

## WORLD NEWS

### SA police whip black mourners after funeral

By PETER HONEY

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday: Disabled African National Congress leader Harry Gwala said he and a group of mourners had been attacked by police with plastic whips as they left the funeral of a slain trade unionist.

Mr Gwala, 68, a former political prisoner and confidante of imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela, called the assault "totally unprovoked."

He said he was at the front of a group of mourners singing freedom songs as they walked from the graveside of trade unionist Jabu Ndlovu in the Slangspruit township outside Pietermaritzburg, the provincial capital of Natal. They were about to leave the cemetery, Mr Gwala said, when about 16 white policemen ran at them and started lashing them with "sjamboks" (plastic whips).

The other mourners scattered but Mr Gwala said he could not run because he suffers from a neurological disease that has paralysed both his arms and weakened his leg muscles.

He said he was struck several times on the shoulders, side, legs and hands. A doctor later treated him for bruises.

"Nobody did anything to provoke the police. They were not even taunted," he said. "They gave us no order to disperse. They just advanced and started attacking us with sjamboks."

The police, reporting the incident in a routine daily bulletin on political unrest, said that they had taken the action after "a group of blacks began acting in a militant fashion and ignored police requests to disperse." They did not mention that Mr Gwala was among the group.

Mr Gwala, a regional executive member of the ANC, was imprisoned twice in the 1960s and 1970s — the second time for life — for recruiting ANC guerrillas. He served 13 years of the jail terms alongside Mandela in the offshore prison on Robben Island before Mandela was transferred to another prison. Mr Gwala was released last November on humanitarian grounds.

Mrs Ndlovu died after being wounded in a gun attack at her home last month. Her husband and daughter also were killed in the attack.

The killers have not been arrested. Township residents say they were part of a vigilante group which has been linked to the police.

The Baltimore Sun

### BRIEFS

#### Whites guilty of ANC terror

CAPE TOWN: The first all-white cell of African National Congress guerillas was yesterday found guilty of terrorism. The three, former journalist Damian de Lange, Ian Hugh Robertson and Susan Catherine Donnelly, who holds a British passport, are unlikely to receive the death sentence.

They were accused of having spied on police and military installations.

#### Snack attack pledge

LONDON: Rock star Chrissie Hynde yesterday gave a public undertaking not to encourage attacks on McDonald's fast food restaurants. There was an arson attack on a McDonald's outlet just days after Hynde, asked what she had done for Greenpeace, joked: "I firebombed McDonald's." McDonald's had threatened to take legal action against the lead singer of The Pretenders if she did not give an assurance that she would not repeat the remark.

#### Speaker re-elected

TEHRAN: Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani, one of the most powerful clerics in Iran, was overwhelmingly re-elected Speaker of the Parliament yesterday.

#### In from the cold

CHRISTCHURCH: A United States Hercules military plane that crashed in Antarctica in 1971 has been salvaged by Air New Zealand in a \$1.77 million contract and is ready to be flown to California. It is worth \$13.58 million.

#### Bismarck found

BOSTON: The German battleship Bismarck, sunk in 1941 by the British Navy, was yesterday found in a good state of preservation on the ocean floor off the coast of France by the remote-controlled robot which discovered the Titanic, officials said.

#### Cordoba sinks

MANAGUA: Nicaragua, battling to contain high inflation of more than 700 per cent a year, cut the value of its currency, the cordoba, by 52.5 per cent yesterday.

The wire services used by The Australian are United Press International, Agence France-Presse, Deutsche Presse-Agentur, Reuters, Associated Press and Press Association