

Durban violence leaves 70 dead

Echo Reporter

THREE Indian men were stabbed and burnt to death in the border area between Inanda and Phoenix near Durban on Tuesday, bringing Natal's riot death toll to 70.

Earlier in the week, police had confirmed

that 37 of the deaths were due to police action.

A police spokesman said that the men, all in their twenties, were attacked at about 2 pm. Their bodies were thrown together and covered with tyres that were then set on fire.

It was the latest incident in over a week of fighting, burning and looting in Durban's strife-torn townships.

Violence erupted in the Inanda, kwaMashu and Umlazi townships on Tuesday afternoon and fierce battles raged between police and residents for most of last week.

According to some residents, the violence began partly in outrage at the murder two weeks ago of Durban lawyer Mrs Victoria Mxenge.

On Friday, homes and shops in the Inanda area burned following attacks by groups of rioters. And Indian residents were fleeing to Phoenix after a spate of attacks on Indian properties.

Hundreds of vigilantes from the township of Phoenix gathered on the hillsides to protect their homes and shops from attack, and patrolled the exits and borders between Inanda and Phoenix.

By Sunday, Inkatha was claiming that its "activists" were in control of Durban's two biggest black townships, Umlazi and kwaMashu.

However, residents claimed that Inkatha vigilante groups had caused fear and panic over the weekend as they marched through townships, flushed out looters and manned roadblocks at the entrances to kwaMashu and Umlazi.

As the weekend drew to a close, police reported that all was quiet in Durban's three black townships, and stick-wielding Inkatha patrols were assisting police to maintain calm in the areas.

The police also warned vigilante groups in the Indian areas bordering the trouble-hit black town-

ships not to take the law into their own hands.

By Monday, no Inkatha vigilantes were in evidence, but police

patrolled the main roads.

Unrest, arson, violence and looting appeared to be easing off, with community leaders and others in black and Indian areas undertaking surveys of damage and loss of property.

Community and social workers estimated damage to property to be more than R25 million.

A joint black and Indian "Committee of 20" has been formed to monitor relations between the two communities in Durban's northern areas. Mrs Esther Africa, mayor of kwaMashu, will chair the Inkatha-sanctioned "peacekeeping" committee.

The death toll in unrest this year has now exceeded that of the 575 people killed in unrest in 1976.

The Institute of Race Relations said this week that 604 people, most of them black, had died in unrest since September 1984.

Imbali youth to sue Minister of Police

AN Imbali youth, Penwell Mabida, is to sue the Minister of Police, Mr Louis le Grange, following last week's alleged raid on his father's home.

Mr Mabida will charge that police both unlawfully assaulted and arrested him. — ER.

Separate Natal no answer

NATAL leaders who "think that province's problems will disappear if they went unilaterally independent from the rest of South Africa" came under attack this week from The Sowetan.

Friday's editorial states: "While it was useful for Chief Gatsha Buthelezi and his think team to try all sorts of

solutions... the truth is the problems of Natal are intricately intermeshed with the problems of the rest of the country."

Turning to the wave of violence that has swept through Durban's surrounding areas over the last week, The Sowetan reasons: "The lesson, we believe, is that the problems of blacks in

Natal are not any different from the problems of blacks in other parts of the country."

Turning to the Chief Minister of KwaZulu, The Sowetan editorial voices concern for "the type of respectable mantle that white right-wingers are placing over Chief Buthelezi".

The paper adds a thinly-veiled warning:

"We do not know about Chief Buthelezi, but as far as we are concerned the type of praises showered on him from these quarters are like the kiss of death."

In conclusion, The Sowetan says: "From its Inkatha to the various other manoeuvres at making Natal a separate province, independent

from the rest of the country, Chief Buthelezi and his men have given the monster of apartheid credibility. As long as there are these divisions, even in the minds of leaders, so will the people who are led, think and behave.

"The people of Natal must be taught that there are no Zulus, no Indians, in fact even the difference between black and white should become individual choice, not a matter of national or provincial policy. That way lies inter-race fights, inter-tribal feuds and all the other problems we have suffered in this country for years."

