

SUMMARY REPORT ON REPRESSION

**FOR THE MONTH OF
MARCH 1992**

A - STATISTICAL SUMMARY

FORM OF REPRESSION	MARCH 1992	TOTAL YEAR-TO-DATE	MONTHLY AVERAGE 1992	MONTHLY AVERAGE 1991
POLITICAL VIOLENCE				
Deaths : PWV	276	428	142,7	99,8
Natal	143	298	99,3	88,1
Elsewhere	18	55	18,3	27,3
Total	437	781	260,3	215,2
Injuries	898	1544	514,7	338,8
FORMAL REPRESSION				
Detentions without Trial	5	51	17,0	91,1
Deaths in Police Custody	1	7	2,3	0,8
Political Arrests	854	1672	557,3	772,2
Political Trials:-				
Trials completed	20	59	19,7	47,9
No. of accused	314	759	253,0	270,5
No. convicted	32	105	35,0	20,2
Political Prisoners :-				
No. imprisoned	Nil	Nil	Nil	3,8
No. released	Nil	3	1,0	81,7
Death Sentences	5	8	2,7	7,1

Commissioners: Mr. Geoff Budlender, Dr. Max Coleman, Mr. Chris Dlamini,
Mr. Pius Langa, Mrs. Joyce Mabudafhasi, Dr. Diliza Mji, Fr. Smangaliso Mkhathshwa,
Mrs. Albertina Sisulu.

B - COMMENT

DEATHS AND INJURIES

March was a disastrous month for the cause of peace in South Africa. The total of 437 deaths (a daily rate of 14,1 on average) was the highest since August 1990 when violence exploded on the Reef resulting in 709 deaths countrywide. The total of 898 known injured mirrored this extreme level of violence, undoubtedly the result of forces at work to destabilise the referendum and with it the process of peaceful negotiation.

SOURCES

Vigilante-related actions accounted for 369 deaths (84,4% of the total); while security forces were responsible for 14 deaths, hot squads for 5 deaths and other definable sources for 4, while another 45 had uncertain origins.

AREA ANALYSIS

* The PWV area accounted for 276 deaths (63% of the months total) which was its highest figure since August & September 1990 (570 and 300 respectively). The main bases from which this horrific destabilisation was launched were East Rand (91 deaths), Soweto (79), and Alexandra (52) which again exploded after being relatively dormant for 6 months.

* Natal also experienced an upsurge of violence with 143 deaths registered (33% of the month's total), the highest figure on record for the last 21 months. In this ongoing war, main flashpoints were Durban area (51 deaths), Midlands (33), South Coast (32) and North Coast (27).

TRAIN ATTACKS

A feature of attacks in the Witwatersrand area of the PWV has been the indiscriminate killing and maiming of train commuters, aimed solely at terrorising and destabilising township residents. The record to-date is as follows:-

In 1990*: 11 attacks resulting in 59 deaths and 277 injuries

In 1991*: 23 attacks resulting in 38 deaths and 206 injuries

In 1992 :-

January; 37 attacks resulting in 30 deaths and 98 injuries

February; 35 attacks resulting in 22 deaths and 46 injuries

March; 58 attacks resulting in 74 deaths and 91 injuries

VICTIMS AND ATTACKERS

The HRC is now analysing the affiliation of victims and attackers in political violence, where this can be assessed from reports. During March, about 30% of all deaths and 40 to 50% of all injuries could be attributed in this way. The results are as follows :

* The identifiable victims were :

ANC supporters and township residents for 76,0% of the dead and 75,4% of the injured;
Inkatha supporters and hostel dwellers for 24,0% of the dead and 24,6% of the injured.
(Ratio of 3 to 1)

* The identifiable attackers were :

ANC supporters and township residents for 9,5% of the deaths and 19,7% of the injuries;
Inkatha supporters and hostel dwellers for 90,5% of the deaths and 80,3% of the injured.
(Ratio of 1 to 9 and 1 to 4)

FORMAL REPRESSION

REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION

Unrest Area declarations are in effect in 12 PWV townships and 1 Natal district.

DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL

Only 5 persons were detained during March, but no-one was still being held at month-end.

DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY

One death was recorded this month, bringing to 7 the number who have died in custody this year.

POLITICAL ARRESTS

Security Forces arrested 854 person in March, well above the 531 for February and also above the monthly average of 772 for last year.

POLITICAL TRIALS AND IMPRISONMENT

In March, 20 trials were reported as having been completed, involving 314 accused and resulting in the convictions of 32 persons or a 10,2% conviction rate. None of these convictions resulted in imprisonment.

Release of political prisoners has virtually ceased.

DEATH ROW

Death sentences continue to be passed (5 during March). A threat by the Ministry of Justice to resume executions was withdrawn in response to public pressure.

BANNING OF GATHERINGS

Permission for a march in Alexandra, organised by the ANC, PAC and AZAPO was refused by the chief magistrate of Randburg. In the Ciskei, 2 political gatherings were declared unlawful.

**FOR FULL DETAILS, SEE HRC'S MARCH ISSUES OF
HUMAN RIGHTS UPDATE
AND
AREA REPRESSION REPORT**



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PRESS SUMMARY

ON

WEEKLY REPRESSION REPORT

FROM

26/03/92 TO 01/04/92

Seventy-two deaths and 210 injuries were recorded during this period. This means that, on average, 10 people died every day. The figures also exceed last week's total of 62 deaths and 52 injuries.

A significant proportion of these totals can be attributed to violence in Alexandra township - bringing the total number of people killed and injured since violence broke out in the township on the 7 March to 54 and 394 respectively.

Vigilante Related Actions account for 58 deaths and 92 injuries. The death toll in Natal exceeded that in the PWV; accounting for 30 deaths. The injuries recorded in the Natal region amounted to 21.

Incidents in the PWV accounted for 28 deaths (same as last week) and 71 injuries - a dramatic increase from the 35 recorded.

Train attacks on the Reef dropped from 15 last week to 3 this week, resulting in 3 deaths.

Security Force Actions account for 4 deaths and 106 injuries. Almost all of these injuries occurred during action in Alexandra township on the 26 March - the day Alexandra residents staged a stay-away to demand the closure of the Madala Hostel. The deaths were recorded in East Rand (2) and Natal (2). Sixty-nine people were arrested, 62 in Kimberly and 7 in the PWV region.

The remaining deaths and injuries are categorised as uncertain and other political actions.