songs for the struggle.

Power struggle

The struggle over culture is a struggle for power because the cultural or ideological part of society is vital for maintaining or changing it. The existing system cannot be maintained purely by force-it also relies on cultural dominance and support. (On the other hand critical and creative work in the cultural field challenges old attitudes and begin to create new values, patterns of behaviour.

Weakening apartheid culture

THE cultural boycott, drawn up by anti-apartheid groups overseas is used to mobilize their campaigns against apartheid.

Many foreign artists working in South Africa have been blacklisted, picketed or have faced other forms of protest.

In December 1968, the

United Nations adopted resolutions 2396 calling on all countries to suspend cultural, educational, sporting and other dealings with apartheid South Africa.

These measures are not meant to hurt South African artists, but serves to promote people's culture.

The boycott was seen as a way of weakening Apartheid culture and creating a space in which people's culture could emerge.

Overseas artists came together under the banner of Artists Against Apartheid in Britain and Artists United Against Apartheid in America.

The best teacher for an artist is life, but that means the life of all of us, lived together, not looked at through the window of a studio.
Victor Jara - Chilean poet and songwriter.

Our musical ambassadors

SOUTH AFRICAN music is poorer because of the absence of who were forced to leave the country and live in exile.

Artists like Hugh Masekela, Maitso Maitso and Doty Brand were all forced out of the country to practice their art overseas.

Although they have not lived in South

Promoting people's culture

MUSICAL Action for People's Power (MAPP) is an organisation of cultural workers which promotes culture for resistance.

MAPP is committed to establishing musical training programmes, progressive cultural workshops in drama, indigenous instrument building, lyric writing and the history of culture in the liberation struggle.

The organisation has a cultural centre in Lansdowne and hopes that it will mushroom into a centre throughout the Peninsula.

MAPP believes that it is up to the community to create a new culture. A culture where the Ashley Ketele and the Sarbutu Workers will be seen about for future generations to remember.

They hope to provide assistance to talented musicians, writers and actors who cannot afford tuition, have no access to musical equipment, rehearsal space or basic drama skills.



A cultural group in Ghana play their talking drums and sing of the freedom that will come to South Africa. Freedom that all of Africa will celebrate.

The international voice of anger

MZWAKHE MBULE, the fiery poet who inspired thousands of people at the launch of the UDF has been on the run for two years. Mzwakhe is always in demand to read his poems at mass meetings, weddings and funerals.

His poetry reflects the struggle for change and his 'International Voice of Anger' was greeted with enthusiastic applause at the UDF launch in August 1983.

He read more poetry recently at the UDF/PAWU concert at the UWC last month.

Mzwakhe was released recently after two months in detention. He has only visited his wife in secret during the past two years. He is known as 'the lung man' by the security police.

Mzwakhe's poetry emphasises the use of culture as a vehicle of struggle. His poems deal with suffering and injustice, but at the same time calls people to action.

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Giela, 1987

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The two Victoria West women work as pipefitters



The women above are working on this building in Richmond

Women used as cheap labour

IN many rural areas unemployed women are used as a source of cheap labour. In Victoria West women take on jobs as pipefitters and bricklayers and get paid a measly R20 a week.

Grassroots visited Victoria West in the Karoo and spoke to Mrs Winnifred Bilaty, 44, a mother of nine children.

She said "I was employed as a pipefitter at

the beginning of the year. The jobs were available at the Administration Board.

We dug roads with pickaxes and dug water drains. After digging drains we were asked to lay pipes. We earned R20 a week.

Asked if she was satisfied with the wages she said, "I have nine children and I am separated from my husband. I had no other option as there is no other work

here.

My only daughter who works earns R70 a month in a hotel. My other children are scattered all over looking for jobs. Some still attend school. The rent is R25 a month.

But sometimes I only pay R5. I told the Administration Board that I cannot afford the rent. Some of my children left school before the time. They decided to go and look for jobs.

But that does not work because they do not get jobs."

Miss Julie Lester, 23, said; "We heard that there are jobs available at the Administration Board. We were told that the project is for the Unemployed (Werkloos). About 40 women and 10 men were employed. We were paid R20 a week. Men got the same wages because we did the same job. Only two

men got R30 a week. We used to start at 7.30.

