

statement of the Afrikaner National Liberation Struggle (ANC) the
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The unprovoked killing of unarmed demonstrators at Bisho, today. Monday
7th September, by troops in the hire of Brigadier Oupa guzo, the military
dictator of the Ciskei. marks a crucial turning point in the current phase
of the struggle for democracy in South Africa.

The mass demonstration, involving thousands of people, in support of the
demand for basic civil liberties in the Ciskei, was met with every
possible obstacle by the Military junta and finally with a massacre when
all else had failed.

At no time were the lives of the Ciskeian troops endangered. The brazen
lie that they were fired on by the demonstrators being spread by both the
Ciskei authorities and their mentors in Pretoria is contradicted by
unimpeachable eyewitnesses. It is clear from all accounts that the first
shots were fired by the Ciskeian troops. The killing commenced with a
controlled burst of automatic fire. lasting more than two minutes,
followed by a second burst of shorter duration. Thus far it appears that 14
men and 1 woman lost their lives. More than 106 people were injured. At
least one foreign correspondent also sustained injuries.

To ensure that the world would be kept ignorant of their murderous
actions, the Ciskei junta ordered the media out of the area under armed
escort. Teargas was then fired into the crowd which was forced to retreat
to Kingwilliamstown, outside the jurisdiction of the Ciskei authorities.
Senior Ciskei military officers have admitted that their troops were
issued live ammunition and. as is apparent from the sequence of events.
they had loaded their weapons before-hand. No warning was issued and no
attempt was made to disperse the crowd employing non-lethal means.
The blood of the slain and the injured has indelibly stained the hands of
Brigadier guzo and his henchmen. They must assume full responsibility
for the popular anger that their repressive actions will undoubtedly
unleash. An equal responsibility devolves also on the de Klerk government

who did everything calculated to encourage guzo in his intransigence. Rather than restrain their client, the men in Pretoria chose to deploy a Police unit to protect him. Both Minister Kriel and Commissioner of Police, van der Merwe were on hand in Kingwilliamstown today offering further assurance.

By his actions today, guzo has irretrievably opted for a course in opposition to democracy. The demand for free and untrammelled political activity in the Ciskei, as in other parts of our country, is eminently reasonable. This includes the right of all persons to assemble peacefully and mount demonstrations and processions. It is the studied refusal of guzo and his junta to recognise and acknowledge these rights that occasioned the mass demonstrations today.

We are alarmed and shocked to hear the mealy-mouthed attempts to justify these killings by recourse to obscure legal technicalities. Even if these were true, they could not possibly justify the deaths and injuries of so many.

The African National Congress extends its heartfelt condolences to the families whose loved ones were killed in Bisho today. It calls upon our people in the Ciskei and other parts of the country to remain calm and not permit themselves to be tempted into rash actions by this provocation.

The struggle to attain free political activity in the Ciskei will continue, even in the teeth of guzo's killing machine.

We shall not be cowed by bullets of guzo!

Issued by: The Department of Information and Publicity,
PO. Box 61884, Marshalltown 2107, Johannesburg.

MEMORANDUM TO ALL REGIONS ON THE CISKEI SITUATION

1. Reports at this stage indicate that 20 people were killed, and about 190 people were injured.
 2. Eyewitness accounts including journalists say that there was no provocation.
 3. Some of the demonstrators are presently at the Victoria Grounds where they may stay overnight.
 4. Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa and others are meeting Kriel and other SA government officials at the South African Embassy in Bisho.
 5. Comrades at the Head Office of the ANC, the SACP and Cosatu held a brief meeting this afternoon to consider immediate action.
 6. The following decisions were taken:
 - countrywide action must be mounted tomorrow to express outrage at the killings.
 - immediate action to stop SABC disinformation
 - more definite action to crystallise over the weekend
 - pickets and occupation of Ciskei consulates where they exist
 - action must not focus exclusively on quzo but must clearly show the culpability of the SA government
 - Running through all these recommended actions must be the issue of free political activity in the areas where it is denied. The main focus for now must be the Ciskei.
 7. Regions must undertake actions that they are capable of handling in their given situation. For example, the PWV Action Council has decided to act tomorrow during lunchtime in various ways.
 8. The aim of our initial response must be to indicate clearly how outrageously the quzo Administration and the SA government have acted against a peaceful march by the people.
 9. The NWC will discuss the matter on Wednesday.
 10. Please send any ideas on this matter to Comrade Saki Macozoma of the DIP who will continuously monitor the situation and inform the relevant structures.
- The fax numbers are (011) 290302 and 333-8870.
The phone numbers are 290151/6, 330-7096, 330-7089 or 455-6111 Code 1554.

Jacob Zuma

Deputy Secretary General

7 September, 1992