

Newlands East desperately needs defence committees, says ANC secretary

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The plight of desperate residents of Newlands Heights in K section at Kwa Mashu, near Durban, was a classic case of people needing to form defence committees to protect themselves, according to Mr Sbu Ndebele, secretary of the African National Congress southern Natal region.

For the past three years, members of the AmaSinyora gang have turned K section into their hunting ground.

At least 368 houses have been abandoned as the occupants fled in terror from arson, murder, rape, assault and looting.

The Democratic Party's unrest monitoring group has logged 291 criminal incidents that AmaSinyoras had been involved in from January last year until today. These left at least 100 people dead.

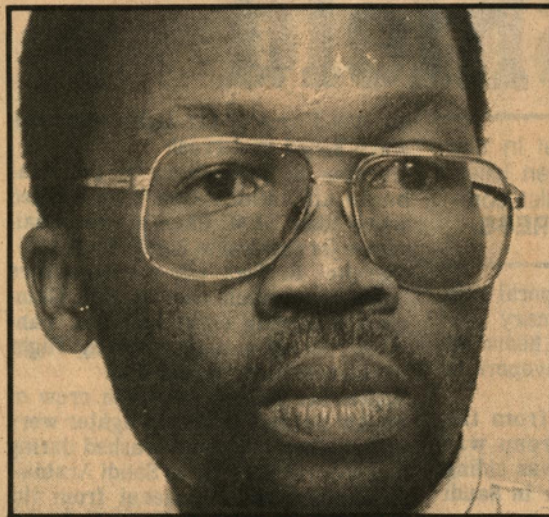
KwaMashu falls under the control of the KwaZulu Police. Residents' opinions of the KwaZulu Police range from those who feel the force has proved incapable of curbing the gang to those who openly accuse some members of the force of protecting the gang, if not working with them.

A delegation from Newlands Heights met senior South African Police officers this week to plead for SAP protection.

But they were told the SAP could not investigate cases against the AmaSinyoras as Kwa-

The beleaguered residents of Newlands Heights, KwaMashu, desperately want protection from AmaSinyora gangsters who have made the area their playground.

Daily News Political Correspondent **MARTIN CHALLENGER** reports.



Mr Sbu Ndebele

Mashu fell under the KwaZulu Police.

Mr Ndebele said that everybody had a right to protect himself, including black communities. White ratepayers had formed neighbourhood watches and the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging had been arming itself all the time.

The plight of K section's residents was a classic case of where people needed to form defence units, but it was not an isolated case, Mr Ndebele said: "It is everywhere."

The ANC has recently alarmed Government supporters by saying it would help form defence

units in black areas that came under physical attack from political opponents and criminals.

Mr Ndebele said that people documented what happened to them and passed this through the proper channels right to the State President, with the plea: "Please protect us."

"We believe we are entitled to protection of our life, limb and property. But the protection has not been forthcoming.

"If people then say we are going to come together in our street to try to defend ourselves with stones, bushknives and hoes, what is wrong with that really?" Mr

Ndebele asked.

In most cases, people came from outside of a community to cause violence: "It is not neighbours killing each other."

If the people of Newlands Heights formed a defence unit, the ANC would advise them not to go beyond cleaning out the community of vigilantes and criminals, Mr Ndebele said.

Once people organised and felt their strength, there was a temptation to go on the rampage and seek vengeance, so the ANC would advise them not to do so.

Mr Roy Ainslie, co-ordinator of the DP's unrest monitoring group, said in a letter to police yesterday that all members of the AmaSinyora gang should be arrested, or detained, while their activities were investigated.

"There are many precedents for such detention, particularly of those to the left of the Government. If senior political activists can be detained pending investigations into their activities, so can political tsotsis from KwaMashu.

"Raid the small area occupied by the AmaSinyora for the purpose of seizing the large quantity of arms and ammunition at their disposal and reclaim looted property.

"It is alarming that this has not yet been done. If necessary mount repeated seal-and-search operations of the streets occupied by the gang until the situation is normalised. Again, there are precedents for such seal-and-search operations."

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Sparks: FW has role in ANC's destabilisation

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Star Bureau

LONDON — There is "damning evidence" that President de Klerk is allowing his security forces to destabilise the ANC, according to a report yesterday.

Allister Sparks, former editor of the Rand Daily Mail, wrote in The Observer that Mr de Klerk was either unwilling to risk confronting the security establishment or was following a "double agenda".

"One is hesitant to attribute such Machiavellianism to a president who seems so decent compared with his predecessors, but there is damning evidence against him," he wrote.

That evidence included the appointment of General Andries "Kat" Liebenberg as Chief of the Defence Force and the "whitewashing of the death squads" by Mr de Klerk.

Sparks warned: "If the intention has been to destabilise the ANC, it has backfired. Only the ANC's moderate leadership has been destabilised, while its constituency has been united, angered and radicalised."

"The ANC leadership must

now respond to the militant mood or be voted out of office."

"For whatever motive, Mr de Klerk has given (Nelson) Mandela too little. It is Mandela more than De Klerk who now needs help and rewards."

Sparks said a change in Government strategy could be detected three-quarters of the way through the year.

Initially it seemed clear that Mr de Klerk wanted to strike a deal with Mr Mandela that would lead to a coalition government of the ANC and the National Party.

Alliances

But as the year advanced and the ANC gave the impression of inefficiency, "the idea began to take hold in National Party circles that the ANC might be defeatable; that by forming other alliances, the NP might be able to win an election and stay in power."

A reason for Mr de Klerk's "double strategy" would be "so that he can get the constitution he wants and, with his allies, win the elections".