

# VICTORIA MXENGE

Victoria Mxenge was brutally killed outside her home in Umlazi on the 1st August, 1985. Four men shot and axed her to death. The news of this terrible murder has horrified, shocked and saddened people, especially those who knew and worked with her.

Victoria was involved in many organisations. She was an executive member of the Natal Organisation of Women (NOW), treasurer of the United Democratic Front, and treasurer of the Release Mandela Committee. She was a lawyer for the treason trial in Pietermaritzburg.

Victoria's husband Griffiths Mxenge was assassinated in 1981. The murderers have not yet been found. Their three children Mbasu, Viwe and Nomhle have suffered the loss of both parents in this terrible way. Both Victoria and Griffiths were involved in working for a better society. Griffiths spent some years on Robben Island.

To protest against Victoria's death the Natal Organisation of Women organised a placard demonstration on Durban's streets. Meetings were called by UDF and other organisations in the townships as well as at the University of Natal. A speaker for NOW, Nozizwe spoke about the great loss that comes with Victoria's death. She spoke of Victoria as a woman, experiencing many of the problems that women go through in apartheid society, and said that these problems will end only with women uniting together to fight them.

Over the past few months many who have worked against apartheid have mysteriously disappeared or died. Victoria's death follows closely on the deaths of four U D F and Craddock Residents' Association leaders - Mathew Goniwe, Fort Calata and Sicelo Mhlawuli and Sparrow Mkhonto who were also brutally murdered, and comes at a time when the government has declared a state of emergency in most parts of the country. There has been unrest in many townships all over the country because of things like unemployment, retrenchments, low wages, high rents. These problems have continued for a long time. The government makes no attempt to change things in a meaningful way, but rather brings the army and the police. This has led to violence all over the country.

# AUGUST 9 WOMENS DAY



A GROUP OF WOMEN LED BY LILLIAN NGOYI TAKE PETITIONS AGAINST PASSES FOR WOMEN TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ON AUGUST 9, 1956. OUTSIDE 20,000 WOMEN STOOD IN PROTEST. THEY HAD COME FROM ALL OVER SOUTH AFRICA TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD.