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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA

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POLITICAL PRISONERS BULLETIN

The last year has witnessed a high level of campaigning for the release of political prisoners both inside South Africa

and internationally. At the same time the regime has continued to intensify its repression. At least 965 people were

detained in 1980, 36 were sentenced to a total of 227 years imprisonment for offences under the Terrorism Act

14 were banned. Statistics reveal the broad sweep of people involved in all-round struggle against the regime: Of

those in security police detention last year 341 were school pupils, 117 college and university students; 32 lecturers,

school principals and teachers; 67 political leaders; 39 community workers; 10 journalists and 21 trade unionists

and workers.

SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS!

The campaign for the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners has once again focused attention on the

barbaric policies of the Pretoria racists who keep more than 500 political prisoners incarcerated in Robben Island and

other prisons. It has particularly emphasised the plight of the people's leaders, serving life sentences (and in South

Africa with no remission for so-called "security prisoners", a life sentence means imprisonment until death) who

have been in prison for up to 20 years.

Recent information indicates that the more than 15 women political prisoners have been moved to Pretoria central

prison where they are being kept in almost complete isolation from the outside world. They have no access to news-

papers, censored news broadcasts, recreational or sports facilities, and have been moved from various prisons without

the knowledge of their families.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PRETORIA THREE

THEY MUST NOT DIE

The passing of death sentences by the Pretoria Supreme Court on three ANC combatants last November, has evoked

world-wide condemnation. On November 15, 1980, Ncimbithi Lubisi (28), Petrus Muhigo (20) and Naphthali Manana

(28) were found guilty of "high treason" and sentenced to death by the apartheid court.

Their six fellow combatants

were sentenced to terms ranging from 10 to 15 years.

BACKGROUND TO TRIAL

This action by the racist regime came at the end of a year which had seen unparalleled resistance and struggle by the

fighting people of South Africa. School boycotts, rent strikes, bus boycotts, nationwide action by the black working

class, campaigns for the release of political prisoners - all these factors compelled a desperate regime to attempt once

again to cow our people. The brilliant attack by combatants of the people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, on the all

purpose coal plants at Sasolburg and Secunda in June, 1980, was yet another strong affirmation that power must

inevitably pass into the hands of the people.

FEATURES OF APARTHEID TRIALS

The trial involving the Pretoria Three displayed all the characteristics of "legal" proceedings in Apartheid South

Africa. Witnesses for the State gave their evidence in camera, while those on trial testified about the torture they

had undergone at the hands of the notorious security police. Moses Molebatsi described how "a bag had been put

over his head and he felt as if he was suffocating. He had been choked by electrodes fixed to his head and hand-

cuffed in a squatting position to a bar".

The Pretoria Three were found guilty of an attack on a police station in Soeknekaar (in the Lebowa bantustan)

which took place in January of last year. Although nobody was killed during the armed propaganda action, the

Judge found that the three had "intended" to harm the policeman inside the station. Giving evidence in court.

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hwm-mwyumm.

SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE '

Matched by the ringing crowd of relatives and supporters, the Pretoria trialists displayed the spirit of resistance with their people: Mule. The Pretoria Three were all products of the 1976 student union: Lubhi explained that the right of young children mowed down in the streets of Soweto had necessitated his return to

South Africa "to fight for my rights".

After the death sentence: were passed, hundreds of people attended the Pretoria Supreme Court singing songs

longs in solidarity with the trialists. Immediate reaction to the death sentence: inside the country included a

statement by the Women's Federation of South Africa in which they declared their intention to circulate a petition

throughout the churches in South Africa in an effort to prevent judicial murder by the racist state.

INTERNATIONAL ACTION MUST BE INTENSIFIED

The response by the international solidarity movement to the call for an emergency campaign to In their line

was swift and effective. The level the campaign has reached is reflected by the fact that the League of Nations Council

of the United Nations met in special session to express its grave concern over the death sentence passed by the

Apartheid regime. As a signatory to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Protocol 1 of 1977 on the

humanitarian conduct of war, the African National Congress is calling on its supporters to increase the demand

for prisoner-of-war status for captured freedom fighters.

As the Pretoria Three wait on the outcome of their appeal against the death sentence, a grave responsibility lies with

the world's progressive and democratic forces to ensure that the apartheid regime is prevented from carrying

out its criminal murder.

SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE PRETORIA THREE!

URGE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE!

1' Protest to P.W. Botha, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa

1' Send message of solidarity to Mariana, Makhigo and Lubki, Pretoria Maximum Security Prison, Pretoria, South

Africa -

DEMAND PRISONER OF WAR STATUS FOR THE PRETORIA 3 AND ALL CAPTURED FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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RACIST FORCES ABDUCT ANC MEMBERS FROM MOZAMBIQUE

On January 30, 1981, during the barbaric attack on ANC residences in Matola, Mozambique (in which 12 ANC

members were killed), racist South African troops abducted three ANC members: Selby Mavua (26), David Thobell

(26) and Thibe Ntaekang (25). Reports in the South African press suggest that the regime is preparing to put them

on trial in connection with the SASOLBURG attack of last June.

The African National Congress has appealed to the international community TO TAKE URGENT ACTION TO

SECURE THEIR RELEASE AND IMMEDIATE HANDOVER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE.