

WORLD CAMPAIGN

FOR THE RELEASE OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

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EXECUTION BY SUICIDE — THE NEW POLICE WEAPON IN SOUTH AFRICA

A FOURTH political prisoner has been executed by suicide in South Africa—the direct result of police torture—while three more men are now waiting to be hanged for political offences.

THE MAN EXECUTED BY SUICIDE IS SULIMAN (BABLA) SALOOJEE, WHO THREW HIMSELF FROM A SEVENTH-FLOOR WINDOW OF SECURITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN JOHANNESBURG ON SEPTEMBER 9 DURING INTERROGATION. PROMPT POLICE ACTION FOLLOWED SALOOJEE'S DEATH—THE POLICE HAVE BARRED ALL WINDOWS IN THEIR INTERROGATION ROOMS!

The three men waiting to be hanged are Vuyisile Mini, Wilson Khayingo and Zinakile Kaba who were sentenced to death months ago and whose appeals have just been rejected. (See page 4).

The three previous political prisoners executed by suicide were Looksmart Ngudle who committed suicide in his prison cell a year ago after being held in isolation under the 90-day no trial law and tortured with electric shocks and the head-in-bag method; Sipho James Tyitya, who hanged himself in his cell last January after being tortured, and Ebrahim Siyanvala, a former 90-day detainee. Siyanvala was arrested for a

traffic offence but feared he was being picked up again under the 90-day law. Rather than face what he believed would be a second spell of torture, he escaped and threw himself into a river and drowned.

The security police have introduced a new method of torture while continuing the old techniques of assaults and intimidation.

● THIS IS STATUE TORTURE — PRISONERS ARE MADE TO STAND FOR UP TO 48 HOURS ON END WHILE BEING QUESTIONED BY RELAYS OF INQUISITORS. IF THEY COLLAPSE THEY ARE REVIVED AND THE QUESTIONING GOES ON.

Between March, 1963 and August of this year there have been 111 political trials in South Africa in which 1,315 persons have been charged. Forty-four have been sentenced to death, 12 jailed for life, 994 sentenced to a total of 5,713 years imprisonment, one sentenced to six lashes and 340 acquitted.

Political detainees cannot bring evidence to court about their ill-treatment while they are detainees. If they are ever charged the methods used on them by the security police cannot be used as evidence in their defence. This is the result of two Court rulings which have been made—one in the Magistrate's Court and one in the Supreme Court.

A total of 3,355 people of all races were detained in South Africa under various security laws during 1963, including 592 in the Transkei. More than 900 of all races are known to have been in solitary confinement under the 90-day law. Of these 60 have been in for more than 90 days and eight, including three women, for more than 180 days.

GREAT ANTI-APARTHEID DRIVE

FOUR South African political prisoners have committed suicide within the last year, others have attempted it.

Some prisoners are pregnant, some are teenagers—many are detained under the 90-day, no-trial clause waiting for charges that are sometimes never brought.

The AAM is organising a campaign for the month of November to focus attention on these prisoners, on their conditions and treatment—and on the reasons why they are in jail.

It will focus attention particularly on the increasing role of women in resisting apartheid, how their detention, often only because they are the wives of detained men, can leave children homeless and neglected over unspecified periods.

The campaign will spotlight the concerted attacks on trade unionists—emphasising the case of Mini and his colleagues, whose appeal against the death sentence has been dismissed.

The recent detention of students and university lecturers will be underlined by student activities in this campaign.

The campaign will begin on October 31 with a poster-parade-vigil outside the S.A. Embassy in Trafalgar Square.

It will continue throughout November with similar demonstrations on succeeding Saturdays, each aimed at emphasising the different groups involved in resistance to apartheid.

It is hoped that a special service will be held during the month at St. Martin's-in-the-Field, Trafalgar Sq., for those in prison in South Africa. Local church activities will also take place.

On Monday, November 30, at 7.30 p.m., at Central Hall, Westminster, will come the climax of the month-long campaign. This will be a large public meeting, to be addressed by well-known national and international personalities.

MORE WIDESPREAD TRIALS — AND MORE ARE ASSAULTED

WHILE attention abroad has been focussed on the Rivonia sabotage trial, a number of other important sabotage trials have been taking place in the South African courts recently.

In a "little Rivonia" trial in Pretoria, eight members of the former African National Congress gave the "amandhla" salute when they were sentenced to a total of 79 years imprisonment for sabotage in September. Andrew Mashaba and Peter Mogano got 15 years, Levy Moses Molefe 12 years, Nelson Diale, Jackson Ntsoane, Alpheus Bokaba and Petrus Nchabaleng 8 years and Enoch Matibela 5 years.

