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December, 1976.

INFORMATION BULLETIN ON POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DETAINEES:

More Deaths in Detention:

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William Namodi Tshwane - a student of Jabavu. buweto. Arrested July 25 with other students and detained at Modder B prison. On October 14 his father was informed of his death. The family was told that it could not be given the body because he had been buried already and "nothing could be done about it."

Edward Mzolo - aged 40. Died in detention at Modder B prison on October 9. No further information available at the time of this bulletin.

Wellington Mlungisi Tshazibane died at John Vorster Square police headquarters shortly after being arrested by security police at Johannesburg airport on December 11. Police told his family he had hanged himself. He had an honours degree in engineering from Oxford University and worked for the Anglo American Corporation.

George Botha - aged 30. A teacher, he was detained by the police on December 10. The chief of the South African security police said that Mr Botha had jumped to his death down the stair-ways floors at the security police office building in Port Elizabeth on December 15.

This death brings the total number of detainees known to have died in South African prisons to 91. iv

Genocide in South Africa:

It is hard to believe that so little is being done in the world to publicise the full-scale mass murder being perpetrated by the South African police. Young people escaping from South Africa speak of the killings of their generation outside and inside the jails. Nkosazana Dlamini, Vice-President of the South African Student Organisation (SASO) and a member of the African National Congress underground network said at a press conference in London that over 1,000 people have died since June 16 - some died to death because the police piled the wounded up in their 'hippos' without giving them medical treatment. "Many parents do not know what has happened to their children. Names of detainees are not released. A number of people are known to have died during interrogation since June, others are known to have been buried secretly by the police, but it is impossible to guess how many deaths have been covered up by the police. Most of the people who come out of prison have been tortured in order to force them to sign

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confessions or statements implicating others. Methods of torture include starving, beating up, electric shocks, standing barefoot on dry ice." From all over South Africa there is news every day of wholesale murder of school children and students. Parents in every black area are searching for missing children - some of whom have been missing for months. Mr N. Situsha, principal of Phulong Secondary School, KwaThema, Springs, said he had been searching for four of his school's male teachers who were arrested at their home early in November.

A Johannesburg domestic servant, Mrs Raphina Baloi, has been spending sleepless nights tracing her two young daughters who disappeared in November. Her children, Naomi, 15 and Leslie, 13 are both pupils of Mathsidsiso Sbhool in Orlando West, left their home one Sunday afternoon to play with friends. They have not returned and checks at police stations and prisons have proved fruitless.

A father said he was working in his garden in Soweto one Saturday and his niece aged 8 rushed to the gate to see what was happening, as children were running past his gate. His 11-year-old daughter also ran to see. Two black policemen in camouflage uniform appeared and loaded his daughter and niece on to a police truck.

The Black Sash, a progressive white women's organisation, has been inundated with telephone calls from distraught parents of missing children. Its president stated "It is scandalous that minor children are taken from their homes without their parents' knowledge." She called upon the police to issue daily lists of children who have been arrested in the townships.

Most black schools closed down before the summer holidays as pupils refused to attend, but the police hounded pupils and teachers wherever they could be found. One teacher, Mrs Nomakhaya mafuna, has been missing for a year. A journalist on Johannesburg's Rand Daily MBil writes, "On november 3 last year members of the Security Police went to Ithute Primary School in Alexandra Township and took away a quiet-spoken 50-year-old woman teacher. Mrs Mafuna has completed a year in detention." Her daughters, Nomvula, 4 and Nombulelo, 11 wait for their mother to return every day. Teachers at her school are shocked at her detention.

In November, 800 children under 18 years of age were convicted for offences related to unrest. Among those sentenced to acnings was an 8-year-old boy who was given five cuts for attending an unlawful gathering. "The absence of legal aid for many of the accused children has given rise to considerable concern among the legal profession", reports the Rand Daily Mail. It might be more appropriate for the legal profession to show concern about the arrest -of such young children in the first place - and the role of the police as murderers of those in their charge. '

Attacks on Progressive Church Organisations and Clergy:

"In God's name do not silence the very people you should be talking to," said a spokesman for the South African Council of Churches (SACC) onrthe detention of Mrs Sally Motlena, vice president of the All African Council of Churches and National President of the African Housewives League. mrs Joyce Serkoe, National President of the world affiliated Y.W.C.A. was also detained. That was in mid-October. At the end of October the S.A. Institute of Race Relations reported that 16 clergyman were being held in detention. On November 25 about 30 security police raided the Johannesburg offices of the Christian Institute, the South African Council of Churches and the Federation of Lutheran Churches in South Africa. The raid lasted seven hours and six more were detained, among them Rev Reinhardt Bruckner, director of the Christian Academy and a German subject. He was later released after protests from the West German government. Among the world-wide protests was a telegram to Vorster from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan.