Mandela

THE speculation concerning a free Mandela (when will he be freed, what will happen then, etc.) continues to fill newspaper columns. Sam Mabe, writing in The Sowetan, states: "... Mandela's release would make no sense if other prisoners, such as PAC leader Zephania Mothopeng,

remained in jail. Or if trials like the UDF treason trial in Pietermaritzburg continued. Or if the security laws under which he was jailed remained on the statute books."

Mabe also repeats what Mandela wants to see in the country: "A unified South Africa with no artificial homelands; black representation in the central Parliament — not membership in the kind of apartheid assemblies that have been established for the Asians and coloureds; and one man, one vote."

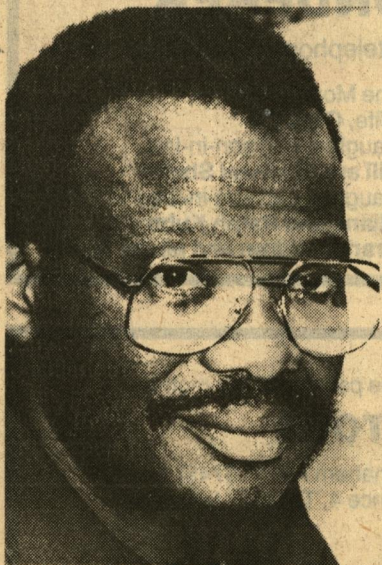
But Mabe is realistic in his expectations: "On these demands, Mandela has the backing of almost all blacks in South Africa. But they are demands the Government will not be prepared to meet."

If the Government does free Mandela, argues Mabe, it will be "to appease the international community. The Government would also be hoping to use him to quell the unrest in the country".

Mxenge

THE violence that erupted in Durban was precipitated by the killing of Victoria Mxenge. That's the view of City Press. In an editorial on Sunday, the paper demands that the police must solve the murder as soon as possible. "Find them!" it demands.

CP also observes that the Durban outburst "destroyed a long-held myth that because of Inkatha's dominance in the province the kids there would never engage in the rage that has characterised their counterparts in other parts of the country."



Gatsha Buthelezi. (Aliza Auerbach)

More help to South Africa's blacks likely after Zulu chief's visit

15 August 1985
By ROY ISACOWITZ
and DAVID RICHARDSON
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Israel is preparing to extend significant assistance to South Africa's black community as a result of the visit of Kwazulu Chief Gatsha Buthelezi *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Buthelezi and Prime Minister Peres met earlier this week and are expected to have a second, unscheduled meeting next week.

It is possible that a joint statement regarding future cooperation will be released before Buthelezi's departure, Foreign Ministry sources said.

In addition to his meeting with Peres, vice prime minister Shamir and other government officials,

Buthelezi has met with labour movement representatives, including Yehuda Paz, director of the Histadrut's Afro-Asian Institute, and Shimshon Zelniker, chairman of Beit Berl's Social Studies Department. He is also scheduled to meet with representatives of private industry during his 10-day visit.

Buthelezi also met with Foreign Minister Director-General David Kimche last night and received assurance by Kimche of forthcoming aid.

The Israeli assistance is expected to take the form of agricultural projects in South Africa's Kwazulu region and elsewhere, leadership and trade-union training in Israel, and

assistance for women's organizations and cooperatives.

Histadrut sources told *The Jerusalem Post* that, following Buthelezi's return home, contact would be maintained between the Histadrut and the trade unions affiliated with Inkatha, Buthelezi's million-strong political and cultural organization.

Buthelezi said yesterday he had no idea what to expect from the speech scheduled to be delivered by South African President P.W. Botha tonight. The speech has been billed as a "crucial announcement" of political reform.

Addressing the editorial staff of

The Post yesterday, Buthelezi said that in the past Botha had "said things that no one has heard before but when it comes to implementation he has fallen short." He said that he would not accept anything less than a clear "statement of intent" to introduce common citizenship and power-sharing.

Last night Buthelezi visited Kibbutz Tzora, which was founded by immigrants from South Africa. Next week he is to travel north and meet with representatives of private and state enterprises.

(The full interview with Chief Buthelezi will appear in tomorrow's *Jerusalem Post*.)