

# WHO ARE SOUTH AFRICA'S TERRORISTS?



The real terrorists in South Africa are not the black majority (82 per cent of the population) who don't have the vote, are not consulted about the kind of government they want, and have no say in making the laws under which they live.

They cannot live and work where they wish: have no right to skilled jobs which are reserved for the white minority, can neither negotiate nor strike for a decent wage, nor form recognised trade unions. Black workers are not entitled to live with their families. They must travel away from the 13 per cent of the land allocated to them by the white racist regime as their 'homelands', to the mine camps or white farms, or to industry in the white cities. Their families cannot go with them.

Black men and women found in South Africa's white cities without a pass are arrested — forced into police vans — and more than 1,600 are prosecuted for such offences each day.

Many black prisoners are made to work on white-owned farms where starvation, beatings and shootings lead to frequent deaths.

South African courts still sentence people to be flogged. They carry out almost half the world's hangings. The police can detain people indefinitely without charge or trial and without having to inform relatives, friends or the courts.

The political organisations which represented black people — where they elected their own leaders and organised to demand their freedom — have long been banned. Thousands marched and demonstrated, and defied the unjust laws of apartheid. Hundreds were banned, banished to remote areas, and many jailed for long terms of imprisonment.

At Sharpeville in 1960 a peaceful crowd demonstrating against the pass laws was shot at by police, and 69 people were killed. This is not an isolated tragedy — in 1973 the police shot 25 miners, of whom 11 died. Workers on strike have been forced back to work by police with batons, threatened and intimidated.

The prison population in South Africa today shows a steady increase. In the last decade, while the total population has increased by approximately one quarter, the average daily prison population has grown by three-quarters, of which 98 per cent is black. And because apartheid law discriminates against a man simply because he is black, most of those in prison are in a real sense prisoners of apartheid, and as such quite specifically political prisoners.

The total number of people imprisoned or detained for their **direct** opposition to apartheid is not known. But many of those who were accused in publicised political trials have now suffered more than ten years of imprisonment under brutal conditions.

The Government of South Africa draws its strength not from the will of the people, but from the guns of the police, the armoured cars and aircraft of the army, and the shackles of the courts. This is the terror of South Africa, the force and violence, the only way for 3½ million whites to exploit and oppress 17½ million blacks.

And this is the terrorist society which makes political prisoners of sincere, serious and courageous men and women who find intolerable this unique system of racist exploitation.

**JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO RELEASE SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS**

**JOIN THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT: 89 Charlotte St,  
London W1P 2DQ: 580 5311**

# THE LAWS OF TERRORISM-

## ENACTED BY THE APARTHEID STATE

### Some examples

**The Suppression of Communism Act, No. 44 of 1950**, empowers the State President to declare any organisation unlawful if it aims to change the status quo in South Africa.

**The Unlawful Organisations Act, No 34 of 1960.** This Act outlawed the African National Congress and the Pan-Africanist Congress — the organisations of the African people. It empowers the State President to declare unlawful any other organisation which **in his opinion** directly or indirectly carries on or proposes to carry on the work of these organisations.

**The Sabotage Act (General Law Amendment Act No 76 of 1962).** 'Sabotage' becomes a capital crime with a minimum penalty of five years' imprisonment. The definition of sabotage is extremely wide and can include, for instance, tripping up a policeman or trespassing on someone else's land. The accused is guilty until proved innocent. The onus is on him to prove that he could not reasonably have foreseen that his action could have led to certain effects, e.g. promoting disorder. In 1966 this Act was extended to cover South West Africa (Namibia).

**The Terrorism Act, No 73 of 1967.** Again terrorism has wide definition and applies to 'any act', to speech and writing as well as physical actions. It includes 'obstructing the free movement of any traffic', 'prejudicing any undertaking', 'embarrassing the administration of the affairs of the state.' A man requesting financial aid from the UN to alleviate the conditions of a depressed community in South Africa would be guilty of terrorism. Like the Sabotage Act, the Terrorism Act carries a capital penalty with a minimum of five years' imprisonment. It is retrospective to 27 June 1962 and applies in South West Africa (Namibia).

## **No-trial Detention Laws.**

**Proclamation 195** — applies to Africans. Re-enacted in 1967, it authorises the State President to order the detention of any African. After three months the detainee may apply for his release which the Supreme Court is obliged to grant unless he is then detained under a lawful warrant.

**Proclamation 400** — applies to the Transkei only. Any officer of the South African police or any Bantu Commissioner is authorised to detain on suspicion any person for interrogation for an unlimited period. **Proclamation R17** — the same as Proclamation 400; applies to Ovamboland, SWA (Namibia).

**The 90-day law — 1963** — allowed for detention for 90-day periods in solitary confinement; renewal at the discretion of the Officer. This law was suspended in 1964 but has not been rescinded.

**The 180day law — 1965** — Supposedly aimed at protecting State witnesses and preventing them from absconding, this law authorises detention for 180-day periods, in solitary confinement, and is renewable indefinitely.

**Section 6 of the Terrorism Act** permits detention and interrogation for an indefinite period of any person suspected of being a terrorist or of having information relating to terrorism as defined in the Act (overleaf)

**The BOSS (Bureau for State Security) law — 1969** — Created 'to investigate all matters affecting the security of the state', it was made responsible only to the Prime Minister. **Section 29** authorises the Prime Minister or his nominee or any Cabinet Minister to prohibit the giving of any evidence on the production of any document to any court or statutory body if the evidence is, in their opinion, 'prejudicial to the interests of the State public security'.

These are some of the laws that maintain the South African police state. Help us to fight for the people who suffer under it.

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