

At least 21 serving life sentences for political crimes

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Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — After the release at the weekend of senior ANC member Harry Gwala, there are still at least 21 people serving life sentences for "political" offences in SA.

Apart from ANC leader Nelson Mandela, 15 of the others serving life sentences are members of the ANC.

The longest serving "lifer", Jeff Masemola, jailed in 1963 before Mandela and the other Rivonia trialists, is the only PAC member among them. Masemola and five other PAC members were sentenced in June 1963 for sabotage.

Four others, including spy Dieter Gerhardt, had no declared political affiliations when they were jailed.

Mandela, scheduled to be released soon from the Constantiaberg Clinic and housed elsewhere, was jailed in June 1964 with six others.

One of the Rivonia accused, Govan Mbeki, was released last year.

The six remaining in jail are: former ANC secretary-general Walter Sisulu, 76; Elias Mosaaleli; former SA Congress of Trade Unions treasurer Wilton

Mkwayi, 65; former Transvaal Indian Youth Congress chairman Ahmed Kathrada, 59; former ANC regional secretary for Soweto Andrew Mlangeni, 62; and former ANC Cape executive member Raymond Mhlaba, 68.

Vusumuzi Nene, Matthews Mayiwa and Z Mdalose, along with Gwala, 69, were jailed for life in 1977 in an ANC trial in Maritzburg.

Johnson Ncimbithi Lubisi, 34, Petrus Mashigo, 26, and Naphtali Manana, 30, were initially sentenced to death in November 1982 after being found guilty of high treason in what was known as the

Pretoria ANC trial. Their sentences were commuted to life the next year.

Also sentenced to death initially, Johannes Shabangu, 31, and David Moise, 30, were convicted in August 1983.

Dieter Gerhardt, commander of the naval dockyard in Simon's Town until his arrest in 1983, was jailed for life for spying for the Soviet Union.

Daniel Mbokwane, Linda Hlophe and Sanna Twala were jailed for life last year for their role in the "necklacing" of Maki Sikhosana in Duduza in 1985.

Lizo Mgcundwana was given a life sentence in the Cape Town Supreme Court last year for high treason.

FREED PAC PRESIDENT CALLING FOR PRESSURE ON SA

SIPHO NGCOBO

PAC president Zephania Mothopeng, who was released unconditionally at the weekend after 12 years in prison, yesterday called on the international community to intensify economic, cultural and diplomatic pressure on SA until oppression was removed.

Addressing a Press conference of local and foreign media in Soweto, attended by some foreign diplomats, Mothopeng said the international community must not be fooled by President P W Botha's cosmetic changes.

"I am calling on the international community not to be fooled by cosmetic changes.

"I am calling for the intensification and continuation of international economic, cultural and diplomatic pressure until the last vestige of oppression has been removed."

To shouts of "Viva PAC" from supporters, Mothopeng made a special call for the release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela, longest-serving Robben Island prisoner Jeff Masemola of the PAC and all political prisoners.

Mothopeng said his body was weak due to his ill-health, but that his political spirit was stronger than ever before and that he would continue fighting for the freedom of his people.

"I am as determined to fight for the liberation of Azania today as I was the day I joined the liberation struggle as a young man.

"My ill health will probably not allow me to do as much as I would have loved to."



PAC leader "Zeph" Mothopeng at yesterday's Press conference.

Picture: PHILIP LITTLETON

He said his main task was to unite the African people.

"I am going to do everything in my power to unite the African people."

"I have been committed to that unity and am going to devote all my time and effort in seeing to it that the task is fulfilled."

On the question of a negotiated settlement with government, Mothopeng said the PAC would not participate in what he described as a Muzorewa-type of settlement.

"We hold the view that we will not participate in or support a Muzorewa-type of government.

"The only item we are prepared to negotiate is the return of the land and wealth to its rightful owners," he said.

On violence, Mothopeng said it was not for the oppressed people to decide whether there must be violence or not since "we live in a violent situation, not of the making of the African people, of which the recent Pretoria massacre is an example".

He also called on Botha to lift all restrictions on trade unions.

"If Botha is serious about change, let him remove all restrictions on the trade union movement and scrap the new Labour Relations Act, which is reactionary and conflict-generating."

The Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) yesterday welcomed Mothopeng's release and that of ANC veteran Harry Gwala, and said government had no right to continue incarcerating them anyway.

The trade union said it believed the two leaders, together with the leadership that would be released soon, could play an important and constructive role in building the unity of the oppressed.

Eight 'ANC suspects' arrested in Soweto and Cape

PRETORIA — The police have arrested four suspected ANC "terrorists" and two assistants on the East Rand and in Soweto, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said yesterday.

He added two more suspected ANC members had been apprehended in the western Cape, bringing the total to eight.