We had lunch from 1 to 2. From 2 we worked till 4 pm. Sometimes I used to get less than R20 because the manager owns a grocery shop and gave us groceries on credit. He deducted the money from our wages. I decided to stop because I was pregnant at the time. I don't work there anymore."

Namaqualand

People stripped of their birthright

FOR GENERATIONS, Namaqualand farmers have shared their land, grazing their goats and sheep wherever rain has fallen and restored the veld. Now fences have been put up in a new system of land division which is leaving them dispossessed, with nowhere to go.

"We are proud people," says Tant Sanna. "We have never had to work for white people. We have always been able to slaughter an animal for meat, and grind our own wheat to make bread.

"We have never had to beg for food from anyone."

Tant Sanna lives in Leliefontein, one of three so-called "coloured rural areas" in Namaqualand. The others are Steinkopf and the Richtersveld.

These are the areas where the land that once belonged to everyone has been cut up into so-called "economic units". Units have been leased out to individuals - many of them people with full-time jobs who don't have to depend on farming for a living.

The system, introduced by the House of Representative Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, has caused bitter division in communities which were once happy and peaceful.

In Leliefontein, for example, the land has been divided into 47 units. Thirty are leased. The rest of the farmers have to graze their goats and sheep on the little communal land that remains.

In some cases, patches of land where farmers had the right to sow wheat and other crops have been cut in half by, or fall inside, the newly fenced units.

This means people can no longer grow their own food. They have to buy bread from the shops and it is expensive. Here are few jobs in Namaqualand and money is scarce.

The people say they were not consulted about the system. One moment life was normal, the next minute the fences were up and their goats and sheep were being confiscated for "trespassing". Many lost a lot of stock because they could not afford to pay the pound fees to get their animals back.

There are also lots of allegations that the management committees, which are enforcing the system, decided among themselves who should get the best bits of land.

While Minister David Curry's department says it was necessary to introduce the system because the land was being overgrazed, some experts have questioned this. They say that it is true that Namaqualand is very arid, and that it is easy for it to be overgrazed. But they do not think the system of units is the answer.

The area can be divided into places where rain falls in summer, and where it falls in winter. Before the land was split up, the Namaqualanders would graze their animals in one area during one season, letting recover as it rained in the other. Then they would change over. Now they can't move as they used to anymore, and it is feared this is going to cause worse damage to the land.

The Namaqualanders believe they have been stripped of their birthright and forced into poverty.

Most are descendants of Khoi tribes, who were forced northwards as land was taken by the Dutch colonists. Later, their land was formally granted them by Sir George Cathcart, English colonial governor of the Cape.

Many people still refer to the time when their right to the land was recognised by "Queen Victoria". Now, they believe, that right has been taken away by the House of Representatives.



Mr and Mrs Memani pictured here outside their Zolani home

ZOLANI STILL BRUISED BY BATTLES OF RECENT YEARS

IN a few weeks, trucks loaded with fruit will start rumbling into Ashton, near Worcester, heralding the start of another season of labour at the Langeberg canning factory.

But the people of Zolani, the town's tiny township set aside for "Africans", are wondering who will get jobs at the factory.

Instead, people sign on for the season, working from November until May. The man Langeberg employs to recruit workers for the factory is a Zolani resident who supports the local community council, according to township sources.

And last year, he made sure that no civic association members worked. Zolani is still bruised from the battles it endured during 1985, when vigilantes, allegedly aided by police, unleashed a reign of terror in the small community.

At the moment, 47 residents - 12 of them children under 18, are serving jail sentences of between six and 15 years for public violence and attempted murder.

For some residents, like pensioner Freddie Memani and his wife, this has made life very

difficult. Freddie's 22-year-old daughter Amelia is serving an eight-year sentence for public violence. Now her parents have to look after her two children ages six and four. Freddie's pension is R150 every two months. Like many other families whose wage-earners are in jail, they are struggling to buy food and clothes.

But other residents have taken their fight for justice to the courts. They want compensation for injuries and losses they suffered at the hands of the vigilantes, or *tuiswagte*.

In one of two cases before the Supreme Court in Cape Town, two residents are claiming a total of R35 000 from the Minister of Law and Order. One lost an eye and the other had the sight in one eye permanently damaged when they were assaulted by vigilantes. They say the police stood by when they could have stopped the attacks.

Zolani people formed a civic association in January last year when they realised the community council wasn't acting for the people.

A week later three members of

the executive were detained, but the civic continued in its work of tackling problems such as rents, housing, roads and lighting.

The civic association is still operating, even though the community council is refusing to allow it to hold meetings in the local hall, which is supposed to belong to the whole community.

A playgroup has been started for young children. When the community councillors heard about this, they started a rival creche in the local community hall.

Officials from the administration board visited the house where the playgroup was being run. They brought a health inspector who said the house was too small for the children.

So the playgroup organisers started using two houses for the children. Because the playgroup is legal, the harassment has had to stop. Residents have come out in support of the playgroup. Their children are cared for and fed and no fee is charged. At the creche in the community hall, parents must pay R2 a week and not everyone can afford to.

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All peaceful protests have been met over the years with violence and repression. The detention of more than 50 000 of our people in recent years makes a mockery of the Government's call for peaceful reform.

Peaceful change can only come about if the people's demands are met. These demands are very reasonable. They include the release of all detainees, the unbanning of banned people's organisations like the African National Congress, the return of all exiles, the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners, and the dismantling of all forms of apartheid.

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Interpret and express our lives

OVERHEARD in a bar: "Don't do that man! Geez, you've got no culture boy!"

"How do you know if you got any culture - you don't even know what the word means?"

What is culture? It is good manners and behaving properly, or is it what artists poets and singers do? Or is it broader than both of these things something we all have and do. That is, the way we understand our lives and the things that happen to us, and the way we interpret and express these experiences.

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Many foreign artists working in South Africa have been blacklisted, picketed or have faced other forms of protest.

In December 1968, the

United Nations adopted resolutions 2396 calling on all countries to suspend cultural, educational, sporting and other dealings with apartheid South Africa.

These measures are not meant to hurt South African artists, but serves to promote people's culture.

The boycott was seen as a way of weakening Apartheid culture and creating a space in which people's culture could emerge.

Overseas artists came together under the banner of Artists Against Apartheid in Britain and Artists United Against Apartheid in America.

The best teacher for an artist is life, but that means the life of all of us, lived together, not looked at through the window of a studio.
Victor Jara - Chilean poet and songwriter.

Our musical ambassadors

SOUTH AFRICAN music is poorer because of the absence of who were forced to leave the country and live in exile.

Artists like Hugh Masekela, Maitso Maitso and Doty Brand were all forced out of the country to practice their art overseas.

Although they have not lived in South

Promoting people's culture

MUSICAL Action for People's Power (MAPP) is an organisation of cultural workers which promotes culture for resistance.

MAPP is committed to establishing musical training programmes, progressive cultural workshops in drama, indigenous instrument building, lyric writing and the history of culture in the liberation struggle.

The organisation has a cultural centre in Lansdowne and hopes that it will mushroom into a centre throughout the Peninsula.

MAPP believes that it is up to the community to create a new culture. A culture where the Ashley Ketele and the Sarbatu Workers will be seen about for future generations to remember.

They hope to provide assistance to talented musicians, writers and actors who cannot afford tuition, have no access to musical equipment, rehearsal space or basic drama skills.



A cultural group in Ghana play their talking drums and sing of the freedom that will come to South Africa. Freedom that all of Africa will celebrate.

The international voice of anger

MZWAKHE MBULE, the fiery poet who inspired thousands of people at the launch of the UDF has been on the run for two years. Mzwakhe is always in demand to read his poems at mass meetings, weddings and funerals.

His poetry reflects the struggle for change and his 'International Voice of Anger' was greeted with enthusiastic applause at the UDF launch in August 1983.

He read more poetry recently at the UDF/PAWU concert at the UWC last month.

Mzwakhe was released recently after two months in detention. He has only visited his wife in secret during the past two years. He is known as 'the lung man' by the security police.

Mzwakhe's poetry emphasises the use of culture as a vehicle of struggle. His poems deal with suffering and injustice, but at the same time calls people to action.

