

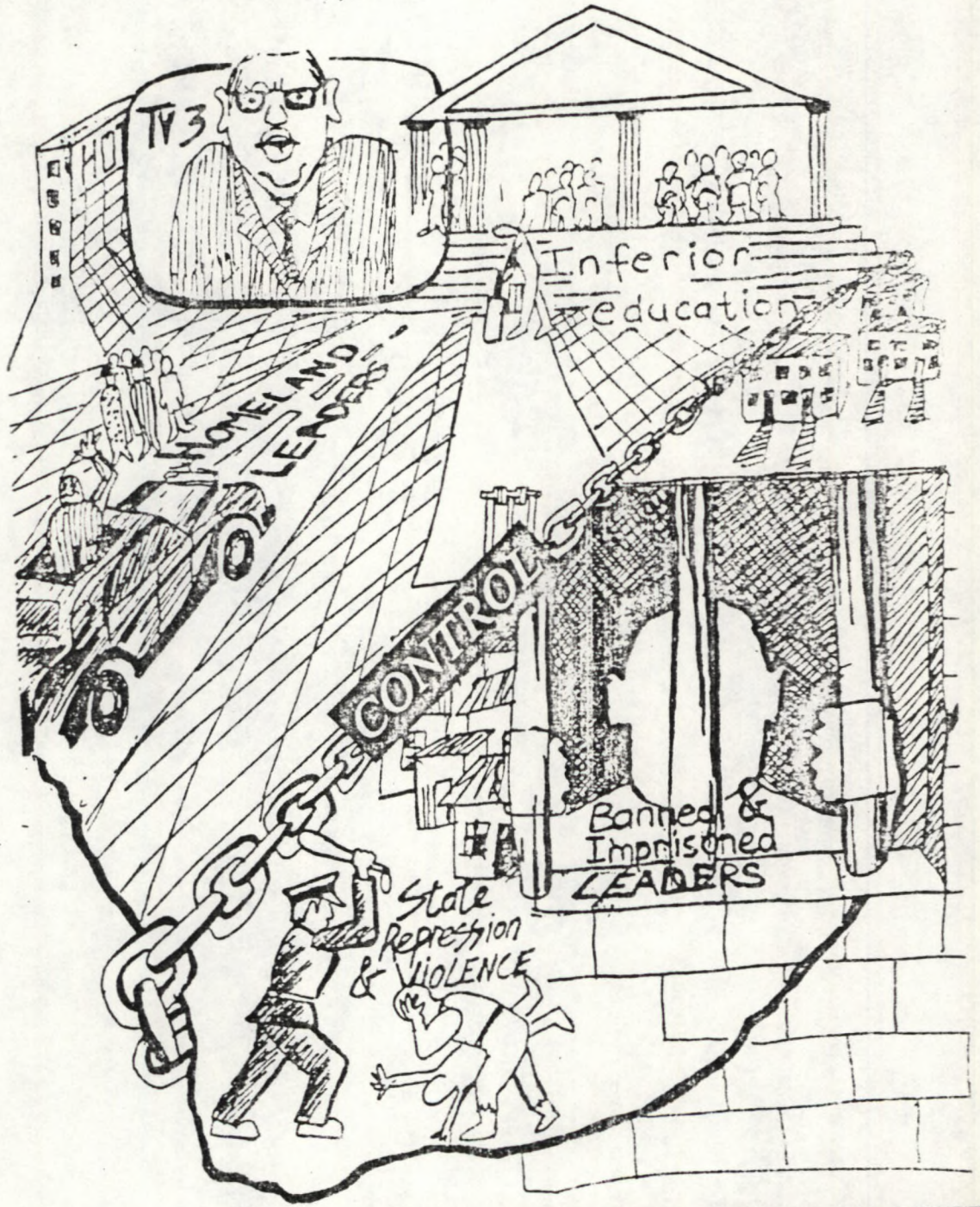
W36



AZASO NATIONAL FOCUS:

# REPRESSION ON CAMPUSES

*Rev "W36"*



**OPEN THE DOORS OF LEARNING TO ALL**



# REFORM AND REPRESSION

1983 has witnessed an escalating assault on students as well as on their democratic rights. The various arms of the state have shown little hesitation in using naked violence to crush the protests of the students. Democratic student representation has been either suspended when it did not meet the expectations of admins or was rendered ineffective by admins withholding basic rights.

