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Whites fined after dog-row black died

A white man and woman who attacked a black man whose dog mated with theirs were acquitted of culpable homicide but convicted of assault in a Johannesburg court on Tuesday.

Ken Finlay, 48, was given the option of a £4,000 fine or 20 months in jail, while his wife Lynn, 47, was to pay £40 or serve two months.

They were accused of killing Mr Molatudi Lebete with clubs and whips after his dog mated with their dog on Christmas Day, 1991. The charge was reduced because there was insufficient evidence to prove Mr Lebete died from injuries inflicted by the Finlays.

Earlier, the Finlays' assets were seized when they failed to meet a deadline following a civil court order to pay the widow £7,000 damages with £12,000 costs. — AP

Pan-Africa Congress officials held over killings

By Christopher Munnion
in Johannesburg

SOUTH Africa's Pan-Africanist Congress yesterday condemned the detention of two senior officials over last week's attack on a Cape Town pub in which four people died.

Mr Theo Mabusela, the congress's Western Cape chairman, and Mr Michael Siyolo, the regional organiser, are being held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act which allows for 10 days' detention before a court appearance.

Congress officials said the police were trying to discredit the movement and that Mr Mabusela and Mr Siyolo had been at home with their families at the time of the attack.

Miss Patricia de Lille, constitutional negotiator, said the Congress condemned violence and was negotiating a "comprehensive mutual cessation of hostilities" with the government.

The Congress's armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army, had declared a moratorium while talks continued.

But Mr Carl Zimbiri, described as APLA's internal commander, told the Johannesburg Citizen newspaper that the APLA's "People's Concern" unit had carried out the attack on the Heidelberg Tavern in Cape Town's Observatory district.

Mr Zimbiri said the unit consisted of "our best people who have been trained in various countries".

There would be no cessation of hostilities until a UN peacekeeping force was in place, he said. "Until then, we will double our efforts politically and militarily."

The funeral of Rolande Palm, 22, a coloured (mixed race) woman who died in the attack, was held yesterday.

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The Natal Mercury Wednes.

THE NATAL

MERCURY

TEC's dilemma

THE ANC and the government were not quite agreed on the exact role and powers of the Transitional Executive Council when it came into existence. President De Klerk took the view that its role was advisory and not executive, while ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa strongly insisted it was no toy telephone.

As if to illustrate Mr Ramaphosa's point, the TEC at the outset slammed its fist hard on the table, summoning KwaZulu Police commissioner General Roy Doring to report on hit squads in his force and ordering the deployment of SAP members into KwaZulu.

So far, however, the TEC has had little success in the form of real action. General Doring has not responded, and Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi has warned of bloodshed if the TEC tries to confront his government. Most tellingly, the state bureaucracy, which the TEC has to rely on to execute its commands, doesn't seem to have the stomach for doing its bidding. So, about all it has to show for its efforts so far is the suspension of a R2 billion loan application by Bophuthatswana.

The TEC should not feel unduly discriminated against. Dr Piet Koornhof, for one, could tell it how, many years ago, as minister of black affairs, the public service tortoise saw to it that things remained the same the harder he cried that they were changing.

But in today's climate, and against the background of all that's happened, the evident reluctance of notably the law and order ministry to carry out its orders doesn't pose a problem for the TEC alone. In a way, the recalcitrance of the bureaucrats and the defiance of the old system's structures present a dilemma for the entire transition process. Probably the only answer is patience and diplomacy — until the election shows us where exactly power vests.

IFP faces crucial decisions

by WYNDHAM HARTLEY
Political Editor

deal with the government and the ANC that they should return to their leaders and get a commitment to the constitution, the transitional structures and the election, should a negotiated settlement be found.

Observers said yesterday that Inkatha has only three options and two of them would see the party virtually wiped out.

The first, to stay out of the political process and the election, "will mean an almost certain end of the party", one source said.

The second option would be to go

on negotiating, but fears have been expressed in the party that it could be a deliberate ANC ploy to prolong talks for as long as possible so that Inkatha and the FA will be far behind in preparing for the election.

It was also learned that donations are in the offing for the IFP, but only if it contests the election.

The third option, and, according to one source, one that has growing support, is to announce participation in the election now, irrespective of reaching an agreement later this month, and to fight the election on the basis of improving an imperfect constitution.

The central committee will also decide on the date for the special congress which it has promised will be called to make the final decision on participation in the election.

Alliance deliberates: page 5

SADF wants volunteers

PORTFOLIO — The South African, the target of 5 000 volunteers will

SA ambassador found dead

PORTFOLIO — South Africa's

SA peace

INKATHA'S central committee will take decisions this Friday crucial to the survival of the party, including whether it will recommend to a special congress that the IFP should participate in the election.

Negotiations between the government, the ANC and the Freedom Alliance are due to continue soon in an attempt to achieve a political settlement. The deadline for any negotiated changes to the constitution is January 24.

Shortly before Christmas Freedom Alliance negotiators came to a

Mike Tarr

It is evident from his recent statements that Pietermaritzburg MP Mike Tarr may be re-considering his decision to join the IFP. He has threatened to resign because of his concern at the involvement of extreme right wing elements in the establishment and training of Zulu "self defence units" in northern Natal.