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Detentions condemned

Delegates from 45 countries at Harare conference on SA

MORE than 500 delegates, from 45 countries worldwide attended a conference which helped to generate a greater understanding and awareness of South Africa's war against children for the international community.

For 4 days delegates listened and were at times shocked and angered by the reports and personal accounts given by those who experienced the brutality of the South African government.

A special feature of the conference was the moving testimony given by a group of children of their torture and injury at the hands of the S.A. police and SADF.

The most depressing accounts came from Thabiseng Mabusa (12) and William Modibedi (11). Thabiseng, confined to a wheelchair, told delegates how she was crippled in a SADF raid in Gaborone. She was shot twice but managed to survive. William Modibedi told the conference that he failed his Std. 2 exams due to detention and torture.

He was given electric shocks and afterwards put in a dark room for along time.



A youth addresses the conference in Harare, Zimbabwe last month

Another feature of the conference was when delegates expressed their sincere thanks and admiration to Rev Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, not only for his hard work in organising the conference but also for the tireless way in which he works for ending apartheid.

His immense contribution to struggle has become an inspiration to millions of South Africans.

For the South African delegates it was a joyous occasion to meet the South African exiles some of whom were forced to leave the country as far back as 1963.

The comments of a South African delegate summed up the feeling of the whole group. She said "They definitely do not have the characters of Godless, bloodthirsty terrorists as this government wants us to believe.

They're humble, humane and ordinary people. Many of us are more confident that they can contribute greatly to peace and freedom in our country".

The conference was a major blow to the S.A. government. Law and Order minister, Adriaan Vlok, set a telex to the conference trying to justify the current detention of

children but this had no effect on the course that the conference was taking. The conference ended with the delegates passing resolutions calling for the immediate imposition of sanctions against South Africa and urging all governments to declare their support for all those who, even at risk to themselves, are prepared to act in defence of the children of South Africa.

A GRASSROOTS staff member attended the conference on Children and the Law in South Africa. Here he briefly outlines his first meeting with leaders of the banned African National Congress (ANC).

It all happened a day before the conference started. We were chatting away to some of the conference delegates when our attention was drawn to a large group of people entering the Hotel.

We were surprised and very pleasantly too, when we saw a bespectacled, fatherly figure amongst the group. Yes, it actually was Oliver Tambo. It was the man who was now occupying the centre stage of South African politics.

The 68-year-old Tambo who is depicted by the Government as a bloodthirsty terrorist on the one hand and who is praised and sung about by millions of South Africans on the other, was all smiles.

Other leaders of the ANC walked in as well. Thabo Mbeki came up to us and introduced himself. "Hello comrades, are you from Cape Town?" he asked. We responded passively by simply nodding our heads.

The next four days we were to get to know them better. Joe Slovo referred to by all as "Uncle Joe" was there too. Netwerk tells us that he is a Russian KGB agent. But here was this elderly man cracking jokes, playing guitar and singing "boerelidjies" till the early hours of the morning.

Ruth Mompati who had to flee South Africa without her two months old baby many years ago and Ray Alexander, veteran trade unionist were also in Harare.

We left the conference with new ideas and enriched by our experience. We were deeply saddened to leave behind fellow South Africans who could not return home.

NO FOOD PARCELS FOR SECTION 29 DETAINEES

EVERY Monday morning families of the more than 20 Section 29 detainees go to the Security Police headquarters in Loop Street, Cape Town with food parcel for their loved ones-only to be turned away on their arrival.

For the last six weeks the police have not accepted any food parcels for the detainees.

Two weeks ago, the families went to town and decided that they would not leave until the parcels were accepted. They waited for hours outside the security police offices. Eventually they got tired of waiting and returned home.

Meanwhile organisations in the Western Cape are intensifying th call for the release of all detainees,

particularly those held under Section 29.

In terms of Section 29, detainees are held at an unknown prison or police station, are denied access to personal doctors, lawyer or family members.

The detainee is usually held in solitary confinement and subjected to long hours of interrogation.

