

AUGUST 2 1256:

INTRODUCTION:

August 9, marks the 26th Anniversary of the 20,000 militant women's march .73 .99 Ptetoria in 1956, demonstrating against the most hated passes. It was on this day that women of all races in South Africa shook the Apartheid regime, signifying their dedication, courage and the mass participation in the struggle for National Liberation. August 9, was the impressive evidence, of angry but highly organised women, it marked an imported stage, in the growth of unity, amongst the oppressed and progressive forces, in the continuation of the past struggles, waged by women against the introduction of passes to them.

The women confronted the Apartheid regime, in all forms of struggles, against this document, meant at forcing the african peOple to remote areas, determining where an African can be employed, where he can live, and worsely determining who his wife or husband should be. A document supposed to be carried wherever you are, fro from the age of 16 to both Mal\$ and females

RESISTANCE TO THE PASSES

As far back as 1913, when the Apartheid regime for the first time introduced passes to women, women in the little town of Winburg in the Orange Free State, fearlessly opposed this law, and staged a demonstration to the local administration making clear their point, that they will never carry passes, or any document man: mnxni that will perpetuate the oppression.

The pass campaigns that followed thereafter, inflicted to the Apartheid regime, the Women's rQIhction - outcry of this most hated passes. And this took the Apartheid regime 50 years to extend this hated pass laws to African women.

The same year in Bloemfontein, 600 women led by Charlotte Maxeke, a founder member of the ANC, a member of NBC and of the Women's league, carried their passes in a bag to the Bloemfontein Mayor's office, and tump them there, informing the deputy mayor that they will never carry them.

Charlotte Maxekesdedication in organising the Women against these pass laws, her contribution in the Labour issued, giving support to launch a Federation of Trade Unions for African Peoplegnin the '20's. And as a editor of a number of African newspapers, was also a&.the forefront in the massive campaigns which was mounted in Johannesburg the yerar 1919.

WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS:

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The formation of the Women's League aroused the interest of the African women in the struggle for Freedom and peace, condemning the Apartheid Ingimx system for its discriminating and humiliating laws. The women in South Africa showed abundantly clear, that the women emancipation is not an inseparable aspect of the struggle for National Liberation.

The oppression that our people have, and are still experiencing in their day to day life under apartheid, as Migrant labourers, Domestic Servants, being forced to stay in the unbearable condition in the Reserves, are a clear indication of what Apartheid is.

Men as well as women, suffered brutal methods used by the regime, detained without trial, imprisoned, banned, forced to exile, xxx tortured, and harassed in the daily lives. They have suffered from racial discrimination, poverty and distress. The regime is trying to divert the escalating struggle waged by our people, and want to appear in as a mighty force that nothing could shift it.

The women saw a need to form a joint organisation, to embrace all women irrespective of race. THE formation of the Federation of South African Women in April 1954, was a beacon of inspiration to strengthen the joint activity of various women sections all over the country - to a Free and a democratic South Africa.

The Nationalist Party on coming to power, launched vicious assault against few rights remaining to the oppressed black majority. They suppressed any organisation -al resistance, installing complete white domination. The process of Bantustanization was set in motion, paralleled to group areas act. All these acts, were linked with the Industrial Legislation and the introduction of Bantu Education, to the Blacks. The education, meant at enslaving the hat blacks, the education which led to the loss of over 1,000 lives in the 1976 June 16 Uprisings and forced the Youth of our country to exile.

For us, the mothers of those daily imprisoned, tortured, children, hanged in the faces of the fascists Regime, like comrade Solomon Mahlangu, who was hanged for his just cause, Thandi Modise who is still in the fascist dungeons, Bhebe Nyembe, the six comrades who are condemned to gallows, Nontali Manana, Johnon Lubisi, Petrus Mashigo, Anthony Tsotsobe, Johannes Shabangu and David Moise. We thank all the progressive mankind the World over for condemning the Apartheid regime to save the lives of the our comrades, today the South African regime have commuted the three to life.

WOMEN IN ACTION: -3_

October 1955, the Nationalist Party once again announced through the Native Affairs Commission the extension of passes to women. It stated that the first women to be issued were the women in Orange Free State. Women who had been the most active in the previous campaigns. As from the end of 1955 the ANC and Federation of South African Women took it upon themselves to organise and mobilise women to stage protests against these humiliating pass laws.

The conference held in March 1956, after numerous massive resistance against these laws, decided and resolved that they will fight passed to their bitter end. And this culminated to the Great August 9 March to the Union Building in Pretoria.

From the 7th of August 1956, the little town of Lady Selbourne in the outskirts of Pretoria was turned into a overnight transit place for 20,000 women who marched militantly to the Union Building to see Strydom the then Prime Minister. Processions in Pretoria were put to a standstill, the women led by the leaders Lilian Ngoyi, Ratima Moosa, Sophie Williams and Helen Joseph to a few, on the 9th Assembled in the Union Building Amphitheatre and left hundreds of thousands of signatures on a petition at the office of the Prime Minister, who was not available to seek them. Afterwards they stood in Silence for 30 minutes only the occasional sound of crying babies accentuated the tense stillness. Then burst into magnificent harmony to sing 'Nkosi Sikelela I Africa' They began a new song with it refrain ' Wantinta Abafazi - Wamhinta ibolpdo uzokufa - Now you have struck a rock, you have dislodged a boulder - you will be crushed.

As they dispersed the whole of Pretoria was echoed by the sound of voices of determined women moving forward to Freedom.

