

SECRET

The South African regime has stepped up its repression of communities involved in mass protest by carrying out five executions. Three of these took place without forewarning or publicity and only became known some months later. At the same time at least fifteen more death sentences have been passed since July, 11 of them in the Eastern Cape. Faced with increasing support for the condemned prisoners the authorities have resorted to threats against those organising the campaign to save their lives.

Police clashed with mourners on 1 September when Mlamli Wellington MIELIES (22) and Moses Mnyanda JANTJIES (27) were hanged in Pretoria Central Prison, the latest victims of the apartheid legal system. Their execution which was carried out with only a week's notice to the condemned men and without any official notification to their families, was widely condemned. Mielies and Jantjies, sentenced for the killing of a notorious councillor, Kinikini, and others in 1985, were amongst the thirty-two people on Death Row for whom the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) launched a campaign in July. (FOCUS 72 p. 1,7)

The gravity of the situation became even more evident when it was revealed a week later that three more people believed to be awaiting execution had already been hanged. In 1983 regulations were amended to allow executions to take place unannounced. This change was made in the wake of the executions of ANC combatants Marcus Thabo Motaung, Thelle Simon Mogoerane and Jerry Semano Mosololi which were met with widespread protest inside the country. The executions reported in September - of Solomon MAOWASHA, Alex MATSEPANE and Eliii WEBUSH E - are the first known to have been carried out in this way. News of the impending execution of Mielies and Jantjies was given by Mielies to his mother, Jane, when she visited him on 25 August. Although the men's petition for leave to appeal had been turned down in May (see FOCUS 71), their lawyers had lodged a plea for \$mency with the Justice Department the following month and no response to this had been received. Nevertheless, and in spite of widespread protests, the executions went ahead. Amongst those who made urgent appeals for the men were the Northern Transvaal Youth

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X CUTIONS

Congress (NOTYCO), the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC), the Detainees Parents Support Committee (DPSC) and the Federation of Transvaal Women (Fedtraw). Fedtraw's Soweto Women's Group telexed the wives of President Botha and Minister of Law and Order Vlok urging them 'to prevent lives being wasted instead of rehabilitating them'.

Three hundred people attended a church service on the eve of the execution at which Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, called on President Botha to commute the sentences. In

his message Archbishop Desmond Tutu reminded the President of how he had helped secure a reprieve for South African mercenaries convicted in the Seychelles. In addition the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany made an approach on behalf of all the EEC countries.

The men's mothers, Jane Mielies and Meroose Jantjies, gathered with other relatives outside the prison on the morning of the execution. They said their sons were 'happy to die for the struggle against apartheid' and had told them not to worry. They were joined by Winnie Mandela and Pauline Mamike Moloise whose son Benjamin was executed in October 1985.

(FOCUS 65 p. 7)

Later in the day 200 heavin-armed police cordoned off Khotso House in Johannesburg where SAYCO was hosting a memorial meeting attended by some 300 people and addressed by a number of speakers including Mielies' uncle. Ben de Booi.

injured when police forcibly dispersed the crowd afterwards and three people. two of them journalists, were briefly detained. Police also used teargas at Park Station, Johannesburg, and clashed with three thousand students who had raised the ANC flag at the University of the Western Cape. A phoneLin poll conducted by The Star, 3 Johannesburg evening newspaper, showed a majority opposed to the executions.

At the end of August the SACBC issued a statement on behalf of all those facing execution, recommending 'commutation of the death sentences' and urging 'all concerned to take up the issue of capital punishment.' They further pointed out that 'great numbers of people including a powerful youth movement, consider that what these persons stand condemned of are "acts of war" performed in the liberation struggle, in which the South African state is responsible for even greater and more wide-

The International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa
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(ii) to support their families and dependants

(iii) to keep the conscience of the world alive to the issues at stake

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Far attention US subscribers only i
International Defence and Aid Fund for
Southern Africa, US Committee,
PO. Box 17, Cambridge, MA 02138.
At least twenty people were.
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spread violence.'

In Parliament on 3 September the Minister
of Law and Order responded to what he termed
the 'outcry' over the executions. In particular he
sounded a warning to all those making appeals
on behalf of those under sentence of death:
'They are playing with fire and they'll get
burned.' (8 4.9.87)

Organisations in a number of countries have
responded to SAYCO's call for an international
campaign to save the lives of those awaiting
execution. In Britain a delegation from the Anti-
Apartheid Movement visited the Foreign and
Commonwealth Office on 9 September to ask
for increased government action on their behalf.
They were told that the British embassy had
discovered that three of those named in
SAYCO's list had already been executed. Two
of them, Solomon Maowasha (23) and Alex
Matsepene (20) were hanged on 5 December
1986 less than six months after they were sen-
tenced to death for the killing of two police
informers in the mountains outside Tzaneen.
Very little is known of their case. However,
police and army repression in the region had
been so severe that many young people were
driven from their homes and forced to live rough
in the mountains.