Those currently held in terms of Section 29 are; Soraya Abas, Clement Baadjies, Colin Cairncross, Anwar Dramat, Herbet Dlangudlangu, Ashley Forbes, David Fortuin, Peter Jacobs, Ashraf Karriem, Gary Kruser, Colleen Lombard, Michael Lumambo, Wayne Malgas, Vusumzi Ndam, Wellington Nkwandla, Yasmina Pandey, Nicolo Pedro, Colin Petersen, Walter Rhooede, Patricia Smit, Jenny Schreiner, Mthetheli Titana.

The agony of detention

AFTER spending more than 15 months in detention, the spirit of Noel Williams community activist in Atlantis, has not been broken and he vows to continue the fight against apartheid. Mr Williams has the full backing of his family.

Grassroots spoke to his wife, Rena and his 3 children Wilfred 7, Melanie, 15, and Fabian 14 about what affect their father's detention and release had on them.

"I saw dad getting out of this strage car and I heard somebody shouting he is back", Melanie said.

"We ran up to him and jumped him over and rolled in the sand with delight. We laughed and cried at the same time. We could not believe it, that he was back, we kept on asking if it was really him".

His wife Rena told Grassroots that she went through a tough and terrible time while he was in detention. "I was very depressed the last few weeks before his release. I could not take it any longer. The children were having regular petty quarrels and I did not know how to handle it

anymore. I am glad that he is back. One can see on the children's faces how happy they are".

Fabian said that his father's continued detention made him feel terribly lonely and there were times that he did not like playing with his friends.

"At first I was hoping that he would be away for a coupe of days, like in 1985 when he was detained for 19 days. But things got our of hand, I started to feel lonely and did not feel like playing with my friends anymore. His detention also affected by school work. I could not

remember things so well and started to get low marks in a lot of my subjects".

The family is united in their feeling that the struggle for a better future must continue.

His wife Rena said. "I don't think it would be right of me to stop him now, just listening to his experiences he had in detention. I would encourage him and support him whatever his decision. If he committed a crime, then why it is that people from all walks of life are still streaming in to welcome him home".

NATIONAL EDUCATION CRISIS COMMITTEE AND FREE THE CHILDREN ALLIANCE

- MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE ARE DETAINED IN CAPE TOWN
- 60% OF THESE ARE STUDENTS OR TEACHERS
- LET THEM PREPARE FOR EXAMS OUTSIDE APARTHEID'S JAILS!

THESE ARE SOME OF THE CONFIRMED DETENTIONS:

SCHOOL PUPILS	TERTIARY STUDENTS
Desmond Abrahams	Section 29
Faik Elmie	Colin Cairncross UWC
Mark Truebody	Ashraf Karriem UWC
Cledton Visagie	Colin Petersen
Keith Cootee	Patricia Smit UWC
Donovan Ferhelst	Nicolo Pedro UWC
Christopher Rutledge	Yasmina Pandey UWC
Neil Swanepoel	Anwar Dramat Peninsula
Siphelo Dukashe	Guguletu Technikon
Alwyn Klaassen	Bridgetown
Mark Lockman	Spes Bona
Thomas Verwey	Diazville
Fronlin Verwey	Diazville
TEACHERS	Emergency
Section 29	Naseegh Jaffer UWC
Jeremy Veary	Erick Fieldworker
Nazeem Lowe	
Leon Scott	NECC National Exec.
	Vusi Khanyile UCT
	Rev Tsele
Emergency	Ihron Rensburg
Andile Jonas	
NECC (W. Cape vice-chair)	Joyce Mabudafasi
Nosipho Ntwanambi	Zwelakhe Sisulu

THERE ARE MANY OTHER STUDENTS ON TRIAL OR SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL GATHERINGS, PUBLIC VIOLENCE AND RELATED CHARGES.

What is really happening in war-torn Angola?

THE dramatic battle underway in Angola at the moment may be decisive for the Angolan people. Although the SADF is deeply involved, they have told us very little.

The major forces in the battle are FAPLA (The People's Armed Forces of Angola), UNITA and the SADF. South African newspapers also scream about Soviets and Cubans being involved. FAPLA has never denied that it is assisted by Soviet advisers and Cuban troops. It is the South Africans who try to deny that they are involved.

The war is over the right of the Angolan people to decide how to run their country. The SADF/UNITA forces want to turn Angola into another Bantustan for South Africa.