For a genuine liberal democrat like Tarr, life in the IFP must have been growing increasingly uncomfortable recently. In the latter half of 1993 the IFP moved from a position of principled, federalist opposition to the new constitution to an unsavoury alliance with the dregs of apartheid. It suddenly became the done thing for former CP members looking for a new home to join the IFP.

Tarr left the DP because he claimed the IFP stood for the same liberal and federal principles, but was a more effective means of realising those goals than a "white, elitist" party. That he is now again making a stand on principle is admirable, even if his choices in the past have been questionable.

His dilemma illustrates again the folly of the clause in the new Electoral Act which seeks to keep elected representatives bound to their original parties. People in public life, like ordinary citizens, have to be free to make decisions on the basis of conscience and principle, even if that means leaving a party that has itself changed direction.

Alliance 'may' join in elections

Political Staff

JOHANNESBURG--The Freedom Alliance yesterday formally agreed to participate in elections if agreement was reached on its demands in negotiations and called for more talks with the government and the ANC.

The alliance's response follows discussions held with the government and the ANC last year, during which it was asked to commit itself unambiguously to all aspects of the new constitutional arrangements should negotiations be successfully concluded.

The alliance's formal response, released to the media yesterday, includes this commitment, but goes no further than the position it informally adopted on this demand last year.

It is unlikely that a mere restatement of its existing stance will satisfy the government and the ANC.

Top US group here for talks

By Simon Barber

WASHINGTON—A delegation of US congressmen will have talks tomorrow with IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi in Ulundi and then meet the Afrikaner Volksfront's Gen Constand Viljoen in Johannesburg.

The group arrives in SA tonight and leaves on Saturday. It is headed by Representative Harry Johnston, chairman of the House Africa sub-committee.

Other members are Representatives Don Payne, Floyd Flake and Cynthia McKinney, all members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

"The chairman likes to meet directly with important and controversial players," a committee staff member said, adding that the sessions with Dr Buthelezi and Gen Viljoen should not be seen as "a signal of support or approval".

Mr Johnston decided to see Gen Viljoen after hearing ANC president Nelson Mandela describe him as "someone with whom we can work", the aide said.

The ANC and the government are hosting separate dinners for the visitors.

WITNESS

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NEWS

Alliance a step closer to taking part in the election

JOHANNESBURG — The Freedom Alliance yesterday stopped short of committing itself to the election but said constitutional amendments affecting regions could still secure its participation.

The FA — including the Inkatha Freedom Party, the Afrikaner Volksfront, the Conservative Party, Bophuthatswana and the Ciskei — was responding to a government-ANC proposal that the Alliance commit itself to the electoral process ahead of changes to the constitution. The proposal was made on December 21 last year.

In a statement issued a day after FA leaders met in Pretoria, the Alliance said it has already committed itself to an all-inclusive agreement through peaceful negotiations if its amendments to the constitution are included in a minimum package. It urged the government and ANC to proceed immediately with negotiations on its proposals.

The statement said its constitutional proposals include provisions for self-determination of peoples on a territorial basis; the powers, functions and financial affairs of provinces; and separate

ballot papers for elections for different levels of government.

"The issue of a single ballot paper specifically undermines the democratic foundations of the system of proportional representation and the individual voter's right to choose," it said.

"The FA and its leaders reiterate that for any such agreement to be reached, it should immediately be effected through formal amendments to the constitution of 1993, failing which agreement and/or consequent implementation, there cannot be any commitment." — Sapa.

SA students head home

CAIRO — Ten disgruntled South African students have terminated their UN medical scholarships in Egypt and are to return home tomorrow.

Part of a group of 18 on a medical scholarship co-sponsored by Egypt and the UN, the students objected to a required year of study towards secondary equivalency certificate, which they claimed the South African scholarship co-ordinator had told them would be pre-medical studies. — Sapa.

Bop detains activists

MMABATHO — Bophuthatswana police are still holding two activists but several others detained since the weekend have been released, a police spokesman said yesterday.

He said those still in detention are Mmako Ngakatsi and Joseph Molefi, but he could not confirm if they are members of the ANC's Mafikeng branch or any other organisation. On Monday police confirmed the detention of several ANC officials. But by yesterday most of them had been released. — Sapa.

Indonesia plans SA link

JAKARTA — Indonesia plans to open a consulate-general in South Africa, but will wait until after the April elections to consider establishing full diplomatic relations, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said yesterday.

"With the existing advances which appear to be heading for the abolition of apartheid, and the UN official decision to lift embargoes... then the time has come for establishing relations with South Africa," Alatas told a news conference. — Sapa-AP.

ANC to announce

THE African National Congress in Natal will announce its candidates for the April 27 election at a provincial conference at the University of Durban-Westville this weekend, a spokesman said.

Final details of the conference will be made available later this week, he said.

The conference will bring together delegates from Natal's three ANC regions — the midlands, southern and northern Natal — to decide on their nat-

Confusion over AN

JOHANNESBURG — Police reacted with surprise yesterday to reports that African National Congress members have been killing each other on the East Rand.

Morning newspapers alleged three Mkhonto Wesizwe commanders were shot and burnt to death by members of the ANC's self-defence unit in Kallahong on Sunday in what was claimed to be an ongoing "war" between the two groups.

The reports claimed members of the police's Internal Stability Division broke up the fighting. However, a police spokesman said no such deaths had been reported.

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