

CONDEMN APARTHEID TERRORISM

Jeanette and Katryn Schoon

WE SALUTE YOU!

The terrorist apartheid regime of South Africa has once again murdered a member of the African National Congress and the South African Congress of Trade Unions. On the 28th June, in Lubango, Angola, Jeanette Schoon, aged 36, was killed by a parcel bomb, together with her six-year-old daughter, Katryn.

Jeanette Curtis began active opposition to the injustice of apartheid in 1966, when, 18 years old and in her final year of school in Johannesburg, she took part in a campaign against the Sabotage Act. From 1967 to 1970 she was a student at the University of the Witwatersrand, where she played an active role in the National Union of South African Students, holding key positions in the organisation, and the office of vice-president in 1971.

During these years she took part in campaigns against forced resettlement of African people at Limehill (1968); against the legislation enforcing racial segregation in political parties (1968); against segregation in education (1969-1970); against the Terrorism Act, which allowed, inter alia, indefinite detention in solitary confinement with no access to family or lawyers (1970); against the racist republic (1971); a campaign to free all political prisoners (1971) and other campaigns.

During her vice-presidency of NUSAS, she held the welfare portfolio and was involved in literacy campaigns, a medical scholarships campaign, support for dependents of political prisoners and detainees, and a programme to provide such people with books and study materials.

From 1971 to 1975 she was involved in setting up Wages Commissions throughout South Africa to do research into the appalling wages paid to Black workers, often below the meagre minimums stipulated by law. She played an important part in the movement to build Black democratic trade unions, and helped establish a trade union newspaper named *Isisebenzi*.

In 1974 her passport was confiscated. Around

that time she worked for the South African Instit-

Jute of Race Relations as an activist. In 1975 she was detained under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act for three months and a year after her release was banned together with a large number of fellow trade unionists.

^ In 1977 she married Marius Schoon, a recently-

released political prisoner. The day after their marriage, which was illegal since both were banned and not allowed to meet, they skipped the border into Botswana. Their daughter, Katryn, was born in 1978 and their son, Fritz, in 1981. When Katryn was born, Marius was ill in hospital, and a false message was sent to Jeanette's family saying that he was dead. This was one of a series of hoaxes and death threats with which the Schoons were harassed in Botswana.

In July 1983, as a consequence of this harassment, the Schoon family reluctantly left their work for the International Volunteer Service in

It was then that Jeanette is reported to have said: "All political activists, whether they are in-

side or outside South Africa, ... have a real fear of assassination. Danger is nothing new. Wherever you are you have to accept danger."

After three months in Zambia, Jeanette took up a teaching post at Lubango University in Angola.

Acts of terrorism such as that which killed Jeanette Schoon and her child are part of the strategy of the Botha regime, to physically liquidate freedom fighters in the ranks of the South African liberation movement. In 1981, Joe Gqabi was shot down in the street in Zimbabwe; in 1982 Ruth First died in Maputo, also killed by a parcel bomb; 12 members of the ANC and SACTU were murdered at Matola near Maputo in 1981 by a force of soldiers from South Africa; 42 people, nationals of South Africa and Lesotho, were gunned to death in December 1982 by a South African Defence Force commando unit that raided Maseru, the capital of Lesotho. In May 1983 Matola was bombed by the South African Air Force during the morning rush hour, and four Mozambican civilians and one member of the ANC were killed.

The Frontline States have all suffered sustained aggression and destabilisation at the hands of Pretoria for choosing, as independent states, to give refuge to South Africans fleeing the tyranny

of apartheid.

The family reunion planned for this month in London will now, sadly, never be. Jeanette and Katryn will take their places on the scroll of honour of our many martyrs who have paid the supreme sacrifice to rid the world of the criminal apartheid regime.

The ANC dips its revolutionary banner in honour of this heroine of the struggle, and her child.

HAMBANI KAHLE, JEANETTE AND KATRYN!
YOUR DEATHS WILL NOT BE IN VAIN.

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