For many years the Angolan people, led by the MPLA, fought against the oppression and exploitation of the Portuguese, who exploited and oppressed the Angolan people. In this struggle, Savimbi and his UNITA were agents of the Portuguese, who spoke as if they were part of the struggle, but in fact worked as vigilantes against the MPLA.

When the Portuguese withdrew, the Angolan people opted for socialism. They hoped to end exploitation in the country, and ensure a decent life for all. The SADF would not tolerate this. In August 1975 they invaded Angola. They hoped to destroy the people's government, and install the UNITA puppets in their place.

The Angolan people called for help against the South African invasion. Cuba sent hundreds of volunteers, who saw it as their duty to help defend Angola against apartheid aggression. With their help, the Angolan people inflicted one of their greatest ever defeats on the SADF, who were forced to flee from central Angola.

The SADF was still determined to wreck Angola's attempts to rebuild itself. They invaded Angola more than 8 times after 1975. They bombed

farms, villages and towns. And, they set up UNITA and other mercenary forces to continually harass the people of Angola by blowing up installations and terrorising people. These efforts of Pretoria have cost the Angolan people over R30 000 million over the last 12 years, and have severely hampered Angolan development.

Every time they invade, the SADF denies they are in Angola for about the first month. They are scared that if they tell the truth about what they are doing, even more young whites will refuse to serve in the army. The End Conscription Campaign has already condemned the SADF's involvement in the current battle.

For many years, UNITA depended only on South Africa for their survival. Then Reagan began to send them money and weapons, so that they can continue to be a painful thorn in the

flesh of the Angolan people. But the Angolan people are determined to remove the thorn.

FAPLA has launched a major attack on the town of Mavinga, held by UNITA. If they capture it, they will be able to move on to Jamba, UNITA'S 'capital' next year. This will spell doom for the bandits, and allow Angola to devote all its resources to developing its people.

The SADF has launched massive raids into Angola to stop FAPLA's offensive, and protect UNITA. Without the SADF, particularly its jet bombers, UNITA would be helpless. So, the SADF is once again at war to make sure that the Angolan people cannot remove the UNITA thorn from their flesh.

The solidarity of the South African people has gone out to the Angolan people. At its recent congress, COSATU called for the strengthening of bonds between South African workers and those fighting imperialism in Angola.

THE UDF SAYS Get out of Angola now

THE Western Cape Region of the United Democratic Front (UDF) has responded strongly to the latest events in Angola, calling for the immediate withdrawal of the South African Defence force from that country.

The UDF pointed out that the millions of rands spent by the South African Government on "Unita gangsters" could be put to much better use, for example, subsidising high rents and bread prices.

In a statement, the UDF publicity secretary Hilda Ndude, said: "The UDF only wants peace and friendship with our neighbours. The recent activities of the SADF undermines international law and the sovereignty of states.

"UDF views the invasion of Angola with dismay. We are aware what kind of death and destruction the SADF is capable of sowing.

"The Angolan people want nothing but peace."

The UDF once again called on the people of South Africa to work towards peace, friendship and a just future for all our people as well as those of neighbouring countries."

VACANCY

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A call for the release of Ashley Forbes was made on this wall in Wynberg Main Road

WYNBERG BROTHERS FINED FOR Detentions GRAFFITI

TWO Wynberg brothers were earlier this month fined R150 each for spray-painting slogans on walls and bus shelters in the area.

Isgak Ryklief, 21, and his brother Igsaan, 27, both of Park Road Wynberg, were convicted in the Wynberg Magistrate

Court on a charge of malicious damage to property.

They both pleaded guilty.

The two brothers had spraypainted "Release Ashley Forbes" and "Detention is a crime" at three points in Wynberg.

In passing sentence, the magistrate said that it was a serious charge but the court took into consideration that it was their first conviction.

The brothers were arrested in July this year and held at Victor Verster prison for 14 days before

making their first appearance in court.

While in detention, both lost their jobs at a yacht fitting firm in Bergvliet.

Ashley Forbes was detained in May this year and is currently being held in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

Forbes, 22, a student at the University of the Western Cape, is also from Park Road Wynberg.