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African and Coloured Unity in btrugglei'

The bonds, once tenuous, between Coloured and African people in South Africa, have been immeasurably strengthened during recent months. Moreover, new bonds are being forged in the now daily life-and-death struggle against the common enemy - Vorster's hated apartheid regime. Today, cemented with the blood of African and Coloured Children, their unity is indissoluble. A horrifying portrait appeared in a letter to The Guardian; London, on November 1. The letter was from two Cape Town school teachers who must remain anonymous. Described in the letter are the early beginnings of the assault on the Coloured people of the Western Cape, where the majority of the Coloured people live. This assault is now nationwide and is being courageously resisted side by side with the African people.

August 24: Pupils of Bontebeuwel High School held a peaceful placard demonstration in the school-grounds in sympathy with their African fellow students. Riot Squad police arrived. The Principal asked the police to leave because "... their presence is unnecessary." Police, without warning, fired tear gas at the children, then baton-charged them. Fleeing children were cornered against an 8 foot high fence. "Most of the boys managed to scale the fence. The girls were trapped and were severely beaten up." Later an angry crowd of parents and children gathered outside the school. The police returned. "Fleeing was the only defence the people had against the guns of the Riot Squad; stone-throwing their only means of expressing their anger and pain. Three days of street fighting followed leaving many people shot and at least one child dead."

September 1: Riot Squad attacked Trfalgur High School, Cape Town, using teargas, bird-shot and bullets. many children were injured and a 15-year-old boy, Shaheed Jacobs, shot dead. On the same day the Riot Squad attacked Alexander Sinton High School in Athlone, a Coloured suburb of Cape Town. "Many children and bystanders, were shot, a polio victim was shot and is now permanently crippled ... 3 others broke arms and legs when they jumped from upstairs windows ..." The letter continues "All the people we have spoken to state the death toll is very much higher than official figures.... One doctor claims that 70 babies died of teargas poisoning at the Peninsula Maternity Hospital.... Parents of dead children and mortuary employees have said the mortuary is full.... Bodies are not released for burial until relatives have signed a document stating that the dead person was 'actively involved in rioting'." The letter ends with a plea for the international community urgently to consider ways of alleviating the human suffering and misery in South Africa.

Cape Town Ghettoes Besieged:

Police encircled the black townships of Guguletu and Nyanga near Cape Town at the end of November. Reports indicated that 300 people were arrested in the first two days. A number of youths were shot dead. On November 29 black youths destroyed 19 houses occupied by black informers. More than 1,000 police raided the townships but an accurate count of those killed, wounded, arrested and detained is still not available. '

Journalists Under Attack: s

The press in South Africa is regarded as a dangerous instrument to expose the brutalities and inhumanities of the police and the regime as a whole. For this reason about 15 journalists, mainly black, have been detained.

International Red Cross can Visit Some Detainees:

The International Red Cross has been granted access to detainees held under the Internal Security Act and officials have started visits. The Red Cross still does not have permission to visit those detained under the Terrorism Act. Demands for access to these detainees must continue with renewed vigour, as it is those who are held under the Terrorism Act who are tortured and murdered. Please send your demands to the Minister of Justice, House of Assembly, Cape Town.

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The Struggle Continues:

Dr David Rabkin, Mr Jeremy Cronin and Mr Anthony Holiday were sentenced to terms of imprisonment under the Terrorism Act for distributing leaflets of the African National Congress. and the South African Communist Party. Dr Rabkin ' wals sentenced to 10 years, Mr Cronin to 7 years and Mr Holiday to 6 years. 1 Within weeks of their sentence more leaflets of the African National Congress and its military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) exploded in Cape Town from leaflet bombs.

SASO TRIAL SENTENCE: - - -_ .

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On Taesday, December 21 sentence is expectedton the 9 accused- in the trial :of the South African Students' Organisation members who have been on trial forw two years. They have all been found guilty under the Terrorism Act and we hope, whatever their sentence, that protests against their incarceration - oreyen death-which-is_pOSsible under the Terrorism Act - will be mounted.

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The people of South Africa, particularly the young people, have given a lead with their determination and courage in the face of severe police brutality.2 They are determined to achieve their freedom and this new confidehce that has i emerged from South Africa's oppressed people leaves-us in no doubt that the future is ours. Your help in the international solidarity field is of paramount importance - demonstrations, protests, letters, financial assistance - all are part of the struggle and very necessary for its success.

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