The academic terrorism of 1983 - be it physical or constitutional - threatens to continue this year. Black students throughout the country continue to mobilise for a democratic education under the banner of AZASO and our high school sister organisation COSAS, whilst education authorities threaten to crush all student resistance. This National Focus is aimed at exposing some of the atrocities committed behind the well-guarded, high fences of bush colleges.

The repression that students are experiencing must be seen in terms of developments throughout our society. The government is implementing its unacceptable Bantustan

system and the new constitution. The success of its plans depends on the acceptance of its proposals by all South Africans. If it does meet with any resistance to its 'reform' strategy it would not hesitate in using its 'stick'. Thus attacks on our campuses must be viewed as part of the strategy which leads to the brutal murder of commuters boycotting buses in Mdantsane, Ciskei, or the increasing number of deaths in detention. The denial of students rights must be seen as part of a society which denies blacks any effective political representation, which bans meetings arbitrarily, which continues to keep our leaders imprisoned.

These actions aimed at curbing the growing opposition of students, workers and entire communities to a system which

- Divides South Africans into racial units;
- Pays black workers starvation wages;
- Condemns millions of people to starvation in the homelands;
- Provides education which is aimed at the continued subjugation of our people.

## FORT IS BESIEGED

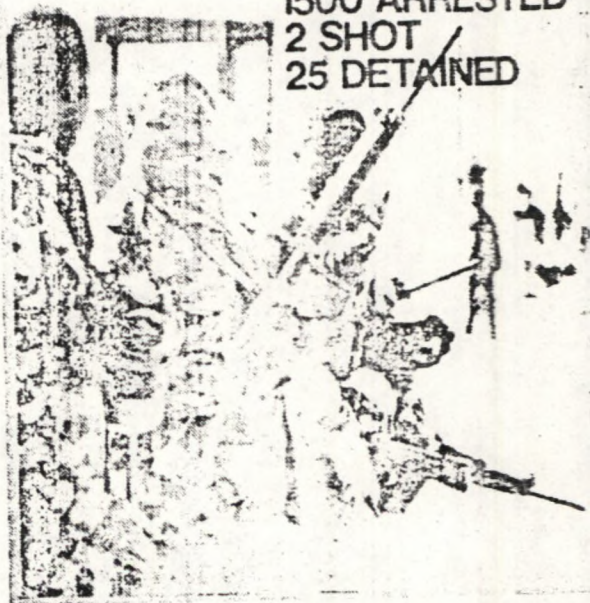
Fort Hare has become the training ground for Sebe's soldiers. On 11 May 1982 Fort Hare erupted into violence when police opened fire on students protesting against the presence of the Ciskei President, Lennox Sebe. The Ciskei police wounded 2 students and detained 22 others. Students decided to boycott classes until the detainees were released. 1500 students were charged under the Riotous Assemblies Act, and the campus was occupied by police and paramilitary vehicles. A national day of solidarity called by AZASO was observed by all campuses.

When students returned in July they had to write their exams and tests. However students rooms were not supplied with lights. Students demonstrated against these unfair conditions. On 29 July Sebe's riot police invaded campus, barricaded the female hostel and assaulted the male residents with sjamboks and teargas. All males were forcibly evicted and driven to the railway station. They spent the night in the bush. The next day lectures stopped and females were told to leave. About 2000 students (65% of the population were expelled).

Such sickening brutality was repeated in 1983. Police swooped on a protest march to commemorate the sixth anniversary of Steve Biko's death (Sept 12). 52 students were arrested and 44 of them charged with public violence under the Ciskei National Security Act. 2000 students boycotted classes in solidarity with their arrested colleagues. After the incident the campus had been converted into a Concentration Camp with heavy police presence and strict curfews.

### STUDENTS UNDER ATTACK!

1500 ARRESTED  
2 SHOT  
25 DETAINED



From 1984 students are required to apply for "Ciskei Permits" issued by the Sebe Government for admission. Admission had been refused to many "Non-Ciskei" students despite good academic performances - many were AZASO activists. This represents the high-point of Sebe's attempt to stamp his authority on the campus.



