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n. . m-I
"h' "e' P Harris
21 August 1989
Hr J Naidoo
The General Secretary
COSATU
JOHANNESBURG FEB EAX 34-6528
near Jay

re: PNAWU EAST LONDON SHOOTING INCIDENT

We refer to the above and state that we received instructions from COSATU to investigate an incident that had taken place in East London at a PPWAWU meeting. We immediately phoned SACRED at East London, which is the contact number for PPWAWU and were told that they would send a message to PPWAWU. On the 15th of August 1989 we made contact with David Mabengeza, EP branch secretary of the Paper Printing Wood and Allied Workers Union. He gave us a brief statement of what had taken place and we then made arrangements for him to go to attorneys in East London to take a full and detailed statement to them.

On the 16th of August David Mabengeza made a full statement to the attorneys who then faxed that statement to us late on the 18th of August 1989.

we have read the statement and are shocked at the clear racism and bias exhibited by the local police in East London. We suggest that we instruct attorneys in East London to immediately investigate this matter with the South African Police and to place pressure upon them to conduct a proper investigation. The police should also be called upon to explain their conduct on that night. In addition, we suggest that we instruct the same attorney to immediately obtain details with regard to the white nan "Basil" who appears to be involved and to issue summons on behalf of the workers who were injured in this incident. One of the workers appears to have broken both legs and would thus have

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alam' ,

a substantial claim against the person who did the shooting. This man must he taught that he cannot behaVe like that and the best way of teaching him is to make him pay in the region of R60 000,00.

Please let us know if you want us to instruct attorneys to carry out the above.

Regards 7.

W

PETER HARRIS

STATEMENT MINUTED FROM DAVID MABENGEZA. E P BRANCH SECRETARY

WWWUW

Ha Sum:

We held a meeting at our offices at 12 A Union Strut East London on the evening at Saturday 12 August 1989 (a lease for thou ptamlua was signed on 1 August 1989 at Mews Spencer Steward of 8 St Luke: Road. Southernwood. East London).

There were t5 people Involved In tho moatlng:

(1) Myaolt;

(11) Nooawa Nondulo (P E Organtw):

(til) Bantu Makhwaba (P E Otganlzet):

(Iv) Jacob Xazana (East London Organizer):

(v) st Zako (Regional Chairman. 0! Buffalo Timbers at P E);

(vl, P. Mahuml (Shop Steward at ELFIN (Ply) leltod).

(vii) Mngani (Shop Steward at Buffalo Tlmbara at Eut London);

(viii) Dondashe (Regional Vlca Chalmrman, baud In East London);

(1x) Ntauma (Shep Steward at Adamas/Sappt P E);

(x) 'Thompaon' (Shop Steward at a P E Company);

(xi) 'thhard' (Shop Steward at Sava-All P E): .

(xll) Raymond (Raglional Educator and Shop Stoward It Nampok P E);

(xtn) Mlakalaka (Shop Steward at Padotatod Timbers East London):

(xiv) Unknown nama (Shop Steward at Kola Conugata P E): .

(xl) Amos Boot (Shop Steward at Nampak Eaas London).

At about 7.00 pm Nocawa, Makhwaba, Xuana. and myself wora standing outside Tttrom Court (tho buldtng) whtta tha others deliberated lnalda. Two people. an old whtta lady and an old white man coma out of tho buldtng and went to thair car. They were followed by a young white man.

Aha: ho had walkod past us he turned around and asked us to move away. W: said that we were also tenants. He said no. no can't IN. with blacks.

Nocawa uld Iet'a go Inside. let's not arqua with thin man. Wa want through the courtyard ot the building to tha back door of our omens.

Artcr we'd walked In at the hack door wa walkad throuah to tha front doov which we waned. Whun no uvuou lt u.- u-.. "u. Manama than. H. had aaaumod n

threatenlng attitude: He said ho had called the Police; we must go. We said that that was "no; we would wait for the Potloe.

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Two Pollcamen antvad. one whlta and one black, Wa totd them mm W hid "an tho tau. They acid that ll there was troubla or fighting they'd aunt the tour at ua as wall aa tho whit. man who was thaw.