THE SPIRIT OF AUGUST 2:

The Spirit of August 9, today predicts the inevitable and just conclusion of our National Liberation. The involvement of women in the past struggles, resisting all forms of injustice, have been an inspiration that will bloom the minds of our people. In the Defiance Campaign, Treason Trial women were arrested, tortured, banned and kept in solitary confinement, but their spirit have led to the recent events inside and outside the country. Women at home are involved in various organisations, playing a prominent role in the Trade Union Movements, Civic Associations, union church Councils etc. etc.

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Since 1980, the strikeewins; dewtheweentrym4 lcompeiathe South African Regime jfzjggxuicxbiihamenrmetheseghL4uxkuL4mrw&eae our people, the people at home 'Since 1980, strikes inside the country have compelled the South African Regime to resort to inhuman methods in order to silence our people, by arrests, detentions killings in the hands of the Police.

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Students fronts, since June 16 uprisings, have, and are still saying no to inferior education. Studentsewere-1n-the-lefefeuntein-the-relusal-to_nicelehrate the_HhiieeSenth-tfricaeRegabiicanlDag. The awareness of our peOple to mobilize ago 'against the Regime is gaining momentum day after day. Crisis in the South African Defense Force, of the Whites refusing to defent the White South Africa. Crisis in the Nationalist Parliament. TheKEveryday Blows inflicted by our Cadres of Umkhonto We Sizwe to the Apartheid,7 re the as Duarance to our victory. umkkon'm We 33% .

Today we speak of women in the Army,)we speak of womens involvement in any fieH intended to end Apartheid. And for our just cause, no Power can destroy our devotion.

SOUTH AFRICA'S MANOUVRESE

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We salute the Women of Mozambique, led by their Vanguard Party Frelimo. We salute Women of OHM gor givinggggupport in our struggle for National Liberation. We salute all the progressive Mankind the world over, for giving us support and courange to crush the Eascists in Southern Africa. We 8 ute he women the World In euwr

over in their contributioh-lor fighting for Peace and humanliy in the World. As we commemorate the 26 th Anniversary of the South African Wbmen's Day, we must remember our BrotherSaad AND Sisters, who are political prisoners in the Botha's Dungeons. Let us fight, intensify our struggle for Freedom and Peace. Letaae-lnvUIIve-meeeqmnmml4uylnnhl\$ruggle. The Legacy of August lives on..... The assurance of our victory is in ulnxx our hands. Our victory is Certain.

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The National Education Crisis Committee

met again in March 1986 and urged pupils to remain in school while the Community would use consumer and rent boycotts to back up student demands and on Youth Day - 16th June 1986 a call for a national stay away and a general strike to mark the 10th anniversary of the student's revolt.

we here in Zimbabwe pause to remember.

we recall especially that:-

1. Over 2000 of our youth have been detained

some as young as 7 years, over the period August 1986 to the present time.

2. Over 200 of our youth were killed in

1985 and many are dying as we are gathered here. I

3. Hundreds have been injured with the

reckless and excessive use of tear gas; birdshot, rubber bullets, sjambokes and live ammunition.

4. Chester Craker, that architect of

Constructive Engagement publicly stated that the US Administration supports majority rule in SA (most of the world does). However, white House immediately rebuked him. which simply translated means to support for Butha's racism, and our continued oppression.

5. The highest number of deaths in deten-

tion were had in 1985 of which 3 were youths, one a 13 year old! -

6. Throughout this period our shot and

injured children could not seek medical treatment for fear of arrest.

7. The violence and gross torture meted to

our youth in detention, some returning home maimed for life.

8. we are aware that our youth have been

singled out for state sanctioned violence ever since 16th June 1976.

10. Our 11 year old girl, Mittah Ngnbeni,

playing in her home at Hagiso was killed by a rubber bullet in the back of her head-

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11. The repeal of the Clark Amendment and the urn. gift to Saviubi and his; Unite Bandits was unsatisfactory to Botha regime once he was up against the financial crisis in 1985. Botha funded the MNR bandits out of the coffers of the state. Now Reagan helps him.

12. The situation on the frontline status. the murder of Nationals of neighbouring countries, the army in participation in Angola and Namibia. the "Namibian bandit. and their office in the USA. the toll of our men dead and injured national: and the devastation of property. and lines of communications all done with the approval of the Imperial powers as their veto in the UN showed

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1!. The attacks on the frontline states, the murder of Nationals of our neighbouring countries, the army in occupation in Angola a Namibia, the MNR bandits 8 their newly opened office in the USJ the toll of our own youth murdered in their beds, the devastation of property, the devastated lines of communications, all done with the approval of the Imperial powers, as their veto at the UN last week clearly shows.

13. The banning of all indoor meetings including church services for the month of June; The beers had in mind the commemorative meetings for the 10th anniversary on the 16th June and the other was freedom Day on the 26th June, the 21st anniversary of the birth of the Freedom Charter; the charter which despite its several banninga has risen to be the most popular debate in the country. The people will pick up the gauntlet thrown to them. BUTHA BEWARE.

1h, Two Bills before the racist parliament

The Public Safety Amendment Bill, and the Internal Security Amendment Bill are intended to effect a perpetual state of emergency without the Doers having to declare it officially. All dissent will be muzzled. Their militar hardware stores is matched by their legislative measures to muzzle us. Is this the 'refnrm' process you speak of Mr Reagan & Mrs Thather? Over 1500 people have lost their lives while you approve Botha's reforms. No government in power has relinguished or "given" an iota tn the oppressed and the beers are not going to score a first.