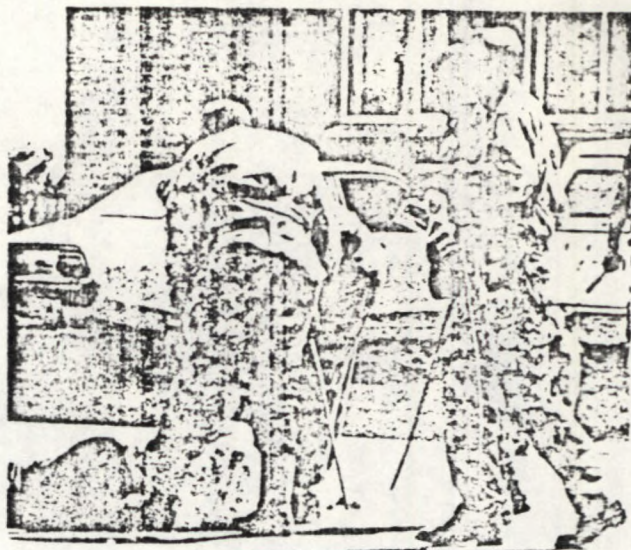
# Tribalism kills at Ongoye

5 students were massacred and over 100 more were injured in October last year when an invading Inkatha Impi attacked the students in the hostels. This was a result of many other attempts by the KwaZulu Government, together with the University Administration, to try and force students into supporting Buthelezi and the KwaZulu Bantustan. The students, united, have resisted all these attempts.

## Repression continues

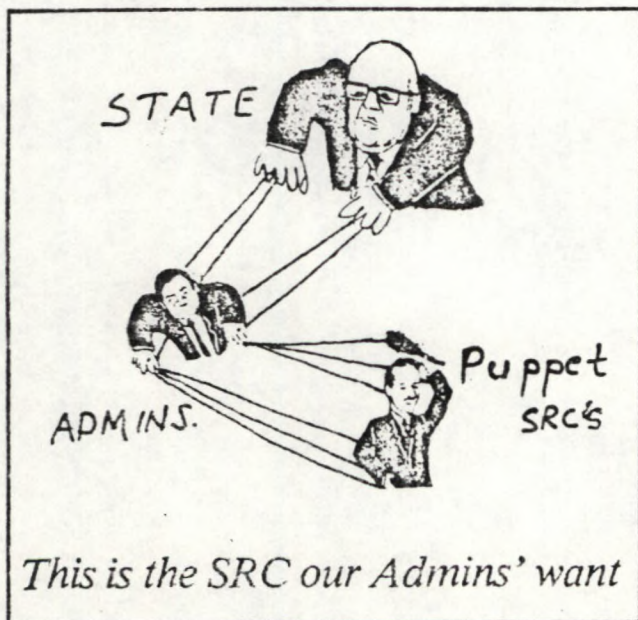
We see again early this year after the tragedy at Ongoye, Buthelezi and his government making another attempt to blackmail students into supporting him and his Bantustan. He demanded that all affected students should sign a pledge to support him if they are to receive any financial "assistance" from him. Students have been challenged and resisted this.

A scene from Ongoye on October 29, 1983



# SRC's UNDER ATTACK

Black students have waged long and hard battles for their SRC's. When independent democratic SRC's are achieved students still have to struggle to defend their rights. Admins have always tried to undermine SRC's when students have involved themselves in the problems of our people. In 1983 the SRC's of Medunsa and UDW were suspended. AZASO has also been banned because of the popularity it enjoys on these campuses.



*This is the SRC our Admins' want*

## MEDUNSA

At Medunsa the university Authorities expelled two students - both of whom have been on the AZASO NEC. The independent SRC that had been in existence was disbanded and Admin tried to establish a puppet SRC. The student body was firm in its support for the expelled leaders. Students boycotted lectures for 2 weeks. The boycott of classes ended in victory with both students being readmitted. The struggle for a democratic SRC goes on.

## UDW

The SRC at UDW was suspended in August 1983. It was established in 1980 after years of hard struggle. During its short existence it established itself firmly as part of the broad democratic movement committed to the Freedom Charter. The Admin tried to stop this trend by suspending the SRC on the basis of a technicality. At the moment students are united behind the SRC Action Committee and are not engaging in extra-curricular activities in protest against Admin's actions.