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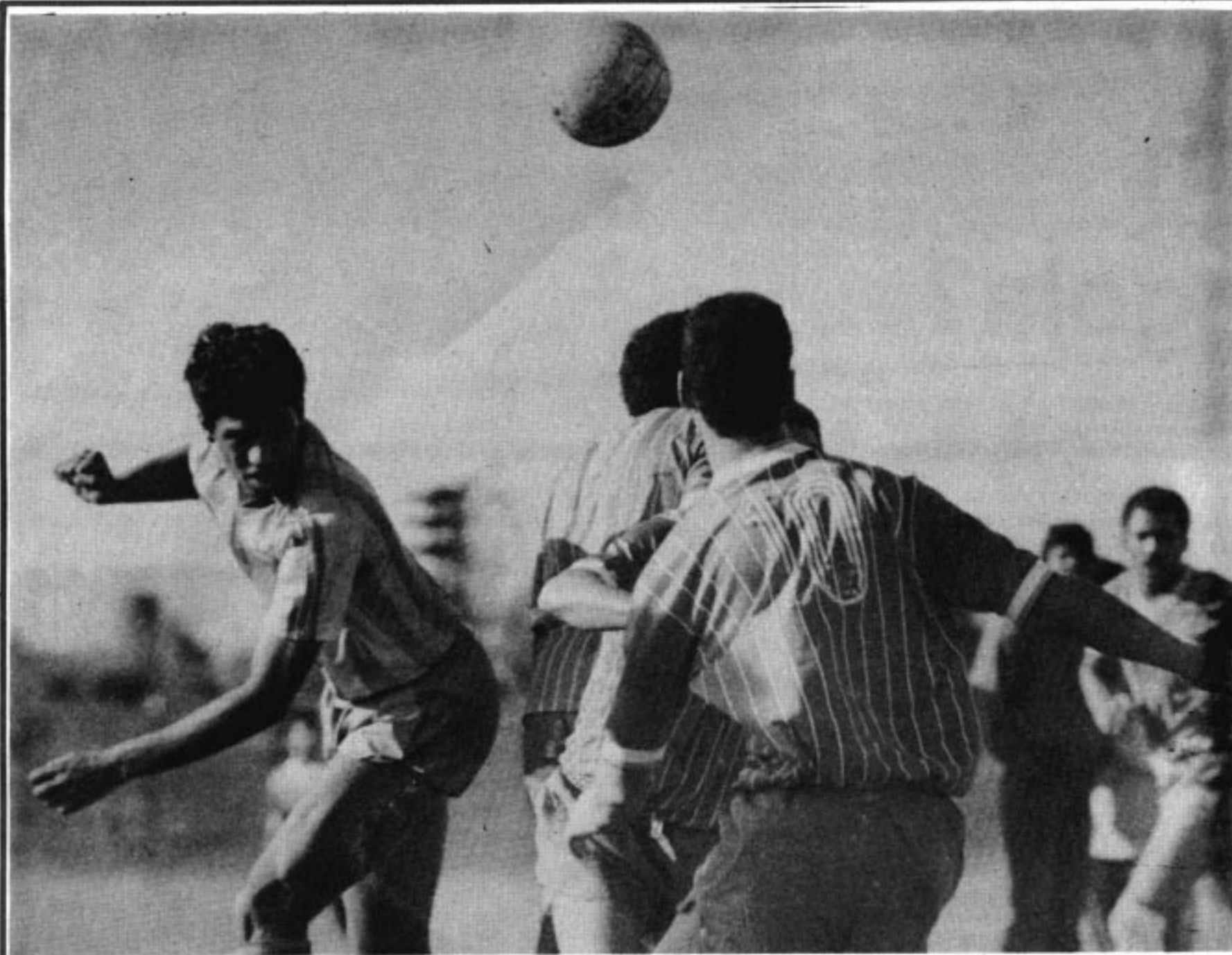
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Roger Links of Battswood (left) heads the ball away in the final match of the league against Norway Parks earlier this month. The match was played at Turfhall Park and ended in a 1-1 draw. Battswood won the Virginia Premier League trophy for the third year in succession at the beginning of October. Battswood triumph came only a week after the club won the South African Soccer Federations National inter-club championship. They beat Blackpool of Port Elizabeth 4-2 in extra time.