After they had laft. we went back to tha meeting which contlnuad.

At about 9.05 pm. we heard a loud banglng at tho tront door. It sounded n It aomoono wanted to break the door down. Xazana wont to listen at the door.

He opanod tho doorano found another tenant. Mr Bast! Swan standing outside togotnat wtth the first young man. Basil drew a gun (rwolvar) and pointed h at Jacob. Jacob ran back up tho atalra. As he opened the door to the room whom we wara having out meeting. we who wore lnalda hoard a ahat. Thaw was great contualon.

Two more shots tollawad. Wo all ran out through the back door. Some ran up the ataps. some down. whlla others jumped down,

We met again In Buttan Strut. around tha corner from Tllroaa Court. The not had been lat! opan

When we raallzed that not alt of U: wara present we decided to go to the Ponce Statton tn Hut Street at tho and of Buffalo Street. Theta wo toportod the manor

We wan taken back to Tllrou Court by van. When wa arrtvod we saw that Nocawa and Makhwnbe and aomo Shop Stewards wore bolng hold hostage In the ontranca to the buldtng. by a Pollcewoman, two whlto man and a Captaln. Tho Captain appeared to be tn charge.

We were told to att down by atlll more Polloeman who had also arrtvedt No cm was pointing guns at anyone but we were being lnauttod and Ill-troated. I say thla bauuoo when we mentioned that some at the people wara Injured and should go to hoapttal the Captain tetonad that no em waa dylng and we should watt tat tho Sacurtty Pollca.

Furthermore, Baall who was also um there said that ha couldn't live wtth us and that It was hla buldtng and he didn't know ua.

Two member at the South Atrlcan Pottoo torco than arrived with a vlooo camera, Thay took Nocawo and myself Inside our otticaa and took plcturaa ot ua. as wall as of poatm

(ot the Union. Coutu. Ltvlng Wag. Campaign. May Day Campalgn etc.) on tha walla
Wa war. also asked to tell them how averyona had mn out of the dice.

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Theraanor Nocawa and I returned outside with them. After about another 30 minutes the Security men arrived, They asked what had happened. We told them that we were holding a brunch meeting They asked whether we had been singing or making a noise and we said no, they had been no noise. only discussion of nervous issues because this was an Eastern Province meeting. A Security Policeman went back inside with myuli and Nooawat He Just looked around.

When we came out I noticed the two Policemen were looking at our group. They found two

At about 230 am we were told that those who had been held home. had to make statement: at the Fleet Street Police Station. We went there. but only to make a statement. He made this statement to a Mr Mode. The other three hostages were based in P.E. '

At about 3.30 am. we left Fleet Street Police Station and proceeded to the From Hospital to collect those members of the Party who had been injured. They had been taken to the Hospital by ambulance at approximately the time that we had left for the Police Station. i.e. about 2.30am.

At From Hospital we saw that both Zakaria logo worn in Piastor at Paris. Mohumi had a painful back. which was however not serious, He had taken it the first night. Mngoni also had a back injury which was not serious. He had jumped from the first floor at the book at the building.

On Monday 14 August Donduhs went to give a statement at Fleet Street Police Station. He had also been a hollid. during the early part of the evening and had been told to come and make a statement on Sunday but had said that he could only come on Monday. When he arrived at Fleet Street Police Station no one knew anything of the matter. The case had apparently not been registered.

On the same day I went to Mr Mdoio at Guson Comte (this is what. the Security Police headquarters are), I spoke to him and asked him what was happening and he said "a Mr Van Vuuron was handling the case.

We have had no further contact from the Police at this stage. I suspect that they are avoiding the issue and that no criminal charge will be made.

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Apart from the injuries to the various people listed above. we suffered no further damages other than that the Capricorn removed certain pamphlets: (regarding the amended Labour Relations Act) from our office and that the minutes of our meeting were lost in the accidental fire.

I must mention that three more people were marginally involved in this. They were the people who were driving the Kombi from PI. and back again. They arrived on the scene at about 10.00pm. to collect the members who had to return to PE.