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CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS 1mm

MESSAGE FROM COSATU CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ON PLANNED ATTACKS IN THE COMING PERIOD 29/4/91

The COSATU Central Executive Committee (CBC), meeting on 27-28 April

1991, considered reports from our own structures. the ANC. and the SACP

about the current violence and a planned offensive timed to coincide with

our May Day rallies, and leading up to the May 9 ultimatum of the ANC.

The assessment of the CEC was that the state is directly involved in various

ways in orchestrating this violence, and that employers share nesponsibility

for their failiure to bring pnessure to bear to end the violence against their

own workers.

The CEC was unanimous that decisive and radical action was needed to put

an and to thie coneioee carnage. Score: of COSATU mcmbcrs and their

families have died or been injured in this violence. The violence has not

boon conï-\201ned to one am, but her: bean tarsottod at hunts! dwellcw, twin and

taxi commmers, squatter and township residents, moumers at funerals and

night vigils, and at workers in the factories. These attacks have been a

combination of random massacres aimed at terrorising ordinary people, and

specific targetted attacks aimed at eliminating activists, including worker

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3. To intensify pressure on employers to demand that the government acts against the violence, and to themselves act against those fomenting violence in the factories. COSATU will meet with employers to inform them of the gravity of the situation, and the actions we intend to take.

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4 If tha threatened make mmerialiee. or if the government fails to take '3? steps to end the violence, to call a General Strike. In this event, the CEC ' instructed COSATU's Ofi-\20lce Bearers to call an emergency Executive meeting to discuss the timing and duration of the General Strike.

5. Furthermore, the CEO is calling on all COSATU members:

* to isolate those attempting to create violence, in the workplace, hostels or communities

* in particular we call on our members and ordinary Inkatba membets in the hostels to resist those warlords attempting to coerce you to i-\20lght against fellow workers

* to arm yourselves. and to actively participate in self-defence units, In a dlscipllned and organised way. It is your moral and legal right to defend the lives and property of yourselves and your families

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warlords in the hostels, was regarded in the most serious possible light This
'ormation had been independently corroborated both by the ANC and
oursei'Ves. There is agreement between ANC and COSATU that this
offensive has a three-t'oid aim:

* To disrupt the activities of the democmtic moveme _____

Day rallies Ã©ï-\201d the ANC signature campaign.

* To provide an "answer" to the ANCâ\200\230s May 9 deadline to the govenmmment.

* To sabotage the January 29 Peace Accord between the ANC and Inkatha,
the Accord being seen as a threat to those who want the violence to
continue.

THE COSATU CBC HAS THEREFORE UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED:

1. To fully support the ANC's May 9 deadline to the government to take
decisive steps to end the violence, and to support a Peace Charter.
2. To reject the conference called by the government on violence. The view
of COSATU is that this conference is window dressing at a time when our
country is burning. The government knows what it has to do to end the
violence.

The CBC was presented with evidence directly linking elements of the state to the violence. Furthermore it was unanimously agreed that the state had the capacity if it wished to use its full' investigative powers, to apprehend those responsible for the violence, and to bring them to justice. The state's failure to do so indicated that it lacked the political will and was itself deeply implicated in the violence.

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