

YOUTH
YOUTH FORUM OF ACTION

Lum/073/009/17

Good evening brothers and sisters and sons and daughters of a nation under attack.

Today we meet you again in our regular Saturday programme "Youth Forum of Action". In this programme we usually feature news and views of youth action in South Africa and news international support of youth and students to our struggle. In many parts of the world progressive organisations and governments have come to view this week as the week of solidarity with the people Youth and Students of South Africa. By this week we mean the 10 days from June 16 to June 26 the South African Freedom day, that is the day on which the freedom charter was adopted 25 years ago.

In this week in 1980 youth forum of action is lowering its banner in honour of our young heroes who fought in battle against the repressive racist regime. As a tribute to them we shall render the following revolutionary song and poem, after which we shall present the news. Our views shall be followed by a statement on the current region of terror unleashed by the fascist regime.

YOUTH FORUM OF ACTION: The news.

The ban on meetings which the regime declared last week, has been met by open defiance of youth all over the country especially in the Cape Peninsula. African and coloured townships resembled a battle front as police and paramilitary troops patrolled the townships in search of what they termed meetings rioters. On Sunday night a white policeman was stabbed to death in Cape Town, while taking part in an armed assault on young people at a township. Police fired double barreled shot guns at point blank range injuring and killing at random. On Monday alone, 14 people were believed to have died and more than 100 injured in a wave of racist police violence that marked the 4 anniversary of June the 16th.

As the death toll began to climb, the racist commissioner of police general Geldenhuys declared all the areas where young people were engaged in violent combat against triggerhappy police mobs 'Operational Area' where no local or foreign journalists were allowed. No figures of the dead and injured were to be released or published by the racist authorities. Still the independent sources were able to piece together information of the death toll, which in the Cape, reached the figure death toll to what they claimed was people threatening life or property. General Geldenhuys went on to issue a stern threat to all the people involved in the uprisings, that the police were given orders to shoot to kill.

On Tuesday the 17th more than half the workforce in the Cape Peninsula had responded to the call to stay away from work. As major clashes flared in the Cape flats, roads in both African and Coloured townships were blocked and some major arteries had to be cleared by police who always open fire on any group or groups of people they saw. Fresh reports state that the death and injury toll is continuing to rise, burning the number of the dead to more than a hundred, and about 400 injured.

In Port Elizabeth one person was reported dead and several injured when the anger of the people boiled over and resulted in an attack on the Port-East police station. Eye witness accounts state that several people attacked the station pelting it with rocks bricks and petrol bombs. Some policemen were seen covering under desks and tables in fright.

In Uitenhage the Eastern Cape industrial town complex police attacked striking workers, in an effort to stop the labour unrest that has engulfed the town. The police armed with teargas and dogs stormed at the workers who had gathered in the factory area. By last at least 7000 black workers had joined the labour strike. In addition to Volkswagen and SKF four other large industrial undertakings joined the strike. The factories affected were Goodyear tyre factory national Standard a steel wire firm, GUBB and INGS - woolwostung and Questro Industries Ford has had to close its costina plant due to shortage of compounds from the strike that cuterprises. UCM milling also discussed all its employees, who number about 250.

The controversial man of Zululand Chief Gatsha Buthelezi who for the past five weeks was sparing no words in villifying the African National Congress and the current struggles of our poeple an the factories schools and mines, made the biggest turnabout since lazarus rose from the dead - In a statement released at his Ulundi capital, he said that he was exceply disturbed that the impression was being created by some that the African National Congress was behind the school boycott. Buthelezi further said this hurts we cry deeply as Mandela is behind bars and I do not believe he would approve of this kind of divisive mischief." This sudden turn of heart comes only four weeks after he had accused Mr Subramoney of recruiting young people for the boycott and for joining the ANC.

The main roadsof Elsie's River today looked like a battlefield with burnt out cars and barreades every 30 metres. A knitting facory Maxmore knitting looked like ghost city after it was destroyed by fire. The managerment reported a loss of about R3m. In Kwa Mashu, crowds stoned buses, in Lenasia near Johannesburg 260 were arrested for boycotting classes,. At the University of Durban Westville the police baton charged and teargassed stonethrowing students. In a way the whole country was a large sieve of confrontation between the people demanding their rights and the racists bent on denying them the rights.

That town brings us to the end of our news items stay tuned to receive the ANC Youth Secretariat statement on the racist campaign that has been unleashed upon the oppressed left struggling masses of our country.