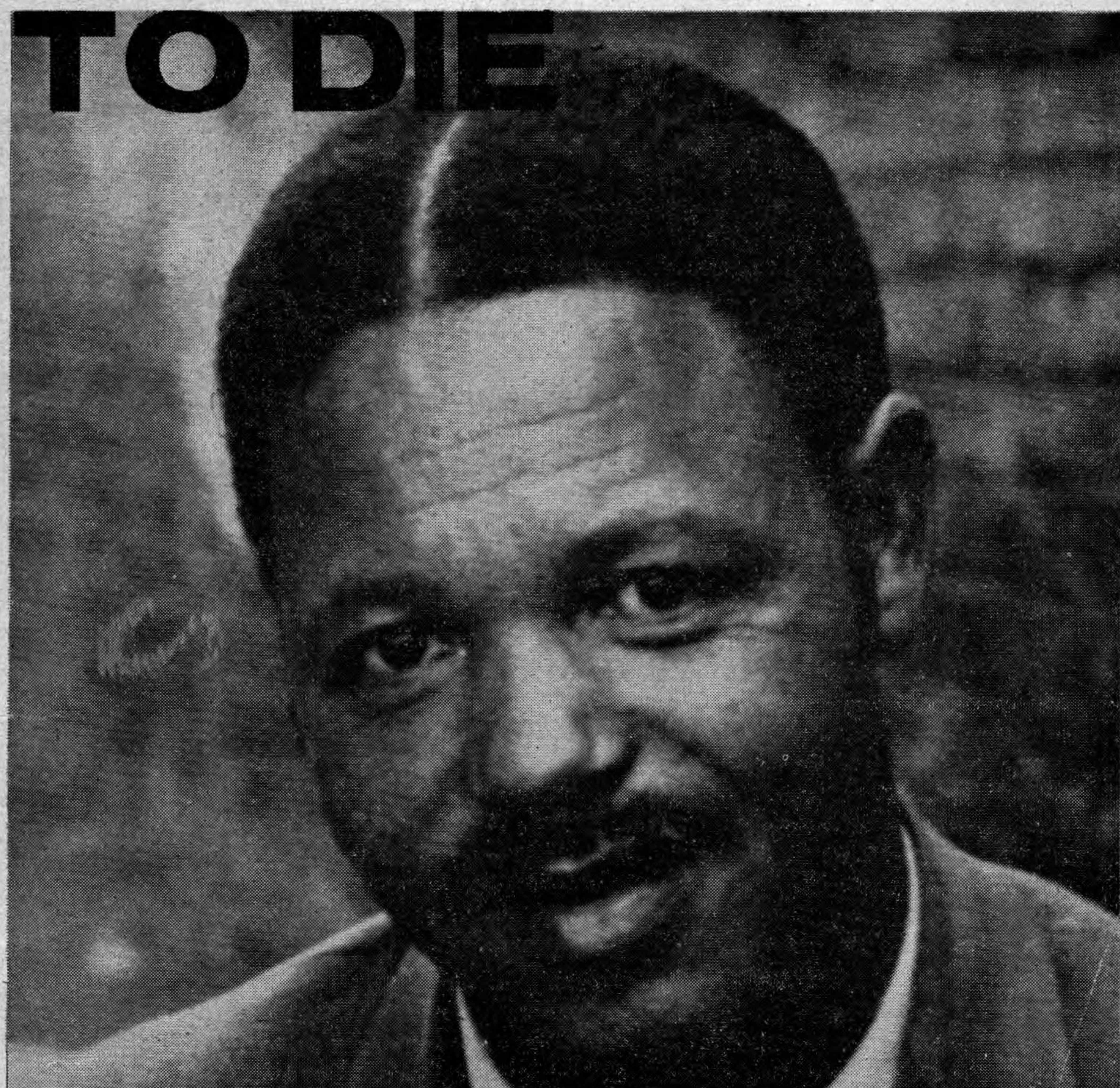


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# DOCKERS LEADER CONDEMNED TO DIE



**VUYISILE MINI** *Secretary, African Dock Workers Union, Port Elizabeth South Africa*

VUYISILE MINI and two other men—Wilson Khayingo and Zimamile Mkave—were sentenced to death in Port Alfred, South Africa on March 17 of this year. The trial was held far away from their home town of Port Elizabeth; the attorney briefed for the defence was forbidden to leave Durban, making conditions impossible for a proper defence and a fair trial. According to the evidence given, Mini and the two other men, as members of the Regional Command of the Eastern Cape ANC, ordered 4 others to kill a man who was



to be a State witness, and in addition committed 17 acts of sabotage. Both the accused men and the witnesses against them had been held for continuous spells of 90-day solitary confinement, a form of torture condemned by medical men and psychologists. The men have appealed against the death sentence.

V. Mini is a well-loved figure in South Africa, who has been active in the fight against apartheid most of his life. A talented composer and singer, he was working for the local committee of the South African Congress of Trade Unions at the time of his arrest, and active both among stevedores and dockers and in general trade union work. In 1952 he was jailed for 3 months in the Defiance Campaign, and he was also one of the accused in the Treason Trial, which dragged on for 4 years before all were acquitted. More than 1,200 people have been tried in South Africa in the past fifteen months on political charges in 97 trials, most of them under the Sabotage Act, and others are even now being tried before the Courts.

The most important of these is the 'Rivonia' trial where 9 of South Africa's leaders are on trial for their lives. The Government is ruthlessly determined to crush all opposition to apartheid and is breaking the trade union movement by its restrictions on African trade union officials, almost all of whom are in prison, exiled, or under banning or house-arrest orders. The Bantu Laws Amendment Act, now law, is designed to control all African labour rigidly and ensure that it is only allowed outside the Reserves so long as its labour is needed by Whites.

South Africa's apartheid policy has made her the target of protest and boycott actions from all over the world, and unqualified condemnation from the U.N. She decided to withdraw from the I.L.O. after it voted in favour of suspending S. Africa's membership. Japanese dockworkers and warehousemen refused to unload S. African exhibits for the International Trade Fair in Osaka; and Dockworkers and Construction Workers' unions were among 19 Japanese organisations who signed a declaration demanding the release of all S. African political prisoners and that Japan should boycott South Africa. The ICFTU's Executive Board has appealed to the U.N. to take "new measures against South Africa" and has called on affiliated organisations to "bring all possible pressure to bear on their governments" to ensure that "the latter impose effective sanctions on South Africa and fully implement any decisions which may be taken by the organs of the U.N." The A.E.U. National Committee recently passed an emergency resolution calling on the British Government to "implement a diplomatic, economic and arms boycott of South Africa in accordance with the decision of the U.N. General Assembly" and called on the General Council "to use its influence to ensure that an international boycott be carried out by organised workers as recommended by the ICFTU resolution of December 1959."

### **TRADE UNIONISTS — ACT NOW**

Discuss what action the trade union movement can take to put pressure on the British Government to implement its vote at the U.N. for the resolution calling for the abandonment of the Rivonia trial and the release forthwith of all political prisoners in South Africa.

Support and organise demonstrations to this end.

Support the call for a total ban on all arms supplies to the apartheid Republic.

Boycott all South African goods and demand that the British Government supports and implements U.N. decisions on apartheid in South Africa.

(Further information and speakers available from Anti-Apartheid Movement, 15 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1. EUSton 5786.)

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