

LUM/98A/0027/44

Witnesses tell of police fire

Cape Town, Friday

Iris Dyantyi said she used a razor blade to slice pellets from the wounds of black squatters hit by police shotgun fire and comforted a dying five-year-old girl hit in the stomach.

Across the sandy flats set aside under apartheid for Cape Town's non-white people, Dr Louis Reynolds said he treated 42 "colored" (mixed-race) youths for shotgun wounds and sent seven to hospital with potentially life-threatening injuries.

Ms Dyantyi, who is black, and Dr Reynolds, who is white, were just two of the dozens of people drawn in by circumstance or aid agencies to treat the victims of Wednesday's election night rioting in Cape Town's black and colored townships.

Police have confirmed that 12 people died. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has put the figure at 23 killed by police gunfire and a dissident lawyer, Mr Essa Moosa, said late yesterday the true figure was closer to 60.

Partly cleared barricades of concrete, wood and burned rubber bore testimony to the clashes that continued until well after midnight. In every area there were smashed windows, scattered tear gas and shotgun car-

tridges and occasional smudges of dried blood.

Ms Dyantyi, 47, told reporters she found Nonthunzi Mashebele, 5, lying beside a fence, while she was trying to help people caught up in a night of bloody protest against the limited parliamentary elections, which excluded blacks.

"She waved a hand and called 'Help, help'. She told me the police shot her," Ms Dyantyi said. "She told me to look under her dress. Her stomach was all open. Everything had fallen out through the hole in her stomach."

Medicine

Ms Dyantyi said she carried the child to her father's shack, where she died before she could be treated.

"I helped about 20 people. I took a blade to cut the bullets (shotgun pellets) out. I didn't have medicine so I washed the wounds with wee (urine). Five of them died," she said.

Dr Reynolds struggled to stop his voice from breaking as he described hours he spent in a makeshift clinic treating people shot by police.

"I saw police driving through the streets shooting at people

without any particular aim or direction. It was as if it was a game for them, as if they didn't realise they were shooting people and hurting them," he said.

In Mitchell's Plain, where 11 people were reported killed during the night, Muslim mourners walked through the streets to a mosque yesterday with the body of Suleiman Martin, 26.

"He was coming back from the doctor with his friend and her baby," a neighbor said. "They had to go past a barricade and the police suddenly came and started shooting. He was hit in the head. He just managed to throw the baby over a wall, then he fell."

The acting President, Mr F. W. de Klerk, said yesterday the results of the elections indicated most white voters supported his plan to grant some political rights to blacks, despite his party's worst showing in 41 years.

The Nationalists captured less than 50 per cent of the white vote for the first time since 1953 and lost almost a quarter of their seats in the powerful white chamber of Parliament to an anti-apartheid party on the left and a pro-segregation party on the far-right.

— Reuter, AP

Police Action

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