

NMO/030/0118/28

THE UPINGTON 14

**MUST NOT
HANG
Rally**

**Sat 24 Feb
3-6pm**

on the
Non Stop Picket
Trafalgar Square
on the birthday of

**ZONGA
MOKGATLE**

**300
prisoners
wait on
Death
Row
97%
are black**

The Upington 14 are:

Kenneth Khumalo (33) • Wellington Masiza (27)
Eric Gubula (30) • Zonga Mokgatle (32)
David Lekhanyane (25) • Andrew Lekhanyane (29)
Myner Bovi (29) • Boo Japhta (24) • Xolile Yona (25)
Evelina de Bruin • Gideon Madlongolwane (60)
Zuko Xabendlini (32) • Justice Bekebeke
Albert Tywilli (27)

For further information about the campaign phone

City AA 01-837 6050

**MARCH
SAT 26
MAY**

THE UPINGTON 14 MUST NOT HANG!

On Friday 26 May 1989 a South African Court sentenced fourteen black South Africans to death using the doctrine of 'Common Purpose', after a three-year-long trial. They are the largest group of people ever to be sentenced to hang in South Africa for a single murder; they are being held on death row in Pretoria.

The Upington 14 are a diverse group of individuals representing a cross section of the community in the Upington township of Paballelo. They include a domestic servant in her late fifties who has ten children; her husband who has worked for South African Railways for over 36 years; a student teacher; the former treasurer of Paballelo township and the ex-mayor of Paballelo; a former policeman; a boxer; and a male nurse.

BACKGROUND

Upington is a hardline apartheid town with its population rigidly separated along racial lines. The black population is subject to massive overcrowding and poverty. In 1985 unemployment ran at 37% compared to a national average of 13%. Of those lucky enough to be employed, 57% received less than the recommended minimum wage.

On 13th November 1985, 3,000 Paballelo residents gathered on the local football pitch to protest against rent increases and repression by the municipal police. Security police broke up the meeting firing teargas and the crowd panicked and scattered as teargas had never been fired in Paballelo before. Part of the crowd then gathered outside the home of a municipal policeman who had shot dead a pregnant woman the week before. The policeman opened fire on the stone-throwing crowd, wounding a ten-year-old boy. He ran out of the house and fled into the crowd firing shots into the air. The crowd attacked him and struck him twice with his own gun, killing him.

SMASH THE LAWS OF COMMON PURPOSE!

The Upington 14 were found guilty, together with twelve other Paballelo residents, of having common purpose to kill the policeman. The doctrine of common purpose states that when a crowd comes together and an incident results, the crowd had a common intention and any individual can be charged. Although the judge found that only one of the group had actually delivered the fatal blow, he ruled that by throwing stones at the policeman's house, and by chanting outside, they shared common purpose with anyone directly responsible for the death.

ACT NOW TO SAVE THEIR LIVES!

Hundreds of people are awaiting the death sentence in South Africa. The vast majority are black people sentenced under apartheid's racist laws. We call for an end to all hangings in South Africa and the release of all political prisoners. In particular we call for action to save the lives of the Upington 14. On 8 September they were granted leave to appeal, but they remain on Death Row. National and international pressure saved the lives of the Sharpeville 6 in 1988, who were sentenced to the gallows also under the common purpose doctrine. We need your support now!

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! City of London Anti-Apartheid Group will be organising a demonstration on 26 May 1990 calling for the release of the Upington 14. We are also organising fundraising for the families and friends of the 14, many of whom were breadwinners for their families. Their relatives have to travel very long distances to visit the prisoners and help is needed for legal costs. Please help us by filling in the form below.

- ☐ Please send an information pack on the Upington 14 (20p) ☐ publicity material for the campaign
☐ I enclose a donation for UPSCO (Upington Support Committee) £ _____
☐ I/We would like to sponsor the campaign and the demonstration on Saturday 26 May 1990
☐ I/We would like to write to one of the prisoners ☐ I/We would like to join City AA
☐ I/We enclose a donation for the expenses of the campaign and demonstration £ _____
☐ I/We would like to join one of the street meetings organised for the campaign

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Return to City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, BM City AA London WC1N 3XX. Tel 01-837 6050