In Johannesburg two former members of the Congress of Democrats and a former member of the ANC were sentenced in September to 12 years imprisonment each for attempting to blow up the Hospital Hill police station in July. The three men, who had been betrayed by a police informer, were Louis Marius Schoon, Raymond Thoms and Michael Ngubeni.

PROUD

AS NGUBENI WAS BEING LED AWAY, HIS WIFE SHOUTED: "I'M PROUD OF YOU, MY HUSBAND. TWELVE YEARS—IT'S NOTHING.

At present before the courts are:

1. Frederick John Harris, charged with murder and sabotage arising from the Johannesburg station bombing last August;

2. E. J. Daniels, D. G. de Keller, Antony Andrew Trew, Alan Keith Brooks and Stephanie Kemp, charged with a number of acts of sabotage in the Cape. Their trial has been set down for November 2.

3. A Coloured schoolteacher, Sedick Isaacs, two of his matriculation pupils Achmad Cassiem and James Marsh, and a clerk, Abdurahman Abrahams, charged in Cape Town with conspiring to explode bombs at a post office, power station and the segregated Coloured University at Bellville. Their trial has been set down for November 2.

4. Bertram Martin Hirson, Hugh Francis Lewin, Frederick Prager, Raymond Eisenstein and Alexander Cox, charged with a number of acts of sabotage in Johannesburg. Their trial has been set down for November 9.

IMPORTANT

A number of other persons charged with sabotage or furthering the aims of a banned organisation are awaiting trial in other parts of South Africa.

Most important of these trials is that in which Mr. A. Fischer, Q.C. and 14 others are charged with belonging to

and furthering the aims of the banned Communist Party. This trial has been set down for November 16. Charged on three counts, the accused face a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment.

Another important trial took place in Cape Town, one which the United Nations regarded as the second major sabotage trial of 1964. It was that of Dr. Neville Alexander and 10 others.

The eleven, including four women, were arrested under the 90-day law in July, 1963, and tried the following November for sabotage. On April 15 this year they were jailed for from five to 10 years although the presiding judge stated that they had not committed or prepared to commit any single act of sabotage. The men are now serving their sentences on the notorious Robben Island.

Permission to appeal was granted on the ground of certain alleged irregularities, one being that Alexander's instructions to his counsel had been intercepted by the secret police. The appeal is due to be heard next month.

On Robben Island, Alexander is said to be setting an example to his fellows by his courage and refused to dance the infamous "tausa dance" which requires prisoners to strip naked and perform a humiliating dance on the pretext of being searched.

U.N. MEMORANDUM

If any individual or organisation is interested in receiving a copy of the memorandum submitted to the United Nations on torture and conditions of political prisoners and detainees, please write to our new address and we shall be pleased to send a copy.

89 Charlotte Street,
London, W.1.

A brief summary of the memorandum is on Page 3.

Alexander was said to have been assaulted for his refusal and one of his eardrums was damaged. Assaults are also reported on two of his friends, Don Davis, a minister of religion, and Fikile Bam, a law student. During the trial, one of the state witnesses, Gerald Glose, went insane, supposedly from police treatment, and is now in an asylum.

RESPONSE MOUNTING DAILY

NEWs has been received by the World Campaign of the terrific response to our appeal which has been given by the Soviet people. Resolutions protesting against the life sentences passed on the Rivonia accused and calling for the release of all South African political prisoners have been passed at more than 120 mass meetings held at factories, collective farms, universities, medical schools and other institutions throughout the Soviet Union in the past three months.

Highlight of the Soviet campaign was a meeting held on June 26 in honour of South African Freedom Day at the open air theatre of the Central Park of Rest and Culture in Moscow. The meeting was sponsored by the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

Speakers included Soviet academics, trade unionists and a South African student studying at the Moscow State University.

Support also continues to come in from other parts of the world.

The German-African Society, at its fifth extended session, cabled the South African Government: "In the name of humanity and freedom we vigorously protest against the terror sentences in the Rivonia trial and demand their immediate annulment."

The Committee of Jurists for the Defence of Human Rights writes from Colombia also speaking about the arbitrary laws and trials in South Africa and brands them as contrary to civilised law.

There has been international student reaction to the detention of students under 90-days and some of these protests have come from as far afield as Australia as well as the many International Student Organisations.

