

November 8th, 1991

Memo

To: All Southern Africa Support and Human Rights Groups

From: Africa Fund Staff

Re: Inkatha attacks Alexandra

The Africa Fund has just been alerted that Mkhosi Jama, one of the Alexandra Civic Organization members, was murdered in the early morning of Wednesday, November 6th outside the civic office by Inkatha members. We have also been alerted that Inkatha members inside the Alexandra hostel are planning another attack on the civic office!

Jama is not the only victim of this recent, politically motivated violence. We have just learned that since Sunday, Nov. 3, Alexandra residents have suffered daily shooting and stabbing attacks by the Inkatha members who have taken over the township hostel.

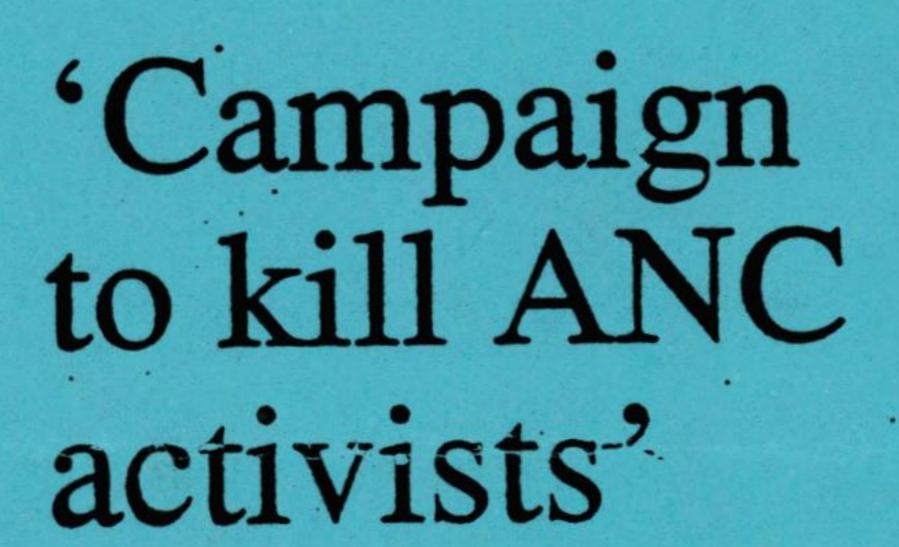
It is no coincidence that these attacks have taken place this week. On Monday and Tuesday, November 4 and 5, COSATU and the ANC called a highly successful 2 day national strike involving 3.5 million workers. This action was in protest of deKlerk's recent imposition of a new regressive national tax system, Value Added Tax. VAT will increase prices of consumer goods, food, and the previously untaxed informal sector. This will hit hardest those already impoverished by apartheid.

Alexandra township, located just outside Johannesburg, has one of the strongest civic organizations in the country. On Sunday the 3rd, they held a public community meeting to educate residents about the stay-away. The Inkatha attacks began immediately after that meeting, once again pointing to their political agenda of squelching protests against the South African government.

We strongly urge you to call the South African Ambassador to the U.S., Harry Schwarz and DEMAND THAT THE ALEXANDRA CIVIC OFFICE BE DEFENDED AGAINST ATTACK! WE HOLD THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF ANY ALEXANDRA RESIDENTS AND/OR CIVIC MEMBERS. Any attacks on the Alexandra Civic Organization, a strong anti-apartheid force in the community, are a clear indication that the government is unwilling or unable to stop the violence. Make sure you get the name and title of anyone you speak with so that we can hold them directly responsible if Ambassador Schwarz claims not t80 have received these messages.

Ambassador Harry Schwarz South African Embassy 3051 Massachusetts Avenue Washington, D.C. 20008

(202) 232-4400



AMONG the 61 people said by the African National Congress to have been assassinated since June 1990 are civic leaders, unionists, ANC activists and community leaders.

A common denominator appears to be their effectiveness within their communities, which gives rise to the ANC's conviction that a campaign to eliminate activists is under way.

The ANC's eastern Transvaal regional secretary, Joe Nkuna, was attacked by assailants on October 3. Publicity secretary Jackson Mthembu said the attack came a week after the office received a hoax call "from a known member of the police", saying Nkuna had been shot.

According to the ANC, those who have died since June 1990 include: Jeff Wabena, national organiser of the South African Domestic Workers' Union, who was shot by a gunman in East London; Mziwonke "Pro" Jack, an ANC activist in the western Cape, · who was shot in June; Joseph Thwala, vice-chairman of the ANC's Mbhayi branch, shot on September 19; Christopher Nangalembe, Youth League organiser found strangled is Sebokeng in January; and Sam Ntuli, general secretary of the Civic Association of Southern Transvaal gunned down in Thokoza of September 29.

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