The arrests on the East Rand and in Soweto occurred "recently", police spokesman Lieutenant Peet Bothma said in Pretoria.

Mr Vlok said the charge against Mr Nana Robert Maliti, who was arrested

with a limpet mine allegedly in his possession on October 22 near the Crossroads police station, had been withdrawn in court on December 20.

However, the possibility was still being investigated that Mr Maliti was a member of the cell of five suspected ANC members who had been arrested in the western Cape.

A police statement yesterday said Mr Maliti was originally held in terms of the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act on a charge in terms of the Explosives Act. Since November 24 he has been held in terms of section 29 of

the Internal Security Act.

Police said after Mr Maliti was detained in terms of section 29, he lodged a complaint to the effect that he had been assaulted during his arrest.

A total of 78 ANC "terrorists, assistants and trainee terrorists" had been arrested during the past three months, Mr Vlok said.

Seven suspected ANC terrorists had been shot dead during this period.

In follow-up operations, police found four different arms caches, containing among other weaponry, 135 hand-grenades, nine AK47 magazines,

Stetkin automatic pistols and an SPM limpet mine.

One of the caches had been found in the roof of a secondary school in the Soweto area, and the rest had been dug up in Soweto.

Police were following several clues, Mr Vlok said.

He said the S.A.P. was determined to apprehend all "terrorists". He ascribed the downturn in terror incidents and the relative calm that prevailed during the festive season to effective police and security force action. — Sapa.



Mr ADRIAAN VLOK

Indumiso student killed as group goes berserk

4 JANUARY 1989

Witness Reporter

A FINAL year Indumiso student was killed in Imbali on Monday afternoon and two men were injured in continuing violence between amaqabane (comrades) and alleged Inkatha supporters.

According to information received by The Natal Witness, Mr S'phiwe Madlala (22) was shot and killed in Imbali after a group of vigilantes returning from a funeral went on the rampage and attacked youths and homes in the township.

The group first shot a Mr B.Z. Dlamini — a member of Via Afrika — in the chest at his home.

A reliable source told The Natal Witness: "A group of about 15 boys armed with guns, bushknives, pangas and homemade knives attacked the home of the Dlaminis' neighbours.

"They said they wanted to kill Sifiso Mapanga who jumped over his fence into the yard of the Dlaminis. Mrs Veronica Dlamini prevented the youths from killing Sifiso and the youths began shooting. Mr Dlamini who came out to see what was happening was shot on the right side of his chest.

"Mrs Dlamini rushed him to Edendale Hospital where he is recovering. The group left Mr Dlamini's home and attacked Mr Vusi Shange, another neighbour of the Dlaminis, as he was coming home."

It is believed that the same group

also attacked Mr Hloni Zondi, an Imbali community leader who is restricted in terms of the emergency regulations. Mr Zondi saw the men approaching him as he came out of his front door and turned back into his home.

The group then fired shots at the house and set fire to his motor vehicle.

The crowd of about 11 men — under the leadership of a vigilante "warlord" — then rampaged through the streets of Imbali, Stage 1 and, in the process, shot and killed Mr Madlala, a final year Indumiso College student.

Mr Thulani Ngcobo, a prominent Inkatha member, was injured on the same afternoon after he and Mr Jerome Mncwabe were involved in a shooting incident at Edendale, according to Mr Mncwabe.

In its daily unrest report, the police public relations division in Pretoria said the body of a 22-year-old man was found at Imbali.

No details concerning the find were released.

The report said that in the same area two men were wounded when they were shot at by a group. Seven men were arrested in connection with this incident.

Two houses were damaged in separate attacks at Mpumalanga and kwa-Dengezi and seven people, including three youths, were arrested in connection with the latter incident.

S.A.P. issues statement on Maliti

PRETORIA — The S.A.P. has released a statement as a result of a number of reports on the incident on October 22 in which Mr Nana Robert Maliti was allegedly arrested while in possession of a limpet mine in Old Crossroads.

The police statement yesterday said that in a statement by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, issued on October 23, Mr Maliti was described as a "suspected ANC terrorist". Neither the minister nor the police ever described Mr Maliti as a highly trained terrorist.

The police at no stage intimated that Mr Maliti had ever left the country.

Police said after Mr Maliti was detained in terms of section 29, he lodged a complaint to the effect that he had been assaulted during his arrest. — Sapa.

'Limited participation' rejected

BLOEMFONTEIN — The leaders of the homelands of QwaQwa and Lebowa yesterday rejected participation in the proposed National Council while other organisations "outside the system" were excluded.

Kenneth Mopedi, Chief Minister of QwaQwa, and Noka Ramodike, Chief Minister of Lebowa, were addressing delegates at the Labour Party's annual congress in Bloemfontein.