AUSTRALIAN DOCKERS SHOW THEIR DISGUST

AUSTRALIAN dockers at Sydney, Port Adelaide, Freemantle and Melbourne have joined in boycotting the unloading of goods from South Africa in protest against apartheid in general and for the release of political prisoners in particular.

Port Adelaide members of the Waterside Workers Federation engaged on unloading the ss. Tjimanuk, trading to South Africa, stopped working the ship for three hours "as a protest against the vicious racist policies of the Verwoerd Government."

Adelaide dockers demanded that the death sentences of Mini, Khayingo and Kaba and the life sentences on the Rivonia trialists be rescinded "in the name of humanity." Mini was a docker himself.

A copy of this resolution was sent to the South African Embassy in Canberra by the Port Adelaide branch of the W.W.F. and the Australian Government was called on to press for the expulsion of South Africa from the United Nations until it lifted its apartheid policies. Members of the Sydney branch of the W.W.F. have taken action against six ships carrying on trade with South Africa.

Meetings were also held, involving a three-hour work stoppage on the ships, to enable the union to protest against apartheid and to demand the release of political prisoners.

Protests were also sent to the Dutch Consul because Dutch ships carry most of the cargo to and from South Africa and Australia. The Royal Inter-Ocean Lines is the single principal carrier but some of the ships boycotted were from the Holland-Australia Line.

There was also a morning stoppage in the unloading of a ship trading between South Africa and Melbourne. Protests were sent to the Australian Government and the South African Embassy and the whole demonstration was covered by press, radio and television.

Reports reaching World Campaign headquarters in London indicate that the protests by Australian waterside workers are continuing and that ships trading with South Africa have been subjected to nearly 20 protest strikes.

U.N. TOLD OF INHUMAN TREATMENT

THE World Campaign for the Release of South African Political Prisoners has sent a full memorandum to the United Nations giving new details of the treatment of political prisoners in South Africa. Things are bad and getting worse, the World Campaign says, Positive action against the South African Government is needed.

The main emphasis of our future work must be directed towards improving the conditions of political prisoners and detainees, while at the same time demanding their release.

With the introduction of the 90-day Detention Law, in terms of the General Laws Amendment Act 1963, law itself was destroyed in South Africa. People have been taken into custody for successive terms of 90 days for questioning by members of the Security Police to obtain information from them about themselves or others in connection with alleged offences.

However, many of the people so detained have been held on the whim of police officers, merely "to keep them out of the way", as stated by a police witness in the Rivonia trial. Their conditions during this detention and the methods used to extract information are arbitrarily decided by members of the Security Police and those detained have no access to lawyers and no access to the Courts.

A magistrate visits detainees once a week, but these visits have afforded the detainees no protection whatever against physical and mental torture. All complaints are referred back to the Security Police who, in some instances, have used them as additional reasons for ill-treatment. The magistrates themselves are powerless to alleviate conditions.

With the operation of this Act, the Security Police have become the SS men and the Gestapo of South Africa. They are omnipotent and have their victims entirely at their mercy. The methods used by them to extract information have the ultimate aim of "breaking" the detainees.

"IT IS NOT A VERY NICE THING TO SEE A HUMAN BEING BROKEN. I HAVE SEEN IT . . . THE MAN TAKING THESE POWERS MUST TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM," SAID MR. B. J. VORSTER, MINISTER OF JUSTICE, DURING THE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT ON THE 90-DAY DETENTION CLAUSE.

However, his police have been given the go-head for the hideous and brutal breaking of any persons it pleases them to detain.

Immediately the law came into operation, the Security Police used physical torture in addition to the mental torture of these prolonged periods of solitary confinement and interrogation. Reports smuggled out and evidence by affidavits of former detainees alleged that African detainees were being subjected to electric shocks to make

them "confess".

They claimed that their heads were covered with sacks, while electrodes were attached to their fingers. Many detainees have required psychiatric help after their release and at least six were so successfully "broken" that they were admitted to mental hospitals after their release.

Those men and women in South Africa who have been tried and found guilty and are serving sentences for political offences are treated differently from ordinary prisoners. They are automatically placed into the lowest of all categories—D Category—which, according to the report of the Commissioner of Prisons ending 1962, is "for the type of prisoners with a previous record and/or convictions of serious crime of a daring or aggressive nature or convictions for rape, robbery and violence . . ." or for attempting to escape.

ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE GIVEN NO REMISSION ON THEIR SENTENCES WHATSOEVER, WHEREAS ALL OTHER PRISONERS AUTOMATICALLY GET ONE THIRD OF THEIR SENTENCES OFF, FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR.

WORLD DEMANDS: SAVE THESE MEN!

VUYISILE MINI, Wilson Khayingo and Zinakile Kaba, the three political prisoners in South Africa whose appeals have just been rejected, may only be days away from their execution. Appeals have gone out to leaders all over the world to help save these men while there is still time.

Trade unions have been the first with their responses which are mounting as the urgency of saving the three men is realised.

The British Trade Union Congress has written to the South African Ambassador in London telling him that the acts of which the three men were accused "are inherent in the general circumstances created by apartheid and the legislation that supported it." It appeals to President Swart of South Africa for clemency and asks him to commute the death sentences.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has cabled both President Swart and U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations. They ask the President to commute the death sentence and U Thant to use his influence to prevent the death sentence from being carried out.

The All-India Trade Union Congress, saying that the three men are guilty only of upholding human rights, also asks President Swart to commute the sentences.

387 lecturers and students from Leicester University have signed a petition asking that the death sentences be commuted.

The American Committee on Africa has asked for clemency and has appealed to other American organisations to do so.

The World Campaign for the release of South African Political Prisoners cabled the United Nations in New York stating: "Only your urgent action can save their lives now."

The leaders of the four main parties contesting the British General Election—Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Mr. Harold Wilson, Mr. Jo Grimond and Mr. John Gollan—were told the news of the result of the appeal and asked to urge clemency for these three men—"your stand on this important question is expected by the world and the British people."

President Nyerere of Tanganyika, who is a Roman Catholic, was asked to use his offices in obtaining the Pope's intercession on behalf of the three men, and the African Conference of Non-Aligned States was asked to make a

joint appeal for clemency to the United Nations and the South African Government itself. The conference agreed to do this.

Besides these moves about 150 letters have been sent to religious, trade union and other organisations all over the world asking them to help.

The World Campaign is also co-operating closely with the Anti-Apartheid Movement in organising rallies and other forms of public protest.

The Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa is the largest church among the whites and wields considerable influence with the Government, to which it has ready access. The World Campaign has written to the Dutch Reformed Church in Holland asking it to use its influence in South Africa to obtain clemency for the three men.

The Central Council of Trade Unions of the Polish People's Republic, The World Federation of Trade Unions, The Swedish Transport Workers Union, the National Union of Tanganyika Workers, the Mansfield and District Trades Union Council (which also collected hundreds of signatures) as well as many other British trade

unions—among them the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, the Fire Brigades Union, the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers and the Plumbing Trades Union—all have joined the world-wide appeal for mercy.

The International Transport Workers' Federation have also appealed for clemency and have asked all their affiliates to do likewise.

In response to an appeal from the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement, the Irish Government Department of External Affairs has made an appeal to the South African government not to execute the three men.

U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, responded immediately the death sentence on the three men was confirmed, asking the South African government not to carry out the death sentence.

The Indian World Campaign for the Release of South African Political Prisoners is conducting a successful campaign in India on the question of the three men.

The World Assembly of Youth has also appealed for clemency.

PRESS FREEDOM THREATENED

THE following journalists' organisations sent protests to the South African government on hearing the news of the arrests of journalists in that country and the latest attacks on the freedom of the press:

National Union of Journalists (Great Britain)
All-China Journalists' Association
Union Nationale des Journalistes Camerounais
Ceylon Journalists' Association
Journalists' Union of the German Democratic Republic
Syndicat Nationale des Journalistes Français
International Organisation of Journalists.

The reports of arrests of students and university lecturers drew strong protests from many youth organisations:

Canadian Union of Students
Council of Israeli Youth Movements
Swedish Youth Council
National Union of Australian Students
" " of Israeli Students

National Union of Swedish Students
" " Nigerian Students
Scottish Union of Students
Swiss Union of Students
International Union of Students
African Students' Association in Israel
Confederacion Nacional de Estudiantes (Mexico)
National Union of Students (Represents 250,000 British students).

The Association of University Teachers have also sent a strongly worded protest to the Prime Minister of South Africa pointing out that if the South African Government are "desirous of the assistance of foreign savants in the work of their universities they must bring the level of their criminal law and procedure up to the level commonly regarded in civilised countries as of a minimum standard."

Protests continue to pour in about the verdict of the Rivonia trial—U.S.A., Cuba, Russia, Greece, East and West Germany, Ceylon and Japan.