Pupils show keen interest in chess

CHESS is developing fast as a code of sport and there is a growing interest in the game amongst pupils in the Western Cape.

This was evident during the Western Province Primary School Sports Board's Winter Codes Tournament held at the end of September.

More than 120 primary school pupils participated in the three-day tournament held at the Thornton Road Primary School in Athlone.

The youngest player at the tournament Rushdi Gasant from Athlone Union was only 6-years-old.

The tournament was eventually won by Ashley Cleophas of Steenberg Union, with Peter Small

of Athlone Union and Faaidiel Williams of Salt River Union taking second and third places respectively.

The tournament was very well-organised and the chess was of a high standard.

The tremendous effort put in by a number of teachers was rewarded by the players enthusiasm and the talent exhibited.

Next years' tournament holds much promise in view of the fact that more and more unions are catering for chess as a code of sport.

The 1987 Western Province Senior School Sports Board tournament will also be held in Athlone as it will be the Athlone unions 50th anniversary.

We need to honour our leaders

Dear Grassroots

I wish to respond to a letter which appeared in volume 8 No. 7 where the comrade expressed some fears or doubts about teams being named after our leaders. Well I share the sentiments of the comrade but regret to say that he had approached this with a narrow-minded perspective. Firstly, I wish to inform the comrade that the enemy has kept our leaders behind bars and our organisations are restricted to call for their release.

As one way of raising the morale of our leaders in prison, we need to honour them with everlasting incentives. I agree with your suggestion to name the tournaments after our leaders but I have a serious problem with that because you are opening up a loophole

for opportunists like Cyril Kobus and other dummies in the NSL to hijack our efforts claiming to be progressive e.g. Many people were under the mistaken belief that NSL represent our sportspersons in the S.A. sports movement when they signed the advertisement organised by the UDF. We say to these people, we are not going to be fooled by your reformist and lip services that you cheat us with. We regard you as part and parcel of the system because of the very nature of your practises of multiracialism which is a serious form of racism which divides the people of this country. To the people of S.A. we say, SACOS is the only sports movement which represents sportspersons inside the country. Responding to the fears about our National figures taking sides, First and foremost kicking the ball is not the first priority for progressive people. The most important thing is the realization of our purpose for forming the sports clubs. These two clubs form the basis to give direction to other sports clubs to utilise their talent for the benefit of the majority of the country who, because of the colour of their skin, could not represent their country effectively. Are we playing sport to keep time going or is it because sport contributes to our vision of a future non-racial and democratic South Africa? Yours in struggle
Public Relations Officer
(Oscar Mpeta United)

CRICKET'S WORLD CUP UNDERWAY

CRICKET's World Cup is underway in India and Pakistan. The world's great teams face each other in a series of 60-over matches. The 1987 tournament is particularly exciting, because it is difficult to pick a clear favourite.

The West Indies have dominated world cricket for many years, but most of their great

side have retired. While veterans like Viv Richards and Desmond Haynes still take the field, the Windies will miss Gordon Greenidge and the Marshall-Roberts-Holding-Garner pace attack. They have been replaced by inexperienced but talented youngsters, and the blistering pace of Patterson and Walsh will send stumps

tumbling. While they may produce some memorable performances, the West Indies are not the side they were even a year ago.

The Australians have improved since losing to England earlier this year. They have a powerful batting line up, with Dean Jones looking set to establish himself as the world's

best at number three. The Australians bowling is their weakness, and they may fail to get the better of the better batting sides. England's form has slumped, and they were recently trounced at home by Pakistan. While their batting is solid, they too suffer from a lack of frontline pace-bowlers. Without the

once brilliant all-rounder Ian Botham, it is difficult to rate their chances.

BRILLIANT

Brilliant all-rounders who can turn a game with bat or ball often make the difference in one-day cricket. As England suffer without Botham, so should New Zealand's chances diminish without the great Richard Hadlee.

Particularly with a home-ground advantage, the favourites must be India and Pakistan. India's Sunil Gavaskar has scored more test centuries than any batsman ever.

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