"How could we allow ourselves to be used, even misused, for the further proliferation of apartheid structures in South Africa? We need a complete dismantling of apartheid into a non-racial

society for South Africa," Mr Mopedi said.

Mr Ramodike said his homeland government could not take part in the National Council "while other black organisations are excluded simply because they have opted for the armed struggle".

He was totally opposed to violence, but he understood and appreciated the reasons why organisations like the ANC and the PAC had opted for violence.

It was up to the National Party government to remove the violence by creating a climate conducive to negotiations, he said. — Sapa.

Motorists call for police patrols on N2

Witness Reporter

MOTORISTS travelling on the N2 South Coast road have asked the police to institute regular patrols on the road after their vehicles were stoned by a large crowd near Umgababa on Sunday.

Several vehicles were badly damaged when a large group of people apparently stoned the vehicles from both sides of the freeway. A city resident, who declined to be named, said damage of more than R10 000 was done to his vehicle during the stoning incident.

At least two people were taken to hospital after being seriously injured

and a number of other injuries were reported when the 200-strong crowd stoned the vehicles.

A spokesman for the Scottburgh police confirmed the incident and said the road was now being patrolled on a regular basis. He said a number of cars were damaged.

According to a witness, a group of people, shouting UDF slogans, attacked the Resource Shop at the Umgababa holiday resort at about 11 am on Sunday.

He said police dispersed the crowd with teargas after which the crowd gathered at the roadside and started stoning vehicles.

West German President hits out at apartheid

WEST German President Richard Von Weizsaecker played down differences over sanctions against South Africa and sharply attacked apartheid on the first day of a five-day visit to Zimbabwe.

In a banquet speech Thursday, the West German head of state said that when Zimbabwe opted for human tolerance and democratic principles at independence eight years ago, "Africans and Europeans together hoped that this example would help to overcome the rigid attitude of your southern neighbour".

"That has proved illusory to this day. Apartheid and racial discrimination remain an oppressive reality ... apartheid means injustice. It is an insult to the dignity of man," he said.

Speaking after a meeting with President Robert Mugabe, which a West German spokesman said was largely devoted to East-West relations, Mr Von Weizsaecker said West Germany and Zimbabwe were united in their goals for Southern Africa.

"There may be differing suggestions and opinions as to the best means of achieving them, particularly with regard to the

real impact of comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa and the question of who would suffer most from them," he declared.

"This should by no means lead to an argument over the political substance of the issue, on which we entirely agree. Let us therefore intensify our dialogue on this matter, let us speak to one another openly, with due respect for the other's opinion and ready to consider his arguments carefully."

"We are not seeking excuses for passivity. We do not hide material interests behind moral lip-service. We must be willing to learn," he added.

West German officials said the President, while sticking to the Bonn Government's opposition to sanctions, would go out of his way in his next round of talks with Mr Mugabe to listen to the other point of view.

They said he would emphasise that West Germany — which abstained rather than vote "no" in this week's UN Security Council debate on South Africa — did not want to be seen as a diehard defender of President P.W. Botha's Government.

West Germany is one of Zimbabwe's leading aid donors and trading partners with bilateral trade of 418 million marks (250 million dollars) last year.

Pretoria's ban

(From page 1)

Announcing the curbs on Wednesday, the South African Government said it was determined to stamp out the revolutionary climate.

Mr Mbeki said all the organisations involved were non-violent and represented millions of people who only wanted majority rule in a country which deprives 25 million blacks of the vote.

"If you say that is not allowed, you're not allowed to do anything, you're not allowed even to hold a prayer service, you are declaring war," Mr Mbeki added.

The ANC said Mr Mbeki, based in Lusaka, was in London on a visit but did not say what its purpose was.

NATION 29.12.87

Tutu demands end to carnage in Natal province

(He does not speak "the whole truth" here but (perhaps significantly I hope) does not blame the disturbances on Inatla)

NOBEL Peace laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu called on fellow South Africans Sunday to halt their factional bloodshed in Natal province, where at least 32 have been killed since Christmas eve.

Blaming apartheid for fomenting strife among black groups, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town said in a press release: "The shocking carnage ... has to stop."

Police meanwhile reported thirty-two deaths over the Christ-

mas holiday in Natal's townships, where about 250 people have died this year.

Archbishop Tutu, who tried to arrange a truce among the combatants last month, said 1988 was approaching "with no definite prospect of an end to the dreadful maiming and slaughter of people in the Pietermaritzburg area."

Archbishop Tutu, who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for leading peaceful opposition against apartheid in South

Africa, said:

"The situation in Pietermaritzburg shows that the maintenance of hard-core apartheid — the exclusion of black South Africans from political power — also generates violence within black communities."

He deplored relentless killings in Natal, which have increased even while church groups and business leaders in the region were due to resume mediation efforts in the New Year.