The third person reported as executed was
Elii Webushe, about whom even less is known.
His death sentence was reported by the Bureau
for Information in June 1986 in connection
with a 'necklacing in Jansenville' in the Eastern
Cape. The British government did not know
exactly when he was executed. However, a
newspaper report on 20 August 1987 announ-
ced the execution of seven men the previous
day. One was named as Raymond Gwebishe
'sentenced to death in June 1986 in Cape Town
for a necklace murder.' It is likely that Webushe
and Gwebishe are the same person. (Star
20.8.87; Ind 10.9.87)

These secret hangings and reports of at least
eighteen other death sentences passed since
May emphasised the great urgency of the
SAYCO campaign. Amongst the first signato-
ries to their petition were Albertina Sisulu and
Pauline Moloise as well as a number of relatives
of those who have been condemned: Regina
Sefatsa, wife of Mojalefa Reginald; Reuben
Mokhesi, father of Francis, and Leah Mokoena,
mother of Reid MaLebo (3" among the Shar-
peville Six). Millicent Ngidi, whose son Be-
kisizwe Philip has been sentenced, signed
alongside Sonnyboy Tsawane, brother of
Josiah. (FOCUS 63 p. 7, 68 p. 7)
continued on p.7

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Broadcasting Corporation Survey of World
Broadcasts; Cit - The Citizen, Johannesburg;
CT - Cape Times; DD - Daily Dispatch, East
London: Debates - House of Assembly

Debates; Cape Town; DN - Daily News,
Durban; GG - Government Gazette, Pretoria:
GN - Guardian, London; FM - Financial Mail,
Johannesburg; FT - Financial Times. London;
MS - Morning Star, London; Nam - Namibian,
Windhoek; NCC - Namibia Communications
Centre, London; Obs - Observer, London;
RDM - Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg; 8 -
So wetan; 8. Exp - Sunday Express, Johannes-
burg; SS - Southscan; S T - Sunday Times.
Johannesburg; 3. Trib. _ Sunday Tribune
DUIban, Star- StaI, Johannesburg; Tel- Daily
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were detained after illegally entering the country from Botswana. Gordon Webster was previously detained in April 1986 and freed from armed guard in Edendale Hospital by fellow combatant Robert McBride and others. McBride has since been condemned to death for a bomb attack in Durban. (FOCUS 71 p.6) On 28 September police confirmed that McBride's sister Bronwyn was again being detained. She was first held in August but released after lawyers argued that her baby son was suffering from 'acute maternal deprivation.'

(NN 13.8.87; Star 26.9.87; BBC 30.9.87)

Four alleged regional commanders of the ANC were among thirty-three people detained in the Western Cape, according to the Minister of Law and Order. The detentions were said to be related to activities of Umkhonto we Sizwe from July 1986 to July 1987. News reports named one detainee as Jenny SCHREINER, a lecturer at the University of Cape Town. A large quantity of arms and ammunition had been re-

DETAIN EES _ Additional to previous FOCUS lists

7 covered in a flat in Wynberg, according to the reports. (Star 2.10.87)

In the Johannesburg and Pretoria areas 12 people alleged to be trained guerrillas, two recruits and two accomplices were detained. Limpet mines, hand grenades, dynamite and an AK-47 rifle were among weapons seized in this operation by police. According to the police the various operations in the Western Cape and Transvaal have resulted in the detention of 49 alleged ANC guerrillas. (S.Star 77. 70.87)

22.7.87 Port Elizabeth

22.7.87 Port Elizabeth

22.7.87 Mitchells Plain

7.8.87 Durban

13.8.87 Venda

13.8.87 Venda

13.8.87 Venda

13.8.87 Venda

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13.8.87 Venda

13.8.87 Venda

13.8.87 Venda

3.8.87 Venda

3.8.87 Venda

13.8.87 Venda

13.8.87 Venda

13.8.87 Venda

16.8.87 Western Cape

Rep.16.8.87 Western Cape

17.8.87 Bonteheuwel

17.8.87 Bonteheuwel

17.8.87 Diep River

17.8.87

17.8.87 Elsies River

17.8.87 Mitchells Plain

18.8.87 Western Cape

20.8.87

23.8.87 Cape Town

24.8.87 Elsies River

26.8.87 Grassy Park

27.8.87 Bonteheuwel

8.9.87 Witwatersrand

17.9.87 Cape Town

9.9.87

people
 28.9.87
 Rep.11.10.87 W. Cape & Transvaal
 MOROBE, Murphy
 VALLi, Mohamed
 SEMARR, Karima (20)
 PAUL, John (21)
 LOMBARD, Colleen (37)
 BAADJIES, Clement (19)
 DRAMAT, Anwar (19)
 LOUW, Nazeem (24)
 PANDY, Yasmina (20)
 RHOODIE, Walter (24)
 VEAREY, Jeremy (24)
 PEDRO, Niklo (20)
 SMIT, Patricia (27)
 FORTUIN, David (22)
 KARRIEM, Ashraf (23)
 PETERSEN, (23)
 RUTLEDGE, Christopher (17)
 SEROKE, Jaki
 SCHREINER, Jennifer (30)
 WEBSTER, Gordon and 3 unnamed
 MCBRIDE, Bronwyn
 49 unnamed people
 balaclavas
 ISA 29. UDF Acting Publicity Sec.
 ISA 29. UDF NEC member
 Detained by men in
 Contested detention in
 Supreme Court
 ISA 29
 ISA 29. WIP Chair. Det. with John Gordon of USPG (later
 deported to Britain)
 DAU, Frederick
 KHAMELI, Tshifiwa
 MABARA, Christine
 MAKUMBAN E, Tshivhulawi
 MALADA, Robert
 MASINDI, Mashudu
 MAVHINA, Mbofheni
 MOLELE, Mary
 MPHIGALALE, Azwitakaleli
 NTHAMBELENI, Lawrence
 RATSHITANGA, Tendamudzimu Robert
 THABELA, Philemon
 TSHITANGANO, Charles
 ABASS, Zuraya
 ISA 29
 ISA 29
 ISA 29. Amongst 15 people reported detained,
 including Masindi, an alleged guerilia
 (See Venda under BANTUSTANS)
 ISA 29. Organizer, Mala Songo/o/o children's paper. Salt
 River resident
 ISA 29. Bookkeeper, South newspaper
 ISA 29. Resident of Bonteheuwel
 ISA 29. Teacher in Grassy Park
 ISA 29. UWC student. Resident of Wynberg
 ISA 29. Teacher at Ravensmead, detained from school
 ISA 29. UWC student. Resident of Mossel Bay
 ISA 29. Fiancee of Cecil ESAU, recently imprisoned (ESAU
 & OTHERS, FOCUS 72)
 ISA 29. Detained on board ship in Cape Town. Resident of
 Elsies River
 ISA 29. UWC final year 8 Comm. student
 ISA 29. UWC Higher Education student
 ISA 29. Detained after being arrested, charged with arson
 and released into mother's custody
 ISA 29. Editorial director, Skotavilie Publishers
 ISA 29. United Women's Organisation. (See ARMED

STRUGGLE)

ISA 29. ANC. After allegedly entering SA from Botswana
(see ARMED STRUGGLE)

ISA 29.(see ARMED STRUGGLE)

ISA 29. Allegedly connected with armed struggle (possibly
including some named above). (See ARMED STRUGGLE)

ABBREVIATIONS

Laws: ISA - Internal Security Act

Organisations:

Cape; WIP - Wentworth improvement Project

SECRET EXECUTIONS

continued from p. 72

(TMORE DEATH SENTENCES

The following death sentences have been re-
ported since the last issue of FOCUS:

0 Joseph CHIDI (23) sentenced on 16 Sep-
tember for the killing of a Tembisa councillor in
May 1986.

0 Vuyisiie GONI, a member of the Port Eliza-
beth Youth Congress (PEYCO) from Walmer.

0 Gilindoda GXEKWA (22), a member of the
Uitenhage Youth Congress, sentenced on 13
August for the killing of a suspected informer in
March 1985.

0 Mlondolozzi GXOTHIWE, PEYCO member,
sentenced for killing a policeman in December
1985.

J

I Tsepo LETSOARE (22), a member of the
Port Elizabeth Youth Congress, sentenced on 4
September for the killing of a suspected inform-
er in Motherwell in October 1985.

0 Michael LUCAS from Bongoletu senten-
ced in August for the killing of a bus inspector
in April 1986.

0 Livingstone MALGAS (40), Lulamile
MANDI (29), Michael MAMBUKWE (30) sen-
tenced in Grahamstown on 6 October.

0 Oupa Josias MBONANE (21) and Sibusiso
Senele MASUKU (23) sentenced on 31 August
for the killing of a policeman in Soshanguve in
February 1986. Masuku is already serving 10
years' for involvement in the ANC's armed

UDF - United Democratic Front; USPG - United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; U
WC - University of the Western
struggle. (FOCUS 72 p.6)

0 Daisy MODISE (25), Thomas CHAUKE
(27), Johannes TSHABALALA (18), members
of the Stinkwater Youth Organisation, senten-
ced in May 1987.

0 Johannes MOSEKI (23), sentenced on 19
October for the killing of a Tembisa policeman.

0 Nico Ledube MNYAMANA (31), Menzi
TAFANE (21), sentenced in Port Elizabeth on
25 September.

0 Miki YELANI (21) from Uitenhage.