# DEMOCRATIC SRC's NOW!



## TOUGHS GET GOING AT TURF

The University of the North (Turfloop) has also been the victim of regular police attacks. On June 16 this year students demonstrated in commemoration of the Soweto uprising. The Lebowa police invaded the campus that evening attacking students in their hostels, with batons and teargas. The entire student

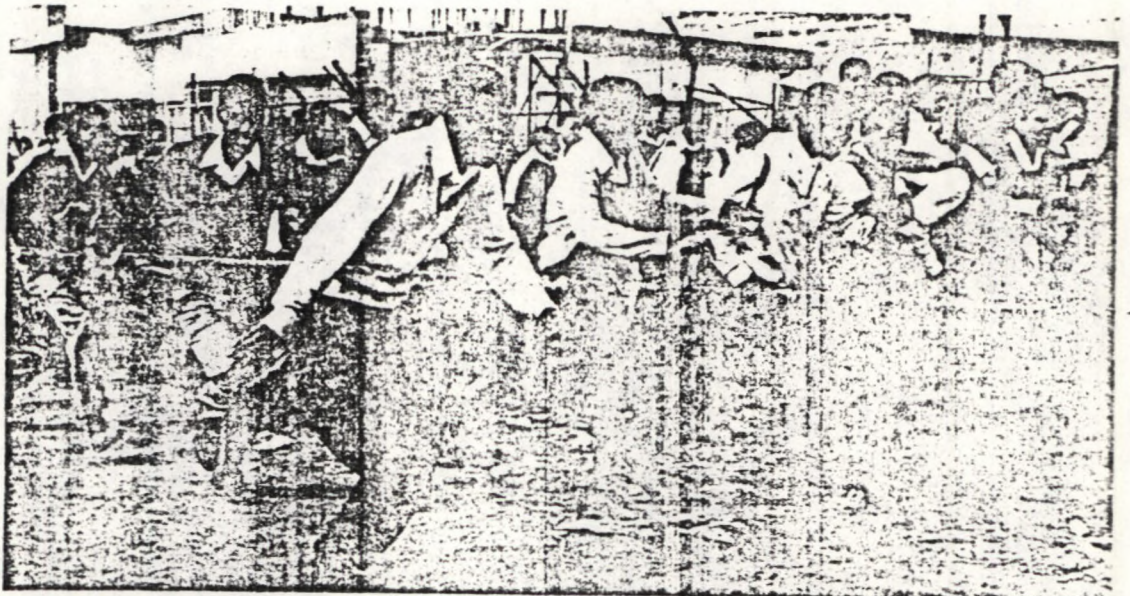
body boycotted classes and the campus was closed. A number of students sustained serious injuries during the attack.

When students returned in July they were informed that 400 of their colleagues were suspended. These students were not re-admitted despite legal action

## MED. SCHOOL (ALSO) CLOSED

Repressive measures are not limited to the ethnic universities! This has become clear from the experience of students this year at Medical School (Durban). Students were alarmed at changes in their rules which led to a high failure rate. A memorandum was sent to Admin. listing grievances and

demands. When this and other efforts did not receive the attention of Admin., students boycotted classes. After two days the University, which has committed itself to Academic Freedom, a tactic characteristic of the Bush Colleges - it closed the campus. Their struggle is now being conducted through the SRC.



High school students have faced intensive repression whenever they demanded a better education system. The above is a picture of students at Ibhongo fleeing from police whilst they were on boycott last year.

The focus on Bantustan universities displays our commitment to a united democratic South Africa free of ethnic divisions and to a single education system which meets the needs of all our people. During this focus week we must expose and condemn the repressive measures used on our campuses and colleges. During this week we must renew our demands for student representation, free of admin control. During this week we must, once again, demand that the doors of learning and culture be open to all.

**FORWARD TO DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION.  
FORWARD TO THE EDUCATION CHARTER.  
FORWARD TO A PEOPLE'S EDUCATION.**



**Collection Number: AK2117**

**DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

*Location:* **